

Examples of “electronic record” and “court record” definitions

1. North Dakota (current)

a. Public Access Rule (A.R. 41) –

Section 2. Definitions.

(a) "Court record," regardless of the form, includes:

(1) any document, information, or other thing that is collected, received, or maintained by court personnel in connection with a judicial proceeding;

(2) any index, calendar, docket, register of actions, official record of the proceedings, order, decree, judgment, minute, and any information in a case management system created by or prepared by court personnel that is related to a judicial proceeding; and

(3) information maintained by court personnel pertaining to the administration of the court or clerk of court office and not associated with any particular case.

(b) "Court record" does not include:

(1) other records maintained by the public official who also serves as clerk of court;

(2) information gathered, maintained or stored by a governmental agency or other entity to which the court has access but which is not part of the court record as defined in this rule; and

(3) a record that has been disposed of under court records management rules.

(g) "Electronic form" means information in a court record that exists as:

(1) electronic representations of text or graphic documents;

(2) an electronic image, including a video image, of a document, exhibit or other thing;

(3) data in the fields or files of an electronic database; or

(4) an audio or video recording, analog or digital, of an event or notes in an electronic file from which a transcript of an event can be prepared.

b. Court Records Management Rule (A.R. 19) –

- i. The phrase "court records" means any document, book, paper, photograph, sound recording or other material regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by the court pursuant to law or in connection with the transaction of official court business.

2. Arizona

a. AZ Code of Judicial Administration: Section 3-402: Superior Court Records Retention and Disposition Schedule

A. Definitions. In this section the following definitions apply:

“Case data” means the electronic information about a case, but not images of documents, maintained by the clerk or the court, generally found in a case management system, and often posted to the or the court’s website.

“Case file” means all documents and other material filed with the clerk of the court in an action or proceeding, either in paper or electronic format, and includes items such as CDs, DVDs, or other material requiring the use of a computer to read, as well as oversized items that do not fit within a typical paper case file or that exceed the size permitted to be filed through the e-filing system, depositions and transcripts. *Case file* includes case management system data but does not include exhibits submitted at a hearing or a trial.

3. Pennsylvania

a. Public Access Policy –

- i. “Electronic Case Record” means information or data created, collected, received, produced or maintained by a court or office in connection with a particular case that exists in the PACMS, CPCMS, or MDJS and that appears on web docket sheets or is provided in response to bulk distribution requests, regardless of format. This definition does not include images of documents filed with, received, produced or maintained by a court or office which are stored in PACMS, CPCMS or MDJS and any other automated system maintained by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. (Pennsylvania Appellate Court Case Management System (PACMS); Common Pleas Criminal Court Case Management System (CPCMS); or Magisterial District Judge Automated System (MDJS))

b. Records Retention Policy –

- i. “Court records” are those papers, dockets, books, photographs, or other documentary materials in any form made or received in a Judicial District pursuant to law, statute, or rules of court, in connection with transactions of its business and the discharge of its responsibilities.
- ii. “Electronic records” include numeric, graphic, and text information which may be recorded on any medium capable of being read by a computer and which satisfies the definition of a record as defined in §1.2 Definitions. This includes, but is not limited to: magnetic media such as computer tapes, disks, optical disks, diskettes and other electronic storage devices and electronic filing systems containing records. These requirements apply to all electronic records systems, whether microcomputers, minicomputers or main-frame computers, in network or stand-alone configurations.

4. Indiana

a. Public Access Rule –

- i. “Case Record” means any document, information, data, or other item created, collected, received, or maintained by a Court, Court agency or Clerk of Court in connection with a particular case.

1. Commentary - *The definition of Case Record is medium neutral and access neutral, and is intended to apply to every Case Record, regardless of the manner in which it was created, the form(s) in which it is stored, or other form(s) in which the information may exist.*

5. Michigan

a. Rule 1.109 Court Records Defined; Document Defined; Filing Standards; Signatures; and Access

(A) Court Records Defined.

