



1 of the court, all records and information concerning a child or  
2 juvenile which are maintained by the Division of Juvenile Services,  
3 the Department of Health and Human Resources, a child agency or  
4 facility, court or law-enforcement agency shall be kept  
5 confidential and shall not be released or disclosed to anyone,  
6 including any federal or state agency.

7 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
8 section or any other provision of this code to the contrary,  
9 records concerning a child or juvenile, except adoption records and  
10 records disclosing the identity of a person making a complaint of  
11 child abuse or neglect shall be made available:

12 (1) Where otherwise authorized by this chapter;

13 (2) To:

14 (A) The child;

15 (B) A parent whose parental rights have not been terminated;

16 or

17 (C) The attorney of the child or parent;

18 (3) With the written consent of the child or of someone  
19 authorized to act on the child's behalf; or

20 (4) Pursuant to an order of a court of record: *Provided*, That  
21 the court shall review such record or records for relevancy and  
22 materiality to the issues in the proceeding and safety, and may  
23 issue an order to limit the examination and use of the records or  
24 any part thereof.

1 (c) In addition to those persons or entities to whom  
2 information may be disclosed under subsection (b) of this section,  
3 information related to child abuse or neglect proceedings, except  
4 information relating to the identity of the person reporting or  
5 making a complaint of child abuse or neglect, shall be made  
6 available, upon request, to:

7 (1) Federal, state or local government entities, or any agent  
8 of such entities, including law-enforcement agencies and  
9 prosecuting attorneys, having a need for such information in order  
10 to carry out its responsibilities under law to protect children  
11 from abuse and neglect;

12 (2) The child fatality review team;

13 (3) Child abuse citizen review panels;

14 (4) Multidisciplinary investigative and treatment teams; or

15 (5) A grand jury, circuit court or family court, upon a  
16 finding that information in the records is necessary for the  
17 determination of an issue before the grand jury, circuit court or  
18 family court.

19 (d) In the event of a child fatality or near fatality due to  
20 child abuse and neglect, information relating to such fatality or  
21 near fatality shall be made public by the Department of Health and  
22 Human Resources and to the entities described in subsection (c) of  
23 this section, all under the circumstances described in that  
24 subsection: *Provided*, That information released by the Department

1 of Health and Human Resources pursuant to this subsection shall not  
2 include the identity of a person reporting or making a complaint of  
3 child abuse or neglect. For purposes of this subsection, "near  
4 fatality" means any medical condition of the child which is  
5 certified by the attending physician to be life threatening.

6 (e) Except in juvenile proceedings which are transferred to  
7 criminal proceedings, law-enforcement records and files concerning  
8 a child or juvenile shall be kept separate from the records and  
9 files of adults and not included within the court files. Law-  
10 enforcement records and files concerning a child or juvenile shall  
11 only be open to inspection pursuant to the provisions of sections  
12 seventeen and eighteen, article five of this chapter.

13 (f) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this  
14 section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof,  
15 shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or confined in the county or  
16 regional jail for not more than six months, or be both fined and  
17 confined. A person convicted of violating the provisions of this  
18 section shall also be liable for damages in the amount of \$300 or  
19 actual damages, whichever is greater.

20 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or any  
21 other provision of this code to the contrary, the name and identity  
22 of any juvenile adjudicated or convicted of a violent or felonious  
23 crime shall be made available to the public.

24 (h) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or any

1 other provision of this code to the contrary, the Division of  
2 Juvenile Services may provide access to and the confidential use of  
3 a treatment plan, court records or other records of a juvenile to  
4 an agency in another state which:

5       (A) Performs the same functions in that state that are  
6 performed by the Division of Juvenile Services in this state;

7       (B) Has a reciprocal agreement with this state; and

8       (C) Has legal custody of the juvenile.

9       (2) A record which is shared under this subsection may only  
10 provide information which is relevant to the supervision, care,  
11 custody and treatment of the juvenile.

12       (3) The Division of Juvenile Services is authorized to enter  
13 into reciprocal agreements with other states and to propose rules  
14 for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of  
15 article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement the  
16 provisions of this subsection.

17       (4) Other than the authorization explicitly given in this  
18 subsection, this subsection may not be construed to enlarge or  
19 restrict access to juvenile records as provided elsewhere in this  
20 code.