



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2013 Wisconsin Act 252**  
[2013 Senate Bill 561]

**Disclosure of Juvenile Court  
Records and Access to Proceedings**

Under **current law**, juvenile court records are confidential, with specified exceptions, and juvenile court hearings are generally closed hearings.

**2013 Wisconsin Act 252** requires the juvenile court to open juvenile court records for inspection and copying by authorized representatives of an entity engaged in the bona fide research, monitoring, or evaluation of activities under current federal law relating to funding for state courts to assess and improve handling of proceedings relating to foster care and adoption, as determined by the Director of State Courts, for the purpose of that research, monitoring, or evaluation.

The Act also permits a person engaged in such bona fide research, monitoring, or evaluation to be admitted to juvenile court hearings by the court.

The Act provides that the representatives of an entity engaged in the bona fide research, monitoring, or evaluation, as described in the Act, must keep juvenile court records they inspect or copy confidential and may use and further disclose those records only for the purpose for which those records were requested.

*Effective date:* Act 252 takes effect on April 10, 2014.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.