(1) Court records are defined by MCR 8.119 and this subrule. Court records are recorded information of any kind that has been created by the court or filed with the court in accordance with Michigan Court Rules. Court records may be created using any means and may be maintained in any medium authorized by these court rules provided those records comply with other provisions of law and these court rules.

(a) Court records include, but are not limited to:

(i) documents, attachments to documents, discovery materials, and other materials filed with the clerk of the court,

(ii) documents, recordings, data, and other recorded information created or handled by the court, including all data produced in conjunction with the use of any system for the purpose of transmitting, accessing, reproducing, or maintaining court records.

(b) For purposes of this subrule:

(i) Documents include, but are not limited to, pleadings, orders, and judgments.

(ii) Recordings refer to audio and video recordings (whether analog or digital), stenotapes, log notes, and other related records.

(iii) Data refers to any information entered in the case management system that is not ordinarily reduced to a document, but that is still recorded information.

(iv) Other recorded information includes, but is not limited to, notices, bench warrants, arrest warrants, and other process issued by the court that do not have to be maintained on paper or digital image.

(B) Document Defined. A document means a record produced on paper or a digital image of a record originally produced on paper or originally created by

an approved electronic means, the output of which is readable by sight and can be printed to paper.

6. CCJ/COSCA Guidelines (Access Policy Guidelines):

a. “Court record” includes:

- i. Any document, information, or other thing that is collected, received, or maintained by a court or clerk of court in connection with a judicial proceeding;
- ii. Any index, calendar, docket, register of actions, official record of the proceedings, order, decree, judgment, minute, and any information in a case management system created by or prepared by the court or clerk of court that is related to a judicial proceeding; and
- iii. The following information maintained by the court or clerk of court pertaining to the administration of the court or clerk of court office and not associated with any particular case. [Include a list of court administrative records and information to be considered part of the court record for purposes of this policy.]

b. “Court record” does not include:

- i. Other records maintained by the public official who also serves as clerk of court. [Court should identify and list non-court records, for example: land title records, vital statistics, birth records, naturalization records and voter records];
- ii. Information gathered, maintained or stored by a governmental agency or other entity to which the court has access but which is not part of the court record as defined in section 3.10(a)(1).

Utah – Court Record “Public or Non-public”

Rule 4-202.02. Records classification.

Intent:

To classify court records as public or non-public.

Applicability:

This rule applies to the judicial branch.

Statement of the Rule:

(1) Court records are public unless otherwise classified by this rule.

(2) Public court records include but are not limited to:

(2)(A) abstract of a citation that redacts all non-public information;

(2)(B) aggregate records without non-public information and without personal identifying information;

(2)(C) appellate filings, including briefs;

(2)(D) arrest warrants, but a court may restrict access before service;

(2)(E) audit reports;

(2)(F) case files;

(2)(G) committee reports after release by the Judicial Council or the court that requested the study;

(2)(H) contracts entered into by the judicial branch and records of compliance with the terms of a contract;

(2)(I) drafts that were never finalized but were relied upon in carrying out an action or policy;

(2)(J) exhibits, but the judge may regulate or deny access to ensure the integrity of the exhibit, a fair trial or interests favoring closure;

(2)(K) financial records;

(2)(L) indexes approved by the Management Committee of the Judicial Council, including the following, in courts other than the juvenile court; an index may contain any other index information:

(2)(L)(i) amount in controversy;

(2)(L)(ii) attorney name;

(2)(L)(iii) case number;

(2)(K)(iv) case status;

(2)(L)(v) civil case type or criminal violation;

(2)(L)(vi) civil judgment or criminal disposition;

(2)(L)(vii) daily calendar;

(2)(L)(viii) file date;

(2)(L) party name;

(2)(M) name, business address, business telephone number, and business email address of an adult person or business entity other than a party or a victim or witness of a crime;

(2)(N) name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, and last four digits of the following: driver's license number; social security number; or account number of a party;

(2)(O) name, business address, business telephone number, and business email address of a lawyer appearing in a case;

(2)(P) name, business address, business telephone number, and business email address of court personnel other than judges;

