
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6496

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Schmidt and Eide; by request of Administrative Office of the Courts)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to confidential court records; adding a new section
2 to chapter 2.28 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 2.28 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) No employee of a court, county clerk's office, government
7 agency, the administrative office of the courts, or any other person
8 under contract with any such agency may intentionally access, use, or
9 disclose court records that he or she knows to be confidential, unless
10 authorized.

11 (2) A court record is confidential if access to that record is
12 restricted by statute, court order, or court rules.

13 (3) For the purposes of this section, "authorized" means access:
14 (a) For the purpose of conducting official court business for a use
15 specifically permitted by employment status; (b) by court order, court
16 rule, or statute for the use specified; or (c) by contractual provision
17 contained in an agreement between the official custodian of the court

1 record and another person or entity, as specified in such agreement.
2 (4) Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

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