

§5-308. Confidentiality of records**(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)****(WHOLE SECTION TEXT EFFECTIVE 4/1/25)**

1. Matter of public record; exception. The existence of a proceeding for or the existence of a guardianship for an adult is a matter of public record unless the court seals the records after:

A. The respondent or individual subject to guardianship requests the records be sealed; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. Either:

(1) The petition for guardianship is dismissed; or

(2) The guardianship is terminated. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Access to court records. An adult subject of a proceeding for a guardianship, whether or not a guardian is appointed, any attorney designated by the adult and a person entitled to notice under section 5-310, subsection 5 are entitled to access court records of the proceeding and resulting guardianship, including a guardian's report or plan. In addition, a person for good cause may petition the court for access to court records of the guardianship, including an annual report or guardian's plan. The court shall grant access if access is in the best interest of the respondent or adult subject to guardianship or furthers the public interest and does not endanger the welfare or financial interest of the adult. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Reports confidential; availability. A report under section 5-304 of a visitor or a professional evaluation under section 5-306 is confidential and must be sealed on filing but is available to:

A. The court; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. The individual who is the subject of the report or evaluation, without limitation as to use; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. The petitioner, visitor and petitioner's and respondent's attorneys, for purposes of the proceeding; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

D. An agent appointed under a power of attorney for health care or advance health care directive, or power of attorney for finances in which the respondent is identified as the principal, unless the court orders otherwise; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

E. Other persons when it is in the public interest or for a purpose the court orders for good cause. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Effective date. This section takes effect April 1, 2025.

[PL 2023, c. 4, §12 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §30 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 4, §2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 4, §12 (AMD).

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