

STATE OF MAINE  
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



VALERIE STANFILL  
CHIEF JUSTICE

MAILING ADDRESS:  
163 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0163  
(207) 213-2951  
EMAIL: [chiefjustice@courts.maine.gov](mailto:chiefjustice@courts.maine.gov)

May 30, 2025

Hon. Anne Carney  
Senate Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Maine State Legislature  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Hon. Amy Kuhn  
House Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Maine State Legislature  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Re: Rules Governing the Confidentiality of Records in Probate Court  
Proceedings

Greetings Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn,

Pursuant to P.L. 2025, ch. 18, § 18 (effective April 1, 2025), I am pleased to submit this follow-up report to the Judiciary Committee, summarizing the Court's progress toward adopting amendments to the Maine Rules of Probate Procedure governing the confidentiality of records in minor guardianship, adult guardianship, conservatorship, and other protective arrangement proceedings.

As discussed in my most recent report to the Judiciary Committee on May 1, 2025, much of the initial work to implement P.L. 2025, ch. 18 is being carried out by the Advisory Committee on the Maine Rules of Probate Procedure. This Advisory Committee drafts proposed amendments to the Maine Rules of Probate Procedure and recommends them to the Court for public notice, comment, and eventual adoption.

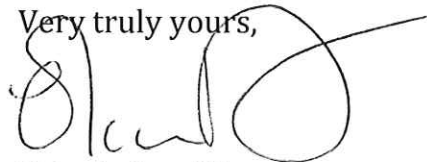
Over the past month, the Advisory Committee has met with the electronic filing system's IT vendor, Catalis, to discuss the technical implementation of the confidentiality requirements of P.L. 2025, ch. 18 through the existing electronic filing system. These discussions have been productive and a potential solution to limiting public access to records

in protective proceedings while providing enhanced access to designated users (the Department of Health and Human Services; the Office of the Attorney General; Disability Rights Maine; Maine Hospitals; and Legal Services for Maine Elders) has been identified. This new approach to public searches will likely include a separate login function for those with enhanced access, allowing continued online access without placing an undue burden on the Registers of Probate through individual requests for access to specific dockets. This separate login function will also enable control and credentialing of those with enhanced access to records to safeguard this information from misuse.

As part of this investigation into how the electronic filing system would technically work, the Advisory Committee has also been in contact with the entities granted enhanced access to gauge the number of users who will need login credentials.

Amendments to the existing Maine Rules of Probate Procedure to implement these confidentiality requirements have largely been drafted but cannot be completed until the technical details have been worked out with the IT vendor. That process should be completed soon, allowing the Advisory Committee to solicit comments from the specific groups provided enhanced access to records prior to public notice and comment on the amendments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Stanfill', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Valerie Stanfill  
Chief Justice

VS/nms

cc: Barbara Cardone, Director of Legal Affairs and Public Relations  
Janet Stocco, Legislative Analyst  
Elias Murphy, Legislative Analyst  
Susan Pinette, Committee Clerk