

JUVENILE COURT
POLICY/PROCEDURE

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO VICTIMS OF A CHILD'S ACT(S)

POLICY

Chapter 938 does not provide for a process by which the court may release information from its records to victims for the purpose(s) of pursuing civil action. Therefore, for **petitions filed** as of July 1, 1996 the court will no longer authorize release of that information.

PROCEDURE

If the victim needs the information in order to begin a civil action he/she may request that information from the law enforcement agency handling the case. In the event that the law enforcement agency's policies do not permit release of that information, the victim may petition the court to authorize release of the law enforcement information. That request should be sent to the Juvenile Court Commissioner Clerk and be reviewed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner will review the request and simply authorize/not authorize release of that information to the victim.

EXCEPTIONS/COMMENTS

Note that statutes do provide for various persons/parties to review/access court records (refer to policy on Access to Court Records), including authorized representatives of a victim's insurer. Therefore, in some cases it may be possible for a victim to gain access to the information through that procedure.