

Rule 12.400. Confidentiality of Records and Proceedings

(a) Closure of Proceedings or Records. Closure of court proceedings or sealing of records may be ordered by the court only as provided by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420.

(b) In Camera Inspections. The court shall conduct an in camera inspection of any records sought to be sealed and consider the contents of the records in determining whether they should be sealed.

(c) Conditional Sealing of Financial Information.

(1) The court has the authority to conditionally seal the financial information required by rule 12.285 if it is likely that access to the information would subject a party to abuse, such as the use of the information by third parties for purposes unrelated to government or judicial accountability or to first amendment rights. Any such order sealing the financial information is conditional in that the information shall be disclosed to any person who establishes that disclosure of the information is necessary for government or judicial accountability or has a proper first amendment right to the information.

(2) Notice of conditional sealing shall be as required by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420(d).

(3) Upon receipt of a motion to reopen conditionally sealed financial information, the court shall schedule a hearing on the motion with notice provided to the movant and parties.