(2)(Q) name, business address, and business telephone number of judges;

(2)(R) name, gender, gross salary and benefits, job title and description, number of hours worked per pay period, dates of employment, and relevant qualifications of a current or former court personnel;

(2)(S) unless classified by the judge as private or safeguarded to protect the personal safety of the juror or the juror's family, the name of a juror empanelled to try a case, but only 10 days after the jury is discharged;

(2)(T) opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, and orders entered in open hearings;

(2)(U) order or decision classifying a record as not public;

(2)(V) private record if the subject of the record has given written permission to make the record public;

(2)(W) probation progress/violation reports;

- (2)(X) publications of the administrative office of the courts;
 - (2)(Y) record in which the judicial branch determines or states an opinion on the rights of the state, a political subdivision, the public, or a person;
 - (2)(Z) record of the receipt or expenditure of public funds;
 - (2)(AA) record or minutes of an open meeting or hearing and the transcript of them;
 - (2)(BB) record of formal discipline of current or former court personnel or of a person regulated by the judicial branch if the disciplinary action has been completed, and all time periods for administrative appeal have expired, and the disciplinary action was sustained;
 - (2)(CC) record of a request for a record;
 - (2)(DD) reports used by the judiciary if all of the data in the report is public or the Judicial Council designates the report as a public record;
 - (2)(EE) rules of the Supreme Court and Judicial Council;
 - (2)(FF) search warrants, the application and all affidavits or other recorded testimony on which a warrant is based are public after they are unsealed under Utah Rule of Criminal Procedure 40; and
 - (2)(GG) statistical data derived from public and non-public records but that disclose only public data.
 - (2)(HH) Notwithstanding subsections (6) and (7), if a petition, indictment, or information is filed charging a person 14 years of age or older with a felony or an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, the petition, indictment or information, the adjudication order, the disposition order, and the delinquency history summary of the person are public records. The delinquency history summary shall contain the name of the person, a listing of the offenses for which the person was adjudged to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, and the disposition of the court in each of those offenses.
 - (2)(II) Notwithstanding subsection (3)(A)(i), adoption records become public on the one hundredth anniversary of the date the final decree of adoption was entered.
- (3) The following court records are sealed:
- (3)(A) records in the following actions:
 - (3)(A)(i) Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 1, Utah Adoption Act six months after the conclusion of proceedings, which are private until sealed;
 - (3)(A)(ii) Title 78B, Chapter 15, Part 8, Gestational Agreement, six months after the conclusion of proceedings, which are private until sealed; and-
 - (3)(A)(iii) Title 76, Chapter 7, Part 304.5, Consent required for abortions performed on minors; and
 - (3)(B) expunged records;
 - (3)(C) orders authorizing installation of pen register or trap and trace device under Utah Code Section 77-23a-15;
 - (3)(D) records showing the identity of a confidential informant;
 - (3)(E) records relating to the possession of a financial institution by the commissioner of financial institutions under Utah Code Section 7-2-6;
 - (3)(F) wills deposited for safe keeping under Utah Code Section 75-2-901;

