

## Confidentiality Statutes of Child Protection Proceedings by State

State	Presumption of closure or openness	Statutory exceptions and exceptional interview data	Further explanation regarding jurisdiction, if necessary
Alabama	The general public is excluded. Ala. Code Ann. §12-15-65 (1975).	The parties, their counsel, witnesses, and others who the party requests shall be admitted. Those persons who the court finds to have a proper interest or the work of the court may be admitted on the condition that they refrain from divulging any information that would identify the child or family involved. Ala. Code Ann. §12-15-65 (1975). The child may be temporarily excluded if the court finds doing so is in the best interest of the child. <i>Ibid.</i>	
Alaska	The public is excluded from juvenile hearings. Alaska Stat. §47.10.070 (1999).	Court has discretion to permit individuals to attend a hearing if their attendance is compatible with the best interests of the child. Court may also restrict presence of foster parent, out-of-home-care provider, or grandparent to time of person's testimony if doing so is in the best interests of the child or necessary to protect privacy interest of the parties. Alaska Stat. §47.10.070 (1999).	
Arizona	<p>Presumption of closure. Ariz. Rev. Stat. §8-224 (2003).</p> <p>Legislation has been enacted, effective Dec. 31, 2004, establishing a pilot program of opening proceedings to the public in Maricopa County. 2003 Az. SB. 1304.</p>	Person subject to investigation can request that the hearing or trial related to dependency proceedings be open to the public. Ariz. Rev. Stat. §8-224 (2003). The court shall order the hearing to be open to the public unless it determines for good cause that all or part of the hearing or trial should be closed. <i>Id.</i> The court may receive evidence and shall make written findings in support of its decision. <i>Id.</i>	Dependency proceedings include a child who has been neglected or who is living in an unfit home (including due to abuse). Ariz. Rev. Stat. §8-201(13) (2003).
Arkansas	All hearings involving child maltreatment or children in foster care are closed. Ark. Code Ann. § 9-27-325(i)(1) (1995).	N/A	
California	All cases heard in a special or separate session of court where no other matter is heard. No persons other than the parent, guardian, relative of minor, or	Unless requested by the parent, guardian or minor and consented to by the minor, the public shall not be admitted to a juvenile court hearing. Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 346 (1998). The court may nevertheless admit	Juvenile court has jurisdiction over dependent children who have been abused or neglected.

	<p>witnesses shall be present at the session. Cal. Welf. &amp; Inst. Code §345 (1998).</p> <p>Bill to open hearings, Cal. A.B. 2627 (2003). Would establish a “pilot project in 3 counties to require that members of the public be admitted to a juvenile court hearing in a dependency proceeding, unless an objection is made, as specified, and the court rules that admitting members of the public would cause harm to the child's best interest and that members of the public may not be admitted.” The “child's attorney to advise the child of the right to request that the hearing be closed, or if there is no attorney present on behalf of the child, the bill would require the court to advise the child of this right.”</p> <p>”All nonparty attendees to the proceedings to refrain from disclosing personally identifiable information, as defined, about the child or specified other persons.” Amended June 14, 2004.</p>	<p>those who he deems have a “direct and legitimate” interest in a particular case or work of the court. <i>Ibid.</i></p> <p>The press is recognized as one with a “direct and legitimate” interest in the case or work of the court. <i>San Bernardino County Dep’t. of Public Social Services v. Superior Court of San Bernardino County</i>, 232 Cal. App. 3d 188, 283 Cal. Rptr. 332 (Court of Appeal, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Div. 2, 1991). The media can attend juvenile court proceedings on the condition that it does not (1) publish the name of the minor(s), (2) publish any “likeness, characters, cartoons or photographs” of the minor(s), (3) interview any minor(s) unless the attorney is present, (4) “interview the minor(s) caretakers in front of the minor(s),” (5) interview any “mental health professional to whom the minor(s) had been referred, and (6) “in the future, doing any act which might interfere with reunification or have a negative impact upon the providing of reunification services.” <i>Id.</i></p>	
Colorado	<p>Presumption of openness. Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §19-1-106(3) (1999).</p>	<p>General public can be excluded if the court determines that doing so is in the best interest of the child or community. If the general public is excluded, the court will only admit those with an interest in the work of the court and those who the District, county, or city attorneys, the child, parents, or guardian of the child wish to be present. Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §19-1-106(3) (1999).</p>	
Delaware	<p>All proceedings are private. Del. Code Ann. tit. 10, §1063.</p>	<p>However, the Court may consider publication in the public interest of proceedings and other records. Del. Code Ann. tit. 10, §1063. This publication only</p>	

