

**SHIELDING THE IDENTITIES OF JUVENILES AND VICTIMS OF SEXUAL CRIMES
IN APPELLATE FILINGS**

IDS Policy:

The North Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure require that the identities of certain juveniles and victims be shielded in appellate filings. Appointed appellate counsel must thoroughly study the relevant rules to assure compliance with them. *See* Appellate Rules 3.1 (Chapter 7B family welfare appeals); 3(b)(1) (delinquency appeals); and 4(e) (criminal appeals). However, to protect the identity of all juveniles who may be involved in a case, as well as adult victims of sexual crimes, the following policy mandates broader protection than the Appellate Rules:

In all briefs and other documents filed in the Appellate Division, appointed appellate counsel must substitute initials or pseudonyms for the names of all juveniles and all victims of sexual crimes, including adult victims. This policy does not apply to records on appeal, although the Appellate Rules cited above impose special filing requirements for the records on appeal in delinquency and Chapter 7B family welfare cases, and in sexual crime cases involving a juvenile victim. For purposes of this policy, a juvenile is someone who was less than 18 years of age at the time of the proceedings in the Trial Division.

Original policy effective January 23, 2007. Updated April 28, 2008 and June 6, 2010.

Authority:

G.S. 7A-498.3(c), 7A-498.8(b)(1); IDS Rules 2B.4(b) and 3.4(f).