

EXPLANATORY REPORT

**AMENDMENTS TO THE
CASE RECORDS PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY
OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA**

On October 6, 2021, effective January 1, 2022, upon recommendation of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, the Court amended Sections 7.0 and 9.0 of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* to require the statewide use of the Confidential Information Form. The specific amendments are detailed below.

Sections 7.0(A) and (C) have been amended to require filers to safeguard confidential information using a Confidential Information Form. Prior to these amendments, an appellate or trial court could permit the filing of any document in two versions, a “Redacted Version” and “Unredacted Version” rather than require the use of the Confidential Information Form. Now, all courts throughout the Commonwealth will utilize the same method to safeguard confidential information.

New Section 9.0(H) provides that these amendments do not apply retroactively to documents filed with a court or custodian prior to the effective date of the amendments. Specifically, an unredacted version of a document filed under prior versions of this Policy shall not be accessible to the public.

Implementing a single, statewide approach for the treatment of confidential information throughout the courts of the Commonwealth will establish procedural uniformity and support the statewide practice of law by members of the bar.