

LIMITS ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM CASE RECORDS

Subject Area	Record Description	Accessibility	Authority
Civil	Jurors Notes.	No Public Access. Collected and destroyed post-trial.	Pa.R.C.P. 223.2.
Civil	Complaints filed in magisterial district courts.	No Public Access to the minor's name in a complaint. Minors shall be designated by the initials of their first and last name.	Pa.R.C.P.M.D.J. 803.
Commonwealth Court	Child Line Registry Cases.	No Public Access to documents in the case except Orders and Opinions wherein the court shall use initials of the minor child involved rather than full name.	Admin. Order No. 126 Misc. Docket No. 3 (February 8, 2013).
Criminal	Juror's Address.	No Public Access.	<i>Commonwealth v. Long</i> , 922 A.2d 892 (Pa. 2007).
Criminal	Sealed affidavit of probable cause for a search warrant.	No Public Access while sealed. The affidavit may not be sealed for more than 60 days unless an extension is received. Extensions may not be longer than 30 days, but an unlimited number of extensions are available. Public may access the affidavit after it has been unsealed.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 211.
Criminal	Unexecuted Search Warrant.	No Public Access until warrant is executed.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 212(A).
Criminal	Arrest Warrant Information.	A court may delay public access for good cause for up to 72 hours. In addition, a court may seal arrest warrant information for a longer period of time.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 513(C), Pa.R.Crim.P. 513.1.

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Criminal	Information obtained from or concerning the defendant by a bail agency.	No public access. Information only accessible by the defendant, counsel for the defendant, the issuing authority or judge setting bail, the attorney for the Commonwealth, and the department of probation or parole preparing a presentence report regarding the defendant.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 530(C).
Criminal	Motion filed by attorney for the Commonwealth to present the matter to an indicting grand jury and subsequent order.	No Public Access - the motion and order are sealed.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 556.2.
Criminal	All indicting grand jury proceedings and related documents.	No Public Access. Disclosure may be granted to attorney for the Commonwealth, defendant in a criminal case, witnesses, law enforcement personnel, and upon motion when necessary.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 556.10.
Criminal	Sealed indictments.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 556.11(E).
Criminal	Sealed records concerning mental health experts.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 569.
Criminal	Sealed written statements pertaining to protective orders.	No Public Access. The entire text of the statement shall be sealed and preserved in the records of the court to be made available to the appellate court(s) in the event of an appeal.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 573(F).

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Criminal	Sealed plea agreement.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 590.
Criminal	Juror qualification forms.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 625(A)(3).
Criminal	Juror information questionnaires.	No Public Access. Questionnaires are retained in a sealed file and shall be destroyed upon completion of the jurors' service, unless otherwise ordered by the trial judge.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 632.
Criminal	Sealed verdict.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 649.
Criminal	Notes taken by jurors.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 644(B)(7).
Criminal	Pre-sentence reports and related psychiatric psychological reports.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Crim.P. 703(A).
Criminal	Records revealing the names of human trafficking victims.	No Public Access, unless otherwise ordered by a court in a prosecution involving a victim of human trafficking.	18 Pa.C.S. § 3019(a).
Criminal	Wiretap applications, final reports and orders.	No Public Access except upon showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction.	18 Pa.C.S. § 5715.
Criminal	Names of minor victims of sexual or physical abuse.	No Public Access. Records revealing a victim's name are sealed. A minor victim who is 18 years of age or older at the time of the commencement of the prosecution may waive this protection and allow the court to release the name of the minor victim.	42 Pa.C.S. § 5988.

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Criminal*	Any criminal history record information related to the convictions of certain offenses graded as a misdemeanor of the first, second or third degree, or summary more than 10 years old, or dispositions that are non-convictions, and convictions for which a pardon was granted.	No public access. The court shall not release the information to an individual, noncriminal justice agency or an internet website.	18 Pa.C.S. §§ 9121, 9122.1, and §9122.2.
Domestic Relations	Information regarding the registration, filing of a petition for, or issuance of a protection from abuse order in either the issuing or enforcing State.	No Public Access via internet publication, if such publication would be likely to publicly reveal the identity or location of the protected party.	18 U.S.C. § 2265(d)(3).
Domestic Relations	Social security number of any individual subject to a divorce decree, support order, paternity determination, or acknowledgement of paternity, which is required in all records of those matters.	No Public Access.	23 Pa.C.S. § 4304.1(a)(3).
Domestic Relations	Child Support Records.	No Public Access, except for PACSES dockets, court orders and opinions.	42 U.S.C. §§ 654 (26)(A), 654a(d)(1)(A); 45 CFR §§ 303.21(c)-(d), 307.13(a)(1); 23 Pa.C.S. §4304.1(d); Sections 2.4 and 3.4 of the Cooperative Agreement.

