

INTERESTING TRIVIA

RIGHT TO ACCESS COURT RECORDS

Rule of thumb: generally speaking, any document in a court file is a matter of public record unless it is sealed by the court or is classified as confidential or private by statute or by judicial council rule.

RULE 4-202 of the Code of Judicial Administration governs access to court records. Currently, court records are classified into four categories: PUBLIC, PRIVATE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND SEALED.

PUBLIC means data on individuals collected and maintained by the courts which is not classified as private or confidential under Rule 4-202 and is open to the public, unless otherwise exempted or restricted from disclosure by law.

PRIVATE means data on individuals collected and maintained by the courts which is available only to the courts, to others by the express consent of the individuals, and to the individuals themselves or next-of-kin when needed to acquire the benefits due a deceased person.

CONFIDENTIAL means data on individuals collected and maintained by the courts which is available only to the courts, but not to the individual who is the subject of the data or any other individual except upon order of the court.

SEALED means data which has been ordered sealed by the court pursuant to statute or court rule.

• In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb."

• Many years ago in Scotland a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only . . . Ladies Forbidden.' Thus the word *GOLF* entered into the English Language.

• Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

• Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

• Coca-Cola was originally green.

• It is impossible to lick your elbow.

• The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska.

• The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$16,400.

• Intelligent people have more zing and copper in their hair.

• The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.