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SENATE BILL 6496

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Schmidt and Eide; by request of Administrative Office of the Courts

Read first time 01/21/2004. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to confidential court records; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 2.28 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 2.28 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) No employee of a court, county clerk's office, government  
7 agency, the administrative office of the courts, or any other person or  
8 entity may access, use, or disclose confidential court records, unless  
9 authorized.

10 (2) A court record is confidential if access to that record is  
11 restricted by statute, court order, or court rules.

12 (3) For the purposes of this section, "authorized" means access:

13 (a) For the purpose of conducting official court business for a use  
14 specifically permitted by employment status; (b) by court order, court  
15 rule, or statute for the use specified; or (c) by contractual provision  
16 contained in an agreement between the official custodian of the court  
17 record and another person or entity as specified in such agreement.

1 (4) Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

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