
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2016 No. 123

**The Court Files Privileged Access
Rules (Northern Ireland) 2016**

Conditions applicable to a released court file

- 8.**—(1) An applicant to whom the Department has released a court file under these Rules must—
- (a) keep the court file confidential and stored securely;
 - (b) not copy, or permit the copying of, the court file other than as permitted by rule 8(3);
 - (c) not reformat, or permit the reformatting of, the court file;
 - (d) not publish, or permit the publication of, the court file, except where such permission has been sought and granted under rule 9; and
 - (e) notify the Office in writing of any change of name or address.
- (2) A person who is subject to the undertaking at Schedule 1 may share with a solicitor a court file released under these Rules for the purposes of obtaining legal advice.
- (3) A solicitor who is subject to the undertaking at Schedule 2 may copy, or permit the copying of, a court file released under these Rules for the purposes of—
- (a) sharing the court file with counsel;
 - (b) sharing the court file with medical or other expert witnesses; or
 - (c) making a submission to the Attorney General to request a new inquest under section 14(1) of the Coroners Act (Northern Ireland) 1959(1).
- (4) An applicant who receives a court file under these Rules shall within ten years of the date on which the Department released the court file—
- (a) return to the Office the court file and any copy of the court file; or
 - (b) apply in writing to the Department for permission to retain the court file for a further period of time.
- (5) Upon receipt of an application under rule 8(4) the Minister may permit the applicant to retain the court file for such further period of time as the Minister may decide.