

Order

Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan

July 29, 2026

SC: 170403-4 & (42)
COA: 377693, 378462
Van Buren CC Family Division: 23-019739-DL

Megan K. Cavanagh,
Chief Justice

Brian K. Zahra
Richard H. Bernstein
Elizabeth M. Welch
Kyra H. Bolden
Kimberly A. Thomas
Noah P. Hood,
Justices

In re CWC.

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,
Petitioner-Appellee,

v

CWC,
Respondent-Appellant.

On order of the Court, the motion to expedite is GRANTED. The application for leave to appeal the June 23, 2026 order of the Court of Appeals is considered and, pursuant to MCR 7.305(I)(1), in lieu of granting leave to appeal, we REVERSE the order of the Court of Appeals and REMAND this case to that court for further proceedings consistent with this order.

Chapter 12A of the Probate Code, MCL 712A.1 through MCL 712A.32, governs the procedure and disposition of cases involving minors. These proceedings are generally open to the public, MCR 3.925(A)(1), but records of these juvenile delinquency cases are nonpublic, MCL 712A.28(3) (stating that records “are not open to the general public and are open only to persons having a legitimate interest”). This means that people unrelated to the case generally may attend juvenile proceedings under the court rule. However, by statute, the public cannot access personally identifying information about juvenile delinquency cases, including the minor child’s name, in the circuit court’s records.

Here, the juvenile sought to ensure the case caption referred to him by his initials rather than his full name and filed a stipulated motion with the court.

The public policy interest codified by the Legislature does not lessen when a juvenile exercises their right to an appeal. Additionally, Michigan appellate courts have,

in other cases, protected this statutory privacy interest of juveniles in their appellate court records.¹

Consistent with the legislative purpose of MCL 712A.28(3) to protect the juvenile's identity, we therefore reverse the June 23, 2026 order of the Court of Appeals and remand this case to that court with instructions to grant the stipulated motion to amend the case caption.

We do not retain jurisdiction.

ZAHRA, J., would deny leave to appeal.

¹ See, e.g., *In re TLJ*, unpublished per curiam opinion of the Court of Appeals, issued May 20, 2025 (Docket No. 367864) (referring to the juvenile respondent by initials in the case caption); *In re PC*, unpublished order of the Court of Appeals, entered July 2, 2026 (Docket No. 380117) (granting the juvenile respondent's motion to amend the case caption to refer to the respondent by initials).

Appellate courts also grant motions to seal documents with identifying information regarding juvenile respondents. See *In re JW*, unpublished order of the Court of Appeals, entered July 15, 2026 (Docket No. 375325) (granting the juvenile respondent's motion to seal the lower court transcripts, appellee's brief, and attachments to the appellee's brief under MCR 7.211(C)(9)(e)); *In re NDD*, 34 NW3d 860 (2026) (granting the respondent-appellant's motion to seal the appendix to NDD's supplemental brief under MCR 8.119(I) where the document contained nonpublic juvenile records).



I, Elizabeth Kingston-Miller, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

July 29, 2026

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elizabeth Kingston-Miller".
Clerk