

**2026 -- H 7647**

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**S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**A N   A C T**

**RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN  
FAMILY COURT -- JUVENILE RECORDS**

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Spears, Craven, Casimiro, Bennett, Fogarty, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: February 11, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 14-1-6.1 and 14-1-64 of the General Laws in Chapter 14-1 entitled

2        "Proceedings in Family Court" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **14-1-6.1. Records.**

4           (a) In any case where a court shall have obtained jurisdiction of a juvenile having attained  
5        the age of seventeen (17) years pursuant to 2007 P.L. 73, Article 22, section 1:

6           (i) All police records relating to the arrest, detention, apprehension and disposition of the  
7        juvenile and all records of identification maintained pursuant to chapter 12-1 of the general laws  
8        shall be treated as family court records in accordance with §§ 14-1-64 and 38-2-2 of the general  
9        laws; provided, however, that no person and no department, agency or any other instrumentality of  
10      the state or of any subdivision thereof shall be held liable or otherwise legally accountable for  
11      having disclosed or disseminated any such records in reasonable reliance upon the law in effect  
12      between July 1, 2007, and the effective date of this act [November 8, 2007]; and provided, further,  
13      that there shall be an exception allowing for the disclosure of juvenile records in conducting a NICS  
14      firearm background check until such time as the juvenile's twenty-first birthday and provided  
15      further that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the use of witness statements and  
16      other police records in the course of judicial proceedings initiated prior to the effective date of this  
17      act; and

18           (ii) All court records of such proceedings shall be sealed upon final disposition of the case

1     or upon the individual attaining the age of twenty-one (21) in the event of a no information,  
2     dismissal or not guilty finding or upon the completion of any sentence, probation and/or parole  
3     imposed therein.

4         **14-1-64. Disposition of juvenile records.**

5             (a) All police records relating to the arrest, detention, apprehension, and disposition of any  
6     juveniles shall be kept in files separate and apart from the arrest records of adults and shall be  
7     withheld from public inspection, but the police report relating to the arrest or detention of a juvenile  
8     shall be open to inspection and copying upon request and upon payment of copying costs in  
9     accordance with § 38-2-4 by the parent, guardian, or attorney of the juvenile involved. After  
10    disposition of an offense and upon execution of an appropriate release and upon payment of  
11    copying costs in accordance with § 38-2-4 by the parent, guardian or attorney of the juvenile  
12    involved, records relating to the arrest, detention, apprehension and disposition of the juveniles  
13    shall be open to inspection and copying by the parent, guardian, or attorney of the juvenile involved.

14             (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the identity of any juvenile waived  
15    pursuant to § 14-1-7.1 or certified and convicted pursuant to § 14-1-7.2 shall be made public.

16             (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, there shall be an exception allowing for  
17     the disclosure of juvenile records in conducting a NICS firearm background check and/or in  
18     determining whether the individual meets federal disqualification criteria under 18 U.S.C. §922(g).

19         SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN  
FAMILY COURT -- JUVENILE RECORDS

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- 1        This act would allow access to juvenile criminal records in order to conduct firearm
- 2        background checks.
- 3        This act would take effect upon passage.

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