

**STATE OF VERMONT
VERMONT SUPREME COURT
JUNE TERM, 2022**

Order Promulgating Amendments to Rule 6(b)(14) of the Vermont Rules for Public Access to Court Records

Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, § 37, and 12 V.S.A. § 1, it is hereby ordered:

1. That Rule 6(b)(14) of the Vermont Rules for Public Access to Court Records be amended to read as follows (new matter underlined; deleted matter struck through):

§ 6. Case Records

(b) **Exceptions.** The public does not have access to the following judicial-branch case records:

(14) The following personally identifying data elements filed in a case record that is otherwise publicly accessible under these rules: (i) A social security number; (ii) A passport number; (iii) A taxpayer identification number; (iv) A financial account number, including a credit or debit card number; or (v) In a criminal case, the name of ~~a child alleged to be a~~ an alleged victim, who was a minor on the date of the offense. In lieu of a social security, passport, taxpayer identification or financial account number, the filer may include the last four digits of that number. In lieu of the name of ~~a child victim~~ an alleged minor victim, the filer may include the initials of the first and last name of the ~~child~~ minor.

Reporter’s Notes—Second 2022 Amendment

Rule 6(b)(14) contains exemptions of personally identifying information. Rule 6(b)(14)(v) previously exempted the name “of a child alleged to be a victim” in a criminal case. To alleviate any confusion regarding whether the exemption referred to the age at the time of the offense or currently, the provision is amended to clarify that it applies to an alleged victim who was a minor at the time of the offense. The exemption of the name from public access does not disappear when the alleged victim becomes an adult. The amendment also substitutes the term “minor” for “child” because minor is a legal term already defined by statute. See 1 V.S.A. § 173.

2. That these amendments be prescribed and promulgated, effective on August 8, 2022. The Reporter’s Notes are advisory.

3. That the Chief Justice is authorized to report these amendments to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of 12 V.S.A. § 1, as amended.

Dated in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont, this 6th day of June, 2022.



Signed by the Vermont Supreme Court

Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice

Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice

Karen R. Carroll, Associate Justice

William D. Cohen, Associate Justice

Nancy J. Waples, Associate Justice