		extends to notice of the time of the proceeding and the parties involved. There is no publication of the substance of the proceeding. (From Charisa's interviews).	
D.C.	Presumption of closure to the general public, including that only "persons necessary to the proceedings" are admitted. D.C. Code Ann. §16-2316 (1981). All hearings must be recorded by appropriate means. <i>Id.</i> The purpose of confidentiality is to "preserve the anonymity of juvenile respondents and other family members to foster an atmosphere conducive to rehabilitation." <i>In re T.B.</i> , 762 A.2d 20 (D.C. 2000).	Pursuant to the rule of the Superior Court, the court may admit persons (including members of the press) who have a proper interest in the case or work of the court on condition that they refrain from divulging information identifying the child or members of the family involved in the proceedings. D.C. Code Ann. §16-2316(e) (1981). Moreover, in a neglect case, the child may be excluded from any portion of the proceedings. D.C. Code Ann. §16-2316(f) (1981).	
Florida	Presumption of openness in dependency trials and shelter hearings. All parties have the right to be present at all adjudicatory hearings. No party shall be excluded from the hearing unless so ordered by the court for disruptive behavior. Fla. Rules Juv. P. Rule 8.685(c) (1991).	"The court, in its discretion, may close any hearing to the public when the public interest and the welfare of the child are best served by so doing." Fla. Stat. Ann. §985.205 (1997). Proceedings involving the termination of parental rights are closed, however, dependency proceedings are open. From Paul Indelicato, Director of Juvenile Court Operations with the Administrative Office of the Courts in the 11th Judicial Circuit, Miami Dade County; Sonia Crockett, Guardian Ad Litem Program Attorney, Leon County FL.	All procedures, including hearings and pleadings, shall be according to the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure unless otherwise provided by law. Fla. Stat. Ann. §39.013 (1998). Alternate rules for child protection proceedings are not provided.
Georgia	The general public shall be excluded from hearings involving delinquency, deprivation, or unruliness. Ga. Code Ann. §15-11-78 (2000).	Only the parties, their counsel, witnesses, and persons accompanying a party for his/her assistance or any person who the court finds has proper interest in the proceedings or work of the court may be admitted. Ga. Code Ann. §15-11-78 (2000). The child may be temporarily excluded from the hearing. <i>Ibid.</i> The court has the discretion to open any dispositional hearing. Ga. Code Ann. §15-11-78(b) (2000).	Juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction over deprived children. Ga. Code. Ann. §15-11-2(8) (2000). Deprived child includes those who have been neglected or abandoned by his or her parents or who are without proper parental care or control required by law or necessary for the child's physical, mental, or

			emotional health or morals. Ga. Code Ann. §15-11-28 (2000).
Hawai'i	Exclusion of the general public. Haw. Rev. Stat. §571-41 (2004).	Only those whose presence is requested by the parent or guardian or the judge finds to have a direct interest in the case (from the standpoint of the child involved) or in the work of the court may be admitted. Haw. Rev. Stat. §571-41 (2004). Upon request by a party, hearings initiated under the Child Protection Act “may be opened to the public if a judge determines that doing so is in the best interests of the child.” <i>Id.</i> Parties involved in Child Protection Act hearings “shall be allowed to be accompanied by an adult advocate to provide support, unless the court finds that the presence of the advocate would not be in the best interests of the child.” <sup>1</sup> <i>Id.</i>	The Child Protection Act includes any child whose “physical or psychological health or welfare is subject to imminent harm, has been harmed, or is subject to threatened harm by the acts or omissions of the child's family.” Haw. Rev. Stat. §587-11 (1992).
Idaho	The general public shall be excluded. Idaho Code §16-1607A(1) (2001).	Only those persons who have a direct interest in the case may be admitted. Idaho Code §16-1607A(1) (2001). The child may be excluded at any time at the discretion of the court. <i>Ibid.</i> When the child takes the stand as a witness, those having a supportive relationship with the child shall (if available) be permitted to remain the courtroom during the child’s testimony unless, in written findings, the court finds that the constitutional right of the child’s parents, guardians, or custodians to a fair hearing will be unduly prejudiced. Idaho Code §16-1607A(2) (2001).	Proceedings covered under the Child Protection Act. Idaho Code §16-1601 <i>et seq</i> (1976).
Illinois	General public excluded from any hearing. Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. §405/1-5 (2003).	The news media, representatives of agencies and associations, and those who the court deems to have a direct interest in the case or in the work of the court shall be admitted. Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. §405/1-5 (2003). The family may waive confidentiality and allow a close non-party, such as a teacher or clergy member, attend the proceeding. (Charisa’s interviews).	

