



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 6, 2019

Ms. Courtney Alvarez  
City Attorney  
City of Kingsville  
P.O. Box 1458  
Kingsville, Texas 78364

OR2019-15066

Dear Ms. Alvarez:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 769506 (ORR# 2019-295).

The Kingsville Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified accident. The department indicates it will withhold information pursuant to section 552.147(b) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> The department states it has released some of the requested information, but claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses section 773.091 of the Health and Safety Code, which provides, in part, the following:

(b) Records of the identity, evaluation, or treatment of a patient by emergency medical services personnel or by a physician providing medical supervision that are created by the emergency medical services personnel or physician or maintained by an emergency medical services provider are confidential and privileged and may not be disclosed except as provided by this chapter.

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<sup>1</sup>Section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act. See Gov't Code § 552.147(b).

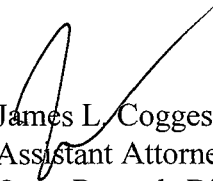
(g) The privilege of confidentiality under this section does not extend to information regarding the presence, nature of injury or illness, age, sex, occupation, and city of residence of a patient who is receiving emergency medical services.

Health & Safety Code § 773.091(b), (g). The information at issue contains records of the identity, evaluation, or treatment of a patient made and maintained by emergency medical services personnel. Thus, section 773.091 is applicable to this information, which we have marked. Therefore, with the exception of the information subject to section 773.091(g) of the Health and Safety Code, which the department must release, the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 773.091(b) of the Health and Safety Code. However, the remaining information is not confidential under section 773.091, and the department may not withhold it under section 552.101 of the Government Code on that ground. Therefore, the department must release the remaining information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



James L. Coggeshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JLC/gw

Ref: ID# 769506

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)