



**District Court**  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
100 JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKWAY  
GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401-6002

R. BROOKE JACKSON  
CHIEF JUDGE

July 15, 2006

Sean Harrington  
P.O. Box 351855  
Westminster, CO 80035

Re: Public Access to Court Records

Dear Mr. Harrington:

Thank you for your letter of June 28, 2006. Our policy is not one of "blanket sealing of cases." It does place restrictions on access to domestic files by non-parties, but it allows for access by court order in a particular case. Unrestricted access to files places a much smaller burden on our staff than does this policy. However, state-issued forms and the practices of domestic lawyers and parties have led to the presence of social security numbers and other such information throughout these files. Recognizing the potential for identity theft and other misuse of this information, as well as existing law that protects such information, the Chief Justice issued the Directive to which you refer following years of committee study. It requires that this information not be released. We simply do not have the staffing or resources to be redacting such information from our thousands of files. Rather than simply closing the files, we designed a policy that attempts to protect the type of information mentioned while still permitting non-parties with a reasonable need for access to a particular file to obtain it based upon a case by case review by a judge or magistrate. My understanding is that the policy has been operating quite well.

I must respectfully decline your request for a blanket exception allowing you to obtain access to all domestic files. We wish to treat everyone the same.

Sincerely,

Brooke Jackson