



District Court (Access to Court Documents) Amendment Rules 2024

Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, Administrator of the Government

Order in Council

At Wellington this 29th day of July 2024

Present:

Her Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council

These rules are made under section 228 of the District Court Act 2016—

- (a) on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council; and
- (b) with the concurrence of the Chief District Court Judge and at least 2 other members of the Rules Committee continued under section 155 of the Senior Courts Act 2016 (of whom at least 1 was a District Court Judge).

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Rules

1 Title

These rules are the District Court (Access to Court Documents) Amendment Rules 2024.

2 Commencement

These rules come into force on 1 September 2024.

3 Principal rules

These rules amend the District Court (Access to Court Documents) Rules 2017.

4 Rule 11 amended (Any person may ask to access documents)

In rule 11(3), after “electronically”, insert “, but redacted to the extent necessary to prevent disclosure of the address of the person who made the request”.

Rachel Hayward,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the rules but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These rules, which come into force on 1 September 2024, amend the District Court (Access to Court Documents) Rules 2017 (the **principal rules**). The principal rules provide for access to court documents in the custody or control of the District Court relating to civil proceedings, criminal proceedings, and appeals.

These rules amend rule 11 of the principal rules provides that any person (a **requestor**) may make a request to the Registrar of the District Court (the **Registrar**) to access a court document relating to a proceeding or an appeal if they are not otherwise entitled to access the document. On receiving a request, the Registrar must promptly give a copy of the request to the parties to the relevant proceeding or appeal, or to the parties’ lawyers.

The amendment to rule 11 of the principal rules means that the Registrar, when giving a copy of the request to the parties or to their lawyers, is required to redact the address of the requestor. This amendment is to ensure the confidentiality of the requestor’s personal information.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 1 August 2024.
These rules are administered by the Ministry of Justice.