

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-08**

**Special Order for Access to Juvenile Records by
District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services Fire/Arson Investigation Unit**

WHEREAS, the Justice Information System (JUSTIS) allows authorized agencies to view criminal justice information through the JUSTIS Information Portal; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services Fire/Arson Investigation Unit (DC-FEMS) seeks JUSTIS access to information from juvenile case records and law enforcement records concerning a child; and

WHEREAS, under D.C. Code § 5-417.01(c) (2019 Repl.), DC-FEMS is invested with general police powers for the purpose of enforcing fire safety laws in effect in the District of Columbia;¹

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code § 16-2331(c)(3)(B) (2021 Supp.) and Super. Ct. Juv. R. 55(a)(2),² upon application to and approval of the court, law enforcement personnel may inspect juvenile case records when necessary for the discharge of their official duties; and

WHEREAS, under D.C. Code § 16-2333(b)(3)(A) (2021 Supp.), law enforcement officers may inspect law enforcement records and files concerning a child when necessary for the discharge of their current official duties;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby

ORDERED, that when necessary for the discharge of official duties, DC-FEMS may inspect juvenile case records and law enforcement records; and

FURTHER ORDERED, that a person accessing information pursuant to this Order shall use the information only in the discharge of official duties and shall not disclose the information to any other person or for any other purpose without prior approval of the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SO ORDERED.

Date: August 17, 2021



Anita M. Josey-Herring, Chief Judge

¹ While “law enforcement officer” is not defined for purposes of D.C. Code §§ 16-2331 to -2333 (2021 Supp.), D.C. Code § 23-501 (2021 Supp.) defines “law enforcement officer” to include “the Fire Marshal and any member of the Fire and Arson Investigation Unit”

² Pursuant to D.C. Code § 16-2331(f)-(g) (2021 Supp.), the Superior Court adopted Super. Ct. Juv. R. 55, requiring law enforcement to file an application to inspect.

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