



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Senate Bill 561**

**Senate  
Amendment 1**

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

**Senate Bill 561** 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 bill also permits a person engaged in such bona fide research, monitoring, or evaluation to be admitted to juvenile court hearings by the court.

**Senate Amendment 1** provides that the representatives of an entity engaged in the bona fide research, monitoring, or evaluation, as described in the bill, 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.

### **Bill History**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor offered Senate Amendment 1. On March 6, 2014, the committee voted unanimously to adopt the amendment and to recommend passage of the bill, as amended.

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