

**VERMONT SUPREME COURT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR PUBLIC
ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS**

Meeting Agenda for August 7, 2026

1. Chair Tomasi: Meeting Opening

Announcements and General Discussion.

2. Approval of Minutes from the April 3, 2026 meeting.

3. Update Amendment Governing Public-Access Status of Inquests and Nontestimonial Orders.

Judge Tomasi

4. Reference to 20 V.S.A. § 2056a in PACR Rule 6 Appendix

The appendix to PACR Rule 6, “Statutes and Court Rules Providing Restrictions or Prohibitions on Public Access to Judicial-Branch Records,” lists 20 V.S.A. § 2056a with the following explanation: “Criminal History Records obtained through the National Criminal Information Center, as provided in 20 V.S.A. § 2056a(c), are not considered publicly accessible by that agency, 28 CFR § 20.33(b). Disclosure of such records may result in cancellation of access to them.” Since then, the DOJ security policy (https://le.fbi.gov/file-repository/cjis_security_policy_v6-0_20241227.pdf/view) has been amended to state that “[criminal justice information] introduced into the court system pursuant to a judicial proceeding that can be released to the public via a public records request is not subject to the CJIS Security Policy.” U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy (Dec. 27, 2024), at 10. The question is therefore whether we still need the reference to 20 V.S.A. § 2056a in the appendix, since the policy appears to say that once the records are in the court system, they are subject to court rules for public access. Resume discussion?

5. Update From Subcommittee on Financial Guardians for Minors

6. Selection of Candidates to Succeed Attorney Watts on Committee

7. New Business; Set Next Meeting