



TAP report comment

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I feel strongly that FM cases should not be open to the public absent a request and specific finding that there is a public interest in the material.

Mistakes happen ALL the time. Self-represented parties file documents with full bank account numbers, full social security numbers, etc. Attorneys who only dabble in family law also do this. Clerks also, at least with paper files, sometimes overlook confidential documents and put them on the public side of the file. Any bad actor who figures this out will be able to troll through files until he/she gets a hit. This could happen now but will be so much easier I believe with electronic files.

Also, pleadings regularly go far beyond providing "notice" of the issues. I routinely see long, detailed accounts alleging terrible behavior, allegations which may or may not be true. Sometimes pleadings comment on the behavior of the parties' children. Judicial decisions often have to analyze family dynamics and assign blame. I worry that children will be able to access these files and read these horrible things.

Finally, in general, I believe that the average, non-famous family who is falling apart because of addiction issues, or mental health issues, or debt issues, etc. deserves some privacy. A relative, a neighbor, a reporter looking for a human interest scoop, or anyone else should not be able to access that file and read about that family's personal misery.

Thank you for your time and work on this issue.

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