

1 Rule 4-202. Purpose.

2 Intent:

3 To recognize the delicate balance of interests served by open and closed court records.

4 Applicability:

5 This rule applies to the judicial branch.

6 Statement of the Rule:

7 (1) This list of interests served by public court records is not exhaustive but is meant to
8 illustrate the important objectives of open government:

9 (1)(A) to obtain information concerning the conduct of the public's business;

10 (1)(B) to educate the public about the workings of government and the decisions being made
11 on the public's behalf;

12 (1)(C) to contribute to informed debate;

13 (1)(D) to hold public officers and employees accountable;

14 (1)(E) to increase public confidence;

15 (1)(F) to give notice of important claims, rights and obligations; and

16 (1)(G) to provide material for independent research on improving government policy.

17 (2) This list of interests served by non-public court records is not exhaustive but is meant to
18 illustrate the important objectives protected by selectively closing court records:

19 (2)(A) to protect personal privacy;

20 (2)(B) to protect personal and public safety;

21 (2)(C) to protect a property interest that would be lost or devalued if opened to public view;

22 (2)(D) to promote the rehabilitation of offenders, especially youthful offenders; and

23 (2)(E) to protect non-parties participating in the court process, such as victims, witnesses, and
24 jurors.