

PHILADELPHIA RULE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Rule *401. Policy Concerning Access to Case Records of the Court of Common Pleas and Philadelphia Municipal Court, in Conjunction with the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania (“Case Records Policy of the UJS”)

- (a) **Confidential Information.** When a document (including exhibits) contains any of the confidential information listed in Section 7.0 of the Case Records Policy of the UJS, the filer shall file a *Redacted Version* and an *Unredacted Version* of the document, as provided below.
- (1) *Redacted Version.* The *Redacted Version* of the document shall not include any of the confidential information listed in Section 7.0 (A), and must be redacted in a manner that is visibly evident to the reader. The *Redacted Version* of the document shall be accessible by the public.
 - (2) *Unredacted Version.* The *Unredacted Version* of the document shall contain all information, including the confidential information listed in Section 7.0 (A). The *Unredacted Version* of the document shall not be accessible by the public.
 - (3) A *Redacted Version* of a document which contains confidential information does not need to be filed for case types that are sealed or exempt from public access pursuant to applicable authority.
- (b) **Confidential Documents.**
The documents listed in Section 8.0 (A) of the Case Records Policy of the UJS shall be filed together with the *Confidential Document Form*. When a document is filed using the First Judicial District’s Electronic Filing System, the *Confidential Document Form* will be generated by the Electronic Filing System upon entry of the requisite information by the filer. All confidential documents filed in connection with each filing can be uploaded at the same time. A *Confidential Document Form* need not be used for case types that are sealed or exempt from public access pursuant to applicable authority. Confidential documents filed together with the *Confidential Document Form* are not accessible by the public; however, the *Confidential Document Form* is accessible by the public.
- (c) **Access to Case Records at a Court Facility**
The information described in Section 9.0 of the Case Records Policy of the UJS is not accessible by the public at any First Judicial District court facility.
- (d) **Remote Access.**
- (1) **By the Parties.** Counsel of record or unrepresented parties shall continue to have remote access to documents and other legal papers filed in their case(s) only.
 - (2) **By the Public.** Before providing remote access to Case Records or dockets to the public, each Court or Division of the First Judicial District must insure that the information and documents listed and described in Section 10.0 are not remotely accessible by the public.
- (e) **Fee Schedules.** The First Judicial District shall adopt a Fee Schedule, as provided in Section 6.0 of the Case Records Policy of the UJS, which shall be posted on the court’s website at www.courts.phila.gov and posted in each court facility’s filing office in an area accessible to the public.

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Rule *402. Electronic Case Records. Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County and Philadelphia Municipal Court.

- (a) Electronic case record information maintained by the First Judicial District is available as provided in this rule to the extent its release is authorized or restricted by law, state and local rules, and applicable policies of the Unified Judicial System.
- (b) Requests for electronic case record information shall be made on forms provided by the First Judicial District from time to time.
- (c) Standard reports will be made available to Requesters upon payment of the requisite fee. Requests for combined electronic case records (“bulk records”) shall be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis. Any request for bulk records that can be compiled using an existing report format shall be granted. Any request for bulk records or data which cannot be compiled using an existing report format will be granted if the request is not onerous, and the First Judicial District has available personnel and resources needed to compile the information requested without adversely impacting the operations of the First Judicial District or otherwise disrupting its orderly and efficient case flow.
- (d) Requests for electronic case records will be subject to fees and costs adopted by the First Judicial District from time to time. The First Judicial District must assess, charge and collect the fees and other charges that are required by law and other legal authority. See, e.g. 42 Pa.C.S. § 1725, 42 P.S. §21015 et seq., and 42 P.S. § 21081.
 - (1) The First Judicial District shall adopt a Public Access Fee Schedule which shall be posted on the court’s website at www.courts.phila.gov and posted in each court facility’s filing office in an area accessible to the public.
 - (2) The Public Access Fee Schedule may be amended from time to time by the First Judicial District.
 - (3) Requesters may be required to pay the estimated cost of any report before release of the approved electronic case information.

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Rule *403. Financial Records of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County and Philadelphia Municipal Court.

- (a) Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration No. 509 implements Section 304 of The Right to Know Law which requires Judicial Agencies to provide financial records. See Act 3 of 2008, 65 P.S. § 67.304. Financial Records maintained by the First Judicial District are presumed to be open to any member of the public for inspection or copying during established business hours as provided in Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration No. 509 and this rule.
- (1) Information regarding First Judicial District Contracts and Purchase Orders of \$5,000 or more issued after July 1, 2008 is available through the UJS Web Portal, <https://ujportal.pacourts.us/DocumentPostings/Search.aspx>, by selecting "**Philadelphia**" in the "*Judicial Office*" field.
 - (2) Financial records may also be requested by completing the First Judicial District Financial Records Request Form, which is available on the First Judicial District's website at www.courts.phila.gov.
- (b) The First Judicial District shall designate an Open-Records Officer and Appeals Officer, as required by 65 P.S. § 67.502 and 65 P.S. § 67.503.
- (c) The First Judicial District shall adopt a Fee Schedule, which shall be available on the First Judicial District's website at www.courts.phila.gov. The Fee Schedule may be amended from time to time. Pre-payment will be required if expected compliance costs exceed \$100.