WASHINGTON COURTS

October 26, 2018

TO: JISC Data Dissemination Committee

FROM: Stephanie Happold, AOC Data Dissemination Administrator

RE: Court Rule GR 15 and Restricted Case Types

AOC staff is seeking direction in the interpretation of Court Rule GR 15(c)(4) language and how/if it should apply to restricted case types (adoption, paternity, juvenile non-offender, involuntary commitment).

> GR 15(c)(4):
> (4) Sealing of Entire Court File. When the clerk receives a court order to seal the entire court file, the clerk shall seal the court file and secure it from public access. All court records filed thereafter shall also be sealed unless otherwise ordered. The existence of a court file sealed in its entirety, unless protected by statute, is available for viewing by the public on court indices. The information on the court indices is limited to the case number, names of the parties, the notation "case sealed," the case type and cause of action in civil cases and the cause of action or charge in criminal cases, except where the conviction in a criminal case has been vacated, section (d) shall apply. The order to seal and written findings supporting the order to seal shall also remain accessible to the public, unless protected by statute.

Should the existence of sealed restricted case types also be displayed?