- (3)(G) records designated as sealed by rule of the Supreme Court;
 - (3)(H) record of a Children's Justice Center investigative interview after the conclusion of any legal proceedings; and
 - (3)(I) other records as ordered by the court under Rule 4-202.04.
- (4) The following court records are private:
- (4)(A) records in the following actions:
 - (4)(A)(i) Section 62A-15-631, Involuntary commitment under court order;
 - (4)(A)(ii) Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 1, Utah Adoption Act, until the records are sealed; and
 - (4)(A)(iii) Title 78B, Chapter 15, Part 8, Gestational Agreement, until the records are sealed; and
 - (4)(B) records in the following actions, except that the case history; judgments, orders and decrees; letters of appointment; and the record of public hearings are public records:
 - (4)(B)(i) Title 30, Husband and Wife, except that an action for consortium due to personal injury under Section 30-2-11 is public;
 - (4)(B)(ii) Title 77, Chapter 3a, Stalking Injunctions;
 - (4)(B)(iii) Title 75, Chapter 5, Protection of Persons Under Disability and their Property;
 - (4)(B)(iv) Title 78B, Chapter 7, Protective Orders;
 - (4)(B)(v) Title 78B, Chapter 12, Utah Child Support Act;
 - (4)(B)(vi) Title 78B, Chapter 13, Utah Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act;
 - (4)(B)(vii) Title 78B, Chapter 14, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act;
 - (4)(B)(viii) Title 78B, Chapter 15, Utah Uniform Parentage Act; and
 - (4)(B)(ix) an action to modify or enforce a judgment in any of the actions in this subparagraph (B);
 - (4)(C) an affidavit supporting a motion to waive fees;
 - (4)(D) aggregate records other than public aggregate records under subsection (2);
 - (4)(E) alternative dispute resolution records;
 - (4)(F) applications for accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act;
 - (4)(G) citation, but an abstract of a citation that redacts all non-public information is public;
 - (4)(H) judgment information statement;
 - (4)(I) judicial review of final agency action under Utah Code Section 62A-4a-1009;
 - (4)(J) the following personal identifying information about a party: driver's license number, social security number, account description and number, password, identification number, and similar personal identifying information;
 - (4)(K) the following personal identifying information about a person other than a party or a victim or witness of a crime: residential address, personal email address, personal telephone number; date of birth, driver's license number, social security number, account description and number, password, identification number, and similar personal identifying information;
 - (4)(L) medical, psychiatric, or psychological records;

(4)(M) name of a minor, except that the name of a minor party is public in the following district and justice court proceedings:

- (4)(M)(i) name change of a minor;
- (4)(M)(ii) guardianship or conservatorship for a minor;
- (4)(M)(iii) felony, misdemeanor or infraction;
- (4)(M)(iv) child protective orders; and
- (4)(M)(v) custody orders and decrees;

(4)(N) notices from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court;

(4)(O) personnel file of a current or former court personnel or applicant for employment;

(4)(P) photograph, film or video of a crime victim;

(4)(Q) record of a court hearing closed to the public or of a child's testimony taken under URCrP 15.5:

- (4)(Q)(i) permanently if the hearing is not traditionally open to the public and public access does not play a significant positive role in the process; or
- (4)(Q)(ii) if the hearing is traditionally open to the public, until the judge determines it is possible to release the record without prejudice to the interests that justified the closure;

(4)(R) record submitted by a senior judge or court commissioner regarding performance evaluation and certification;

(4)(S) record submitted for in camera review until its public availability is determined;

(4)(T) reports of investigations by Child Protective Services;

(4)(U) victim impact statements;

(4)(V) name of a prospective juror summoned to attend court, unless classified by the judge as safeguarded to protect the personal safety of the prospective juror or the prospective juror's family;

(4)(W) records filed pursuant to Rules 52 - 59 of the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure, except briefs filed pursuant to court order;

(4)(X) records in a proceeding under Rule 60 of the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure;

(4)(Y) an addendum to an appellate brief filed in a case involving:

- (4)(Y)(i) adoption;
- (4)(Y)(ii) termination of parental rights;
- (4)(Y)(iii) abuse, neglect and dependency;
- (4)(Y)(iv) substantiation under Section 78A-6-323; or
- (4)(Y)(v) protective orders or dating violence protective orders;

(4)(Z) other records as ordered by the court under Rule 4-202.04.

(5) The following court records are protected:

(5)(A) attorney's work product, including the mental impressions or legal theories of an attorney or other representative of the courts concerning litigation, privileged communication between the courts and an attorney representing, retained, or employed by the courts, and records prepared solely in anticipation of litigation or a judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative proceeding;

(5)(B) records that are subject to the attorney client privilege;

(5)(C) bids or proposals until the deadline for submitting them has closed;

