

GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex • P.O. Box 037 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0037 njcourts.gov • Tel: 609-376-3000 • Fax: 609-376-3002

TO: Assignment Judges
Trial Court Administrators

DIRECTIVE #18-21

FROM: Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D. 

Questions may be directed to the
Family Practice Division at
609-815-2900, ext. 55350.

SUBJECT: Family – Revised Standard Protective Order (CN 10485)

DATE: August 11, 2021

This Directive promulgates a standard Protective Order (CN 10485) to be used in all Family Division dockets when the court authorizes the release of records and concludes that records authorized for release should not be disclosed to others. The protective order provides that the documents released cannot be used in any other matter without the express written permission of the court and also includes a provision setting forth how the records are to be handled when the documents are no longer required: either destroying the records or returning them to the originating agency.

Examples for the use of this protective order include, but are not limited to, requests for:

1. **Records relating to matters involving the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)** -- The court may authorize disclosure of DCP&P records to self-represented litigants in Children in Court (CIC) cases or to attorneys for use in other case types. A protective order establishes the limitations for the use of these confidential records.
2. **Juvenile court records to be used in criminal Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) matters** -- In ERPO cases, evidence of a history of violence can be produced, which may include juvenile records. See N.J.S.A. 2C:58-23(f). While ERPO records are also confidential, and they may only be disclosed as set forth in N.J.S.A. 2C:58-30(a), the Family judge should have the discretion to control the re-disclosure of juvenile records. The protective order permits juvenile records to be used in an ERPO proceeding while simultaneously addressing re-disclosure of those records.
3. **Records obtained in contested custody, parenting time, and visitation matters filed under the dissolution and non-dissolution dockets.** This includes the results of custody investigations and expert evaluations resulting from the medical, mental health, social, or economic examinations of any party.

Attachment

cc: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Family Presiding Judges
Criminal Presiding Judges
Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff
AOC Directors and Assistant Directors
Special Assistants to the Administrative Director
Chiefs, Family Practice Division
Criminal Practice Division Chiefs
Family Division Managers and Assistant Division Managers
Criminal Division Managers and Assistant Division Managers
Emily Mari, Esq., Staff Attorney

Prepared By The Court

Superior Court of New Jersey
Chancery Division - Family Part
County of _____
Docket Number: _____

Plaintiff

v.

Defendant

**Civil Action
Protective Order**

THIS MATTER being opened to the Court, and it appearing that copies of the following confidential reports are being released to the attorneys and parties or the self-represented litigants:

- Home Inspection Report
- Social Investigation Report
- Psychological Report
- Psychiatric Report
- Risk Assessment
- _____

and for good cause shown;

It Is on This ____ day of _____ 20 __, Ordered that

1. Copies of these documents will be released to the attorneys or self-represented litigants;
2. Copies of these documents will be released with the understanding that the information contained in the documents is to be used only for distribution to experts, attorneys and self-represented litigants in the pending:
 - Custody/parent time case under Docket number(s) _____
 - Case under Docket number(s) _____
 - Extreme Risk Protective Order case (N.J.S.A. 2C:58-30(a)) under Docket number(s) _____;
3. The documents cannot be used in any other matter without the express written permission of the court;
4. This information cannot be disclosed to any other person for any reason, and cannot be given out or made public by any means, direct or indirect, without the express written permission of the court;
 - The court has advised the parties on the record that they are prohibited from disclosing the records referenced in this order, and the parties acknowledged receiving the court's instructions;
5. The use of the information contained in the documents for any purpose other than stated by the court shall be a violation of this court order and might be subject to sanctions at the court's discretion. Any other use of the contents of the documents that are the subject of this protective order is strictly prohibited and will be enforced by the court;

6. Upon disposition of the matter referenced in paragraph 2 above, the documents will be
 destroyed / returned to _____; and

7. **It Is Further Ordered**

J.S.C.