

Confidentiality Statute – Court Records

The following items are confidential by statute and may not be copied or shown to the public:

1. Juvenile Court records (Welfare & Institution Code Section 827);
2. Adoption proceeding records (Family Code Section 9200);
3. Termination of parental rights proceedings records (Family Code Section 7805);
4. Probation reports except during 60 days from the date judgment is pronounced or probation is granted, whichever occurs first, or by the parties or their attorney of record, or by court order (Penal Code Section 1203.05);
5. Records of Grand Jury proceedings before indictment (Penal Code Section 938.1(b));
6. Sealed records (Penal Code Section 851.8, 1203.45);
7. Medical records and reports submitted pursuant to a court order (Evidence Code Section 1017);
8. Subpoenaed records and expert reports, until they are introduced as evidence, unless the parties stipulate to view them (Evidence Code Section 1560(d));
9. Search warrants and affidavits, until the return of service is filed, or 10 days after issuance, whichever occurs first. (Penal Code 1534(a));
10. Arrest reports. (Central Valley Ch. 7th Step Foundation v. Younger (1989) 214 Cal. App. 3d 145, see also Loder v. Municipal Court (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 859)
11. Jury identification information ordered sealed by the Court (Code of Civil Procedure Section 237);
12. Reports concerning mentally disordered prisoners (Penal Code Section 4011.6);
13. Criminal history information (Penal Code Section 11105, 13300 et seq.);
14. Access to MCI or TCIS computer system, data base or computerized records except a printed docket (August 9, 1989, County Counsel Opinion);
15. Social Security numbers (Government Section 68107);
16. In Forma pauperis application (California Rules of Court, Rule 985(h));



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17. Records and documents in attachment cases when a request is made (Code of Civil Procedure Section 482.050);

18. Criminal exhibits without a court order.

19. Paternity cases, except judgments.

This list is meant to serve as a general guide. The court may determine at a later date that other items are confidential as well. Persons seeking access to confidential records must obtain an order from the court granting access to such records.

