

Sean Harrington
P.O. Box #351855
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June 28, 2006

Hon. R. Brooke Jackson, Chief Judge, First Judicial District.
100 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, Colorado
80401

RE: PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS

Dear Judge Jackson:

I understand that you recently implemented a directive denying public access to dissolution, child custody and child support matters, relative to Chief Justice Directive 05-01.

Justice Martinez of our Supreme Court was reported in an April '06 Associated Press article as being surprised not that some districts took the route of "blanket sealing of cases," and noting that, "it's occurred more often than we expected . . . that's more restrictive than what we want it to be. We don't want to be in that posture of having cases sealed, closed or inaccessible."

I believe that the CJD neither contemplates nor authorizes such an expansive restriction, including the imposition of a substantial financial burden (an hourly fee to redact personal information) on those few cases that some of us may gain access to. Even if the CJD did intend this, I don't believe that such restrictions would survive a Strict Scrutiny examination.

This new public access policy has created a tangible obstacle for individuals, who have been attempting or intend to monitor child custody and marriage dissolution cases. Accordingly, I am writing to request access to all domestic relations records on behalf of myself, for the express purpose of reviewing the pleadings, motions, rulings, judgments and orders relating to parties, child-and-family-investigators (f/k/a "special advocates") and judges in such cases.

Granting the within general access request serves the State interest that you articulated in the Directive, because the care, custody and control of the copies of those records would remain with me, and I have no interest in stealing or selling personal information.

Most Respectfully,


Sean Harrington

Cc: Justice Alex Martinez