

Limited Exceptions to Judicial Conference Privacy Policy for Criminal Case Files

In March 2002, the Judicial Conference adopted two modifications to the prohibition on remote public access to electronic criminal case files. The first modification addresses "high profile" cases and would allow remote public access to criminal case file documents in cases where demand for copies of documents places an unnecessary burden on the clerk's office, the parties have consented to such access, and the presiding judge finds that such access is warranted by the circumstances. For more information, please see <http://www.uscourts.gov/news.html> .

The second modification is the creation of a pilot project allowing several courts to return to the level of remote public access to electronic criminal case files that they provided prior to the Conference adoption of the policy restricting such access for the purpose of studying these courts. This study is intended to assist with the required reexamination of the policy's current prohibition on public remote access to criminal case file documents.

The Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management is in the process of overseeing the implementation of the policy in the courts.

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