

# The Journey of a Judgment

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## Alberta Courts Judgment Database

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### The following rules apply to the judgment database:

- All written judgments bear a *neutral citation number*, even before filing.
- A legal counsel must review each electronic judgment for privacy concerns before it can be published on the Alberta Courts internet judgment database and distributed to publishers.
- Judgments sealed by statute or court order are not included in the judgment database.
- Judgments that are subject to an *identification ban* are generally in compliance with the ban when filed; if not, a corrected judgment may be filed.
- For all judgments, *personal data identifiers* are avoided. Personal data identifiers include information that could be used for fraud or for other purposes harmful to the subject. Examples include account numbers, birthdates, and residential addresses.
- Judgments subject to *interim bans* are released to the database and to publishers when the ban expires.
- In rare cases, electronic judgments may be “anonymised” editorially before publication, even in the absence of a publication ban. This may be done when:
  - Identification could cause harm to minor children or others under a disability, or innocent non-parties.
  - The ends of justice may be subverted by disclosure.
  - The information may be used for an improper purpose.
- If the revision process affects only the unofficial electronic version of a judgment, an editorial note is added to the electronic text so that readers are aware that the text differs from that of the official judgment. Editorial notes look like this:

**Note:** On behalf of the Government of Alberta, identifying information has been removed from this unofficial electronic version of the judgment.

## **Guides for Judgment Preparation**

### **Canadian Judicial Council and Canadian Citation Committee Publications**

Canadian Guide to the Uniform Preparation of Judgments

Model Policy for Access to Court Records

Uniform Case Naming Guidelines

Uniform Names for Public Bodies in Alberta

Use of Personal Information in Judgments and Recommended Protocol

### **Alberta Courts Protocols and Guides**

Alberta Courts Website Privacy Protocol

Citing Cases and Statutes

Guide to Removal of Identifying Information

Judgment Database Protocol

Orders Restricting Access or Publication - Form

Orders Restricting Access or Publication - Instructions

Privacy Checklist for Judgment Preparation

Uniform Case Naming - Summary

Web Guidelines

Website Posting Protocol