- (5)(D) budget analyses, revenue estimates, and fiscal notes of proposed legislation before issuance of the final recommendations in these areas;
 - (5)(E) budget recommendations, legislative proposals, and policy statements, that if disclosed would reveal the court's contemplated policies or contemplated courses of action;
 - (5)(F) court security plans;
 - (5)(G) investigation and analysis of loss covered by the risk management fund;
 - (5)(H) memorandum prepared by staff for a member of any body charged by law with performing a judicial function and used in the decision-making process;
 - (5)(I) confidential business records under Utah Code Section 63G-2-309;
 - (5)(J) record created or maintained for civil, criminal, or administrative enforcement purposes, audit or discipline purposes, or licensing, certification or registration purposes, if the record reasonably could be expected to:
 - (5)(J)(i) interfere with an investigation;
 - (5)(J)(ii) interfere with a fair hearing or trial;
 - (5)(J)(iii) disclose the identity of a confidential source; or
 - (5)(J)(iv) concern the security of a court facility;
 - (5)(K) record identifying property under consideration for sale or acquisition by the court or its appraised or estimated value unless the information has been disclosed to someone not under a duty of confidentiality to the courts;
 - (5)(L) record that would reveal the contents of settlement negotiations other than the final settlement agreement;
 - (5)(M) record the disclosure of which would impair governmental procurement or give an unfair advantage to any person;
 - (5)(N) record the disclosure of which would interfere with supervision of an offender's incarceration, probation or parole;
 - (5)(O) record the disclosure of which would jeopardize life, safety or property;
 - (5)(P) strategy about collective bargaining or pending litigation;
 - (5)(Q) test questions and answers;
 - (5)(R) trade secrets as defined in Utah Code Section 13-24-2;
 - (5)(S) record of a Children's Justice Center investigative interview before the conclusion of any legal proceedings;
 - (5)(T) presentence investigation report;
 - (5)(U) except for those filed with the court, records maintained and prepared by juvenile probation; and
 - (5)(V) other records as ordered by the court under Rule 4-202.04.
- (6) The following are juvenile court social records:
- (6)(A) correspondence relating to juvenile social records;
 - (6)(B) custody evaluations, parent-time evaluations, parental fitness evaluations, substance abuse evaluations, domestic violence evaluations;
 - (6)(C) mediation disposition notices;
 - (6)(D) medical, psychological, psychiatric evaluations;
 - (6)(E) pre-disposition and social summary reports;

- (6)(F) probation agency and institutional reports or evaluations;
 - (6)(G) referral reports;
 - (6)(H) report of preliminary inquiries; and
 - (6)(I) treatment or service plans.
- (7) The following are juvenile court legal records:
- (7)(A) accounting records;
 - (7)(B) discovery filed with the court;
 - (7)(C) pleadings, summonses, subpoenas, motions, affidavits, calendars, minutes, findings, orders, decrees;
 - (7)(D) name of a party or minor;
 - (7)(E) record of a court hearing;
 - (7)(F) referral and offense histories
 - (7)(G) and any other juvenile court record regarding a minor that is not designated as a social record.
- (8) The following are safeguarded records:
- (8)(A) upon request, location information, contact information and identity information other than name of a petitioner and other persons to be protected in an action filed under Title 77, Chapter 3a, Stalking Injunctions or Title 78B, Chapter 7, Protective Orders;
 - (8)(B) upon request, location information, contact information and identity information other than name of a party or the party's child after showing by affidavit that the health, safety, or liberty of the party or child would be jeopardized by disclosure in a proceeding under Title 78B, Chapter 13, Utah Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act or Title 78B, Chapter 14, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act or Title 78B, Chapter 15, Utah Uniform Parentage Act;
 - (8)(C) location information, contact information and identity information of prospective jurors on the master jury list or the qualified jury list;
 - (8)(D) location information, contact information and identity information other than name of a prospective juror summoned to attend court;
 - (8)(E) except as required by Utah Code section 78-6-304(4), the following information about a victim or witness of a crime:
 - (8)(E)(i) business and personal address, email address, telephone number and similar information from which the person can be located or contacted;
 - (8)(E)(ii) date of birth, driver's license number, social security number, account description and number, password, identification number, and similar personal identifying information.