

# When confidentiality ceases in formal judicial discipline proceedings

Revised 2020



**NCSC**  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS  
*Center for Judicial Ethics*

Fact-finding hearing is public (35 states)			Fact-finding hearing is confidential (15 states + D.C.)	
Proceedings public when formal charges are filed (26)	Proceedings public when answer to formal charges is filed or due (7)	Hearing is public (2)	Proceedings confidential until recommendation for public discipline is filed (12)	Proceedings confidential until court orders public discipline (4)
Alabama	Arizona	Oregon <sup>2</sup>	Colorado	Delaware
Alaska	Kentucky	Rhode Island	Idaho	D.C.
Arkansas	Louisiana		Iowa	Hawaii
California	Maryland		Maine	North Carolina
Connecticut	Massachusetts		Mississippi	
Florida	Minnesota		Missouri	
Georgia*	South Carolina <sup>1</sup>		New Mexico	
Illinois			New York	
Indiana*			South Dakota	
Kansas			Utah	
Michigan			Virginia	
Montana			Wyoming	
Nebraska				
Nevada				
New Hampshire				
New Jersey*				
North Dakota*				
Ohio				
Oklahoma				
Pennsylvania				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Vermont*				
Washington*				
West Virginia*				
Wisconsin				

\* Public after service of charges on the judge

1. **South Carolina:** “When formal charges are filed regarding allegations of misconduct, the formal charges and any answer shall become public 30 days after the filing of the answer or, if no answer is filed, 30 days after the expiration of the time to answer . . . .”
2. **Oregon:** Press releases are issued 14 days before the public hearing on formal charges.