

X-D-204 | EXEMPTION SUMMARY - §985 FS**Section 985.036, F.S.**

Nothing in this chapter prohibits the victim of the offense or a minor victim's parent or guardian from the right to be informed of, and to be present during, all crucial stages of the proceedings involving the juvenile offender. However, such person may not reveal to any outside party any confidential information obtained under this subsection regarding the case, except as is reasonably necessary to pursue legal remedies. A law enforcement agency may release a copy of the juvenile offense report to the victim of the offense; however, information gained by the victim under this chapter, including the next of kin of a homicide victim, regarding any case handled in juvenile court must not be revealed to any outside party, except as is reasonably necessary in pursuit of legal remedies.

Section 985.04(1) F.S.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, all information obtained under this chapter (relating to juvenile justice) in the discharge of official duty by any of the entities set forth in the subsection is confidential and exempt and may be disclosed only to the entities specified in the subsection or upon court order. Agencies entering into an agreement to share information about juvenile offenders as authorized by this subsection must comply with s. 943.0525 and must maintain the confidentiality of information otherwise exempt from s. 119.07(1), as provided by law.

Section 985.04(6), F.S.

Records maintained by the Department of Juvenile Justice pertaining to a child found to have committed a delinquent act which, if committed by an adult, would be a crime specified in cited statute may not be destroyed for a period of 25 years after the youth's final referral to the department, except in cases of the child's death. However, such record shall be sealed by the court and may be released only to meet screening requirements for personnel in s. 402.3055 and the other mentioned statutes or department rules although sexual offender and predator registration information is a public record.



Section 985.04 (7) (a) , F.S.

Records in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice regarding children are not open to public inspection and may be inspected only upon order of the Secretary of the department or the secretary's authorized agent as provided therein.

Section 985.045 (2) , F.S.

The clerk of court shall keep all official records required by this section (delinquency) separate from other records of the circuit court, except those records pertaining to motor vehicle violations, which shall be forwarded to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Except as provided in ss. 943.053 and 985.04 (6) (b) and (7), official records required by this chapter are not open to inspection by the public, but may be inspected only by persons and entities specified in the subsection or deemed by the court to have a proper interest therein. The court may permit authorized representatives of recognized organizations compiling statistics for proper purposes to inspect, and make abstracts from, official records under whatever conditions upon the use and disposition of such records the court may deem proper and may punish by contempt proceedings any violation of those conditions.

Section 985.047 (2) (a) , F.S.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, confidentiality of records information does not apply to juveniles who have been arrested for an offense that would be a crime if committed by an adult, regarding the sharing of information on such juveniles with the law enforcement agency or county as well as other specified agencies and individuals. Neither these records provided to the law enforcement agency or county nor the records developed from these records for serious habitual juvenile offenders nor the records provided or developed from records provided to the law enforcement agency or county on juveniles at risk of becoming serious habitual juveniles offenders shall be available for public disclosure under s. 119.07.

Section 985.11, F.S.

Except as provided in cited statutes, fingerprints and photographs of juveniles are not available for public



disclosure and inspection under s. 119.07(1), except as provided in ss. 943.053 and 985.04(2), but are available to specified entities or to any other person authorized by the court to have access to such records. The records may, in the discretion of the court, be open to inspection by anyone upon a showing of cause.

Section 985.534(4) and (5), F.S.

The original order of the appellate court in a case affecting a party to a case involving a child under this chapter (juvenile justice) and all papers filed in the case on appeal shall remain in the office of the clerk of the court, sealed and not open to inspection except by order of the appellate court. The case on appeal shall be docketed, and any papers filed in the appellate court shall be entitled with the initials but not the name of the child.

(Florida Office of the Attorney General // © March 9, 2023)