<sup>1</sup> The advocate need not be a licensed attorney and cannot have an interest in the matter beyond the “protection of the child and the healing and rehabilitation of the family. Haw. Rev. Stat. 571-41 (2004).

<sup>2</sup> Hawaii instituted the Child Protection Act, but it does not mention whether proceedings are open or closed. Haw. Rev. Stat. §587. Presumably, proceedings under this act are conducted in the same manner as other juvenile and family court proceedings (described above).

		However, the court, for the minor’s safety or protection or for good cause, may prohibit any person or agency present from further disclosing the minor’s identity. Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. §405.1-5 (2003).	
Indiana	Proceedings are presumed open. Ind. Code Ann. §31-32-6-2 (1998).	With regard to neglect and abuse proceedings, courts have discretion to close proceedings. Ind. Code Ann. §31-32-6-2 (1998). When determining whether the proceeding should be closed, the court should consider: the nature of the allegation or defense, the age and psychological maturity of the child witness or victim, and the desire of the child witness or victim to testify in a closed proceeding. Ind. Code Ann. §31-32-6-5 (1998).	
Iowa	Hearings presumed open to the public. Iowa Code Ann. §232.92 (1987).	The court, on motion of any of the parties or upon the court’s own motion, shall exclude the public from a hearing if it determines that the possibility of damage or harm to the child outweighs the public’s interest in an open hearing. Iowa Code Ann. §232.92 (1987). Upon closure, the court may admit those who have a direct interest in the case or work of the court. <i>Ibid.</i>	Child abuse and neglect proceedings are under the jurisdiction of Iowa Code Ann. §232.92 because they are “child in need of assistance” proceedings, which the statute addresses. <sup>3</sup>
Kansas	General public excluded from hearings. The court may exclude all persons except the guardian <i>ad litem</i> , interested parties and their attorneys, officers of the court and testifying witnesses. Kan. Stat. Ann. §38-1552 (1993).	The court may allow other persons to attend the proceedings if all interested parties agree, unless it finds that the presence of such persons will be disruptive to the proceedings. Kan. Stat. Ann. §38-1552 (1993).	“Child in need of care” includes those who have been neglected or abused. Kan. Stat. Ann. §38-1502 (1993).
Kentucky	The general public shall be excluded from proceedings. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §610.070(3) (2000).	Those who may be admitted are: immediate family or guardians of parties before the court, witnesses necessary to the prosecution or defense of the case, probation worker with direct interest in case, representative of Dep’t of Juvenile Justice, victim and his or her parent or legal guardian, those who the judge finds have a direct interest in the case or work of the court, those agreed to by the child and his attorney. All	Criminal trials of an abusing or neglecting adult are tried separately from the juvenile proceeding. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §620.120 (1986).

<sup>3</sup> Child abuse and neglect proceedings only go to court if the department determines that the best interests of the child require juvenile court action. Iowa Code Ann. §232.71C.

		witnesses (including parents, legal guardians, and spouses) shall be admitted only during their testimony. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §610.070(3) (2000).	
Louisiana	Proceedings are not open to the public. La. Children's Code art. 407(A) (1992).	The court may admit any person who has a proper interest in the proceedings or work of the court. La. Children's Code Art. §407(B) (1992), La. Children's Code Art. §661 (1992).	Children who have been abused or neglected are included within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. La.. Children's Code Art. 303(2) (1992).
Maine	All child protection proceedings are closed to the public unless the court orders otherwise. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 22, §4007 (1979).	All proceedings must be recorded. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 22, §4007 (1979).	
Maryland	In any proceeding in which the child is alleged to be in need of assistance, the Court may exclude the general public from a hearing and admit only those with a direct interest in the case and their representatives. Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. §3-810(b)(1) (2001).	In any proceeding in which the child is alleged to be in need of assistance, the Court may exclude the general public from a hearing and admit only those with a direct interest in the case and their representatives. Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. §3-810(b)(1) (2001).	A child in need of assistance includes a child who has been abused, neglected, has a developmental disability or mental health disorder and whose parent, guardians or custodians are unable or unwilling to give proper care and attention to the child's needs. Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. §3-801(f) (2001).
Massachusetts	The general public is excluded. Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 119 § 65 (1998).	Only those persons with a direct interest in the case may be admitted. Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 119 § 65 (1998).	
Michigan	The section governing child abuse and neglect hearings does not require a closed court proceeding if it otherwise would have been open to the public. Mich. Comp. Laws §722.627(3) (1980), Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. §712A.17 (1999).	Upon motion of a party or a victim, the court may close the hearing to the general public during the testimony of the juvenile witness or victim if it finds that doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the juvenile witness or victim. Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. §712A.17 (1999). When making this determination, court shall consider the age of the witness or victim, the nature of the proceeding, and the desire of the juvenile witness or victim to have testimony taken in a room closed to the public. <i>Ibid.</i>	
Minnesota	Absent exceptional circumstances, hearings in juvenile protection matters	Hearings, or portions of hearings, may be closed to the public by the court only in exceptional circumstances.	The juvenile court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in

