

REPLACES: December 31, 1986

POLICY 7.5b
RELEASING JUVENILE COURT RECORDS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

This policy applies to all juvenile justice or care agency records created on or after July 1, 1978. [See RCW 13.50.250.]

A. Certain Conditions Required For Release Of Information For Research Purposes

The court may permit inspection of records by, or release of information to, individuals or agencies for research purposes if:

1. The individual or agency is engaged in legitimate research for educational, scientific, or public purposes;
2. the anonymity of all persons mentioned in the records/information will be preserved; and
3. the person or agency granted permission by the court to inspect juvenile records for research presents a notarized statement to the court stating that the names of juveniles and parents will remain confidential.

[See RCW 13.50.010(8), RCW 13.50.050(3), RCW 13.50.100(2), and Appendix 7.5B *Seattle Times Co. v. County of Benton*, 99 Wn.2d 251, 661 P.2d 964 (1983).]

B. Requests Made To Juvenile Department

Any request for access to records for research purposes should be made to the juvenile department of the superior court. [See *Seattle Times Co. v. County of Benton*, supra.]

C. Hearing May Be Heard Ex Parte, Notice Not Required

The hearing to review an application for the release of information for research purposes may be heard exparte. Notice is not required to be given to the persons who are the subjects of the records. [See *Seattle Times Co. v. County of Benton*, supra.]

D. Written Order Describes Access

The court's decision should be in writing in the form of an order. If the request is granted, access to the records shall be as described in the order granting access. [See *Seattle Times Co. v. County of Benton*, supra.]

E. Access May Include Information In Sealed Files

The order granting access to records for research purposes may include access to information in files sealed pursuant to RCW 13.50.050(11). [See RCW 13.50.010(8).]

F. Release Of JUVIS Information Governed By JISCR 15

The release of JUVIS computerized information is governed by Judicial Information System Committee Rule 15. Requests for release of JUVIS information should be directed to the Administrative Office of the Courts. [See JISCR 15.]

G. Record Of Information Dissemination Required For File

Whenever access to information is permitted a form advising of the access should be inserted into the file. [See Appendix 7.5A.]