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Domestic Relations	<p>(a) Subject to any inconsistent general rules and to the supervision and direction of the court, the domestic relations section shall have the power and duty to...</p> <p>(10) Implement safeguards applicable to all confidential information received by the domestic relations section in order to protect the privacy rights of the parties, including...</p> <p>(ii) prohibitions against the release of information on the whereabouts of one party or the child to another party against whom a protective order with respect to the former party or the child has been entered; and</p> <p>(iii) prohibitions against the release of information on the whereabouts of one party or the child to another person if the domestic relations section has reason to believe that the release of the information may result in physical or emotional harm to the party or the child.</p>	No Public Access.	23 Pa.C.S. § 4305 (a)(10)(ii)-(iii).

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Domestic Relations	List of weapons ordered to be relinquished by the defendant in an action for protection from abuse.	No Public Access, except (A) upon an order of the court granted upon cause shown; (B) as necessary, by law enforcement and court personnel; or (C) after redaction of information listing any firearm, other weapons or ammunition.	23 Pa.C.S. § 6108(a)(7)(v); 18 Pa.C.S. § 6105.2(f); <i>see also</i> 18 Pa.C.S. § 6128(e).
Domestic Relations	All records pertaining to a confidential address for individuals participating in the Office of Victim Advocate's Address Confidentiality Program.	No Public Access, except for the substitute address provided by the Office of Victim Advocate.	23 Pa.C.S. § 6703(d); <i>see also</i> 23 Pa.C.S. § 5336(b)(1).
Domestic Relations*	Written reports of a guardian <i>ad litem</i> that include specific recommendations relating to the child's best interest and a party's filed response to the report.	No Public Access.	Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-2(d)(3).
Juvenile Court	Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency records.	No Public Access; except as set forth in 42 Pa.C.S. § 6307, Pa.R.J.C.P. 160 and/or 1160, including with leave of court.	42 Pa.C.S. § 6307; Pa.R.J.C.P. 160, 1160.
Landlord-Tenant	Domestic Violence Affidavit filed with the court to stay the execution of an order of possession.	No Public Access to the Domestic Violence Affidavit.	Pa.R.C.P.M.D.J. 514.1.

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Orphans' Court	Proceedings related to appointment of guardianship for incapacitated persons.	Shall be closed to the public upon request of the alleged incapacitated person or his counsel. After the individual's death his/her estate may access the record of the guardianship proceedings.	20 Pa.C.S. § 5511(a); <i>In re Estate of duPont</i> , 2 A.3d 516 (Pa. 2010).
Orphans' Court	Records required for foreign adoption decrees.	No Public Access unless a court order is granted upon good cause.	23 Pa.C.S. § 2908(F); Pa.O.C.R. 15.21.
Orphans' Court	Adoption records.	No Public Access unless otherwise ordered.	23 Pa.C.S. § 2915; <i>see also</i> 23 Pa.C.S. § 2906; Pa.O.C.R. 15.21.
Superior Court	The Court may order that parties' names in captions for appeals from divorce, equitable distribution, custody, visitation, or child support decisions be initialized.	No Public Access to the names in the caption. This does not apply to the text of a circulation or order of the Court.	210 Pa.Code § 65.44.
Orphans' Court (Family Court in Philadelphia County or Juvenile Court Section of Family Division in Allegheny County Pa.R.J.A. 2157)	Applications of a minor for judicial approval of decision to have an abortion, under the Abortion Control Act, as well as proceedings and the name of the minor.	No Public Access; sealed dockets, and documents shall be maintained in a closed file marked "confidential" and identified by case number only.	18 Pa.C.S. § 3206(f); Pa.O.C.R. 16.2 and 16.6. Note also Pa.R.J.A. 2157 and Pa.R.A.P. 3801.
General	Records concerning persons in treatment under the Mental Health Procedures Act.	Limited Public Access in compliance with the Mental Health Procedures Act and controlling case law.	50 P.S. § 7111.

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Subject Area	Record Description	Accessibility	Authority
General	Court documents, rules, or orders in Gaming Law proceedings.	Any party may request proceeding and record to be sealed if in best interest of any person or Commonwealth.	4 Pa.C.S. § 1518.2(b).
General	Proceedings and records involving juveniles charged with a summary offense before the minor judiciary, the Philadelphia Municipal Court or a Court of Common Pleas.	No Public Access.	42 Pa.C.S. §§ 6303(c), 6307(c), and 6336(g).
General	Transcript of proceedings in the judicial districts within the Unified Judicial System.	A court may order the person preparing the transcript to redact confidential, personal and/or financial data and other identifiers and information listed in Section 7.0 of the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System.	Pa.R.J.A. 4014.

Note: this may not be a complete listing; the public and court staff are directed to consult federal and state statutes, court rules or case law.

\*New or amended material