

137-055-1160

Confidentiality -- Finding of Risk and Order for Nondisclosure of Information

(1) For the purposes of this rule in addition to the definitions found in OAR 137-055-1020, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Claim of risk for nondisclosure of information" means a claim by a party to a paternity or support case made to the administrator, an administrative law judge or the court that there is reason to not contain or disclose the information specified in ORS 25.020(8)(a) or OAR 137-055-1140(6)(a) because the health, safety or liberty of a party or child would unreasonably be put at risk by disclosure of such information;

(b) "Finding of risk and order for nondisclosure of information" means a finding and order by the administrator, an administrative law judge or the court, which may be made ex parte, that there is reason to not contain or disclose the information specified in ORS 25.020(8)(a) or OAR 137-055-1140(6)(a) because the health, safety or liberty of a party or child would unreasonably be put at risk by disclosure of such information.

(2) A claim of risk for nondisclosure of information may be made to the administrator by a party at any time that a child support case is open. Forms for making a claim of risk for nondisclosure of information will be available from all child support offices and be made available to other community resources. At the initiation of any legal process that would result in a judgment or administrative order establishing paternity or including a provision concerning support, the administrator will provide parties an opportunity to make a claim of risk for nondisclosure of information.

(3)(a) When a party makes a written and signed claim of risk for nondisclosure of information pursuant to section (2) of this rule, the administrator will make a finding of risk and order for nondisclosure of information unless the party does not provide a contact address pursuant to section (5) of this rule;

(b) When a party is accepted into the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), the administrator will make a finding of risk and order for nondisclosure of information. The party's contact address will be the ACP substitute address designated by the Attorney General pursuant to OAR 137-079-0150.

(4) An administrative law judge will make a finding of risk and order for nondisclosure of information when a party makes a claim of risk for nondisclosure of information in a hearing unless the party does not provide a contact address pursuant to section (5) of this rule.

(5) A party who makes a claim of risk for nondisclosure of information under subsection (3)(a) or section (4) must provide a contact address that is releasable to the other party(ies) in legal proceedings. The claim of risk for nondisclosure of information form provided to the party by the administrator must have a place in which to list a contact address. If a requesting party does not provide a contact address, a finding of risk and order for nondisclosure of information will not be made.

(6) When an order for nondisclosure of information has been made, the administrator must ensure that all pleadings, returns of service, orders or any other documents that would be sent to the parties or would be available as public information in a court file does not contain or must have deleted any of the identifying information specified in ORS 25.020(8)(a) or OAR 137-055-1140(6)(a). Any document sent to the court that contains any of the information specified in ORS 25.020(8)(a) or OAR 137-055-1140(6)(a) must be in a sealed envelope with a cover sheet informing the court of the confidential nature of the contents or in the manner provided by UTCR 2.130.

(7) A finding of risk and order for nondisclosure of information entered pursuant to this rule will be documented on the child support case file and will remain in force until such time as the ACP participant or party who requested a claim of risk retracts the claim or requests dismissal in writing.

(8) A party who requested a claim of risk may retract the claim on a form provided by the administrator. When a signed retraction form is received by the administrator, the administrator will enter, or will ask the court to enter, a finding and order terminating the order for nondisclosure of information.

(9) Any information previously protected under an order for nondisclosure of information will be subject to disclosure when the order for nondisclosure of information is terminated. The retraction form provided by the administrator will advise the requestor that previously protected information may be released to the other party(ies).

(10) In cases where the administrator is not involved in the preparation of the support order or judgment establishing paternity, or when child support services under ORS 25.080 are not being provided, any claim of risk for nondisclosure of information pursuant to ORS 25.020 must be made to the court.

(11) Notwithstanding section (5) of this rule, where the court has made a finding of risk and order for nondisclosure of information and the case is receiving or subsequently receives child support services pursuant to ORS 25.080, the administrator will implement the court's finding pursuant to this rule. In such a case, the administrator will use, in order of preference, the party's contact address as contained in the court file, or the party's contact address previously provided to the Child Support Program. If no contact address is available through either of these sources, the administrator will send a written request to the party, asking that the party provide a contact address. The written request from the administrator must advise the party that if no contact address is provided within 30 days, the administrator will use, in order of preference, the party's mailing or residence address as the contact address, and the new contact address may be released to the other party(ies).

Stat. Auth.: ORS 25.020; 180.345

Stats. Implemented: ORS 25.020; 192.820 - 192.858

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