

Proceedings that are closed to the public:

1. Proceedings that Must be Closed Per Statute
  - a. Termination of Parental Rights (s. 39.809(4), Fla. Stat.)
  - b. Waiver of Parental Notification of Abortion (s. 390.01114(4)(f), Fla. Stat.)
  - c. Adoption (s. 63.162(1), Fla. Stat.)
  - d. Surrogacy (s. 742.16(5), Fla. Stat.)
  - e. Petitions for Enforcement of an Order of the Department of Health Regarding the Fitness of the Following Professionals to Practice:
    - i. Nurses (s. 464.018(1)(j), Fla. Stat.)
    - ii. Acupuncturists (s. 457.109(1)(o), Fla. Stat.)
    - iii. Medical Doctors (s. 458.331(1)(s), Fla. Stat.)
    - iv. Psychologists (s. 490.009(1)(p), Fla. Stat.)
    - v. Osteopathic Physicians (s. 459.015(1)(w), Fla. Stat.)
    - vi. Dentists and Dental Hygienists (s. 466.028(1)(s), Fla. Stat.)
    - vii. Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Mental Health Counselors (including registered interns and certificate holders) (s. 491.009(1)(p), Fla. Stat.)
2. Proceedings that May be Closed (Judges are Authorized to Close)
  - a. Dependency – may be closed if the judge finds that closure is in the best interest of the child or the public (s. 39.507(2), Fla. Stat.)
  - b. Children and Families in Need of Services – may be closed if the judge finds that closure is in the best interest of the child or public welfare (s. 984.20(2)(c) Fla. Stat.)
  - c. Delinquency for Juveniles Prosecuted as Juveniles – may be closed when public interest *and* child’s welfare are best served (s. 985.035(1), Fla. Stat.)
  - d. Paternity – may be closed in judge’s discretion, and hearing *must be held in chambers*
  - e. Other proceedings, decided on a case by case basis, in which the judge determines that material that is confidential per statute or court rule will be presented.
3. Proceedings that Must be Closed Upon Request of a Party
  - a. Abuse of Vulnerable Adults - If chapter 744 petition to continue emergency protective services is filed, the victim or ward has the right to a closed hearing. (s. 744.1095(6), Fla. Stat.)
  - b. Guardianship – closed at request of alleged incapacitated person or ward (s. 744.1095(6), Fla. Stat.)