



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 9, 2022

Ms. Alicia K. Kreh  
Counsel for the City of Euless  
Taylor Olson Adkins Sralla Elam L.L.P.  
6000 Western Place, Suite 200  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

OR2022-03827

Dear Ms. Kreh:

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# 926748.

The City of Euless (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You state the city will redact information pursuant to section 552.130(c) of the Government Code and Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).<sup>1</sup> You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

552.101 of the Government Code excepts from public disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses section 261.201(a) of the Family Code, which provides as follows:

Except as provided by Section 261.203, the following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under [the Act] and may be

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in section 552.130(a) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(c). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.130(e). *See id.* § 552.130(d), (e). Open Records Decision No. 684 is a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold certain information without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision.

disclosed only for purposes consistent with this code and applicable federal or state law or under rules adopted by an investigating agency:

- (1) a report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect made under this chapter and the identity of the person making the report; and
- (2) except as otherwise provided in this section, the files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). The submitted information relates to an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse or neglect conducted by the city's police department (the "department"). *See id.* § 261.001(1), (4) (defining "abuse" and "neglect" for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code); *see also id.* § 101.003(a) (defining "child" for purposes of this section as person under 18 years of age who is not and has not been married or who has not had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes). Accordingly, we find this information is subject to section 261.201 of the Family Code. The city does not indicate the department has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information. Therefore, we assume no such regulation exists. Given that assumption, we conclude the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 261.201 of the Family Code and must generally be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code on that basis. *See id.* § 261.201(a). However, we note section 261.201(a) also provides information encompassed by subsection (a) may be disclosed "for purposes consistent with [the Family Code] and applicable federal or state law." *See id.* Section 92.005 of the Health and Safety Code constitutes "applicable state law" in this instance.

We note the requestor is a representative of the Texas Department of State Health Services ("DSHS") and asserts a right of access to the information at issue under section 92.005 of the Health and Safety Code. Section 92.005 of the Health and Safety Code provides "[s]ubject to the confidentiality provisions of this subchapter, [DSHS] may collect, or cause to be collected, medical, demographic, or epidemiologic information from any medical or laboratory record or file to help [DSHS] in the epidemiologic investigation of injuries and their causes." Health & Safety Code § 92.005. By its terms, section 92.005 applies to information from medical or laboratory records. The information we marked contains "medical, demographic, or epidemiologic information from [a] medical or laboratory record or file." Therefore, upon review, we find DSHS has demonstrated it has a right of access to the information we marked under section 92.005 of the Health and Safety Code. Although the city also asserts section 552.108 to withhold this information, we note a statutory right of access prevails over the Act's general exceptions to public disclosure. *See, e.g.,* Open Records Decision Nos. 613 at 4 (1993) (exceptions in Act cannot impinge on statutory right of access to information), 451 (1986) (specific statutory right of access provisions overcome general exception to disclosure under the Act). Accordingly, with the exception of the information we marked, which must be released to this requestor pursuant to section 92.005 of the Health and Safety Code, the city must withhold the submitted

information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code.<sup>2</sup>

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 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hoggatt  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JWH/ba

Ref: ID# 926748

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

---

<sup>2</sup> We note the information being released in this instance is confidential with respect to the general public. Therefore, if the city receives another request for this information from a different requestor, the city must again seek a ruling from this office.