

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I look at court files?

Court files can be reviewed by the public.

What records can I look at and what records can I have?

*You can review everything in the file that has been given to you for review.
You can make a written request for copies of records from that file.*

Can I have copies of the whole file?

*You can make a written request for copies from the court file.
There will be a cost associated with making copies.*

Why can't I have certain records?

Some of the records may have been sealed by the Judge or they may contain private information that is not allowed to be released to the public.

How long do I have to wait for a record?

Records will be made available as promptly as possible.

Where can I find out what is allowable for release?

Court staff should be able to answer your questions about what is allowable or you can access that information on the State Court website.

http://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/publication/?fa=newsinfo_publication.recordsRequest

What requests are referred to the judge for review?

Court staff will refer any request for records that they are unsure of to the Judge for review.

Can I have the criminal history of a relative or neighbor?

*No, criminal history records from the JIS system are not public records.
They may only be obtained by the defendant or their counsel.*