	are presumed to be accessible to the public. Minn. Rules of Juv. Prot. Procedure 27 (2004).	The closure of any hearing shall be noted on the record and the reasons for the closure given. Closure of all or part of a hearing shall not prevent the court from proceeding with the hearing or issuing a decision. Minn. Rules of Juv. Prot. Procedure 27 (2004).	proceedings concerning any child alleged to be in need of protection or services or neglected and in foster care. Minn. Stat. Ann. §260C.101. Children in need of protection include those who have been abused or neglected. Statute §260C.101 is superceded for purposes of dependency hearings by Rule 27 of the Minn. Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure.
Mississippi	General public is excluded from the hearing. Miss. Code Ann. §43-21-203(6) (1980).	Only those persons who are found to have a direct interest in the case or work of the court may be admitted. Miss. Code Ann. §43-21-203(6) (1980).	The youth court has exclusive original jurisdiction over delinquent, in need of supervision, neglected, abused, and dependent children. The only exception applies when the charge of child abuse arises during a custody proceeding already in the Chancery Court. The case will then be heard in the Chancery Court, but the proceedings concerning the abuse charge will be confidential in the same manner as provided in youth court proceedings. Miss. Code Ann. §43-21-151(1) (1996).
Missouri	General public is excluded. Mo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 221.171(6). <sup>4</sup>	Only those persons with a direct interest in the case or work of the court may be admitted. Mo. Rev. Stat. §211.171(6), Rules of Practice and Procedure in Juvenile Courts §117.02.	
Montana	Any hearing or trial shall be held in “closed court without admittance of any person other than those necessary to the action or proceeding.” Mont. Code Ann. §40-6-120 (1975).		Child protection (youth in need of care) cases are under the jurisdiction of the district court. Mont. Code Ann. §41-2-103. A youth in need of care is defined as a

<sup>4</sup> The report created by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Courts states that a pilot project will be started on open hearings. To Open or Not to Open: The Issue of Public Access in Child Protection Hearings. June 2004, p. 9. Please find copy of report in packet.

			youth who has been adjudicated or determined to have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. Mont. Code Ann. §41-3-102(29) (2003).
Nebraska	All judicial proceedings of all courts must be open to the public. Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. §432B.430 (1985).		Those who have been neglected or who receive improper care are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-247 (2004).
Nevada	<p>Court proceedings concerning children in need of protection must be closed to the public in populations under 400,000, and open to the public in populations over 400,000. Nev. Rev. Stat. 432B.430.</p> <p>There is a pilot project to open hearings Clark County (Las Vegas). 2003 Nev. A.B. 132.</p>	<p>If proceedings are closed, the court may open the proceedings if the judge deems doing so is in the best interest of the child. Nev. Rev. Stat. 432B.430.</p> <p>When hearings are presumed closed, the judge or special master may determine by his own motion or upon the motion of another person, that all or part of the proceeding must be open to the general public because an open proceeding is in the best interest of the child. In determining whether to open the proceeding, the judge shall “consider and give due weight to the desires of the child.” If the judge opens the proceeding, he must make specific findings of fact to support that determination. Nev. Rev. Stat. §432B.430 (2003).</p> <p>The inverse applies for proceedings that are presumed open. <i>Id.</i></p>	
New Hampshire	The general public shall be excluded. N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §169-C:14 (1990).	Only the parties, their witnesses, counsel, and representatives of the agencies present to perform their official duties may be admitted. N.H. Rev. Stat. §169-C:14 (1990).	
New Jersey	In hearings of alleged abuse or neglect, the general public is excluded from the hearing. N.J. Stat. Ann. §9:6-8.43 (2002).	Only those representatives of authorized agencies who have an interest in the case may be admitted. N.J. Rev. Stat. §9:6-8.43 (2002).	
New Mexico	All abuse and neglect proceedings are closed to the general public. N.M. Stat. Ann. §32A-4-20(B).	Only the parties, their counsel, witnesses and other persons approved by the court may be present. Those who the court finds to have a proper interest in the case	

		<p>or work of the court may also be admitted on the condition that they refrain from divulging any information that would identify the child or family involved in the proceedings. N.M. Stat. Ann. §32A-4-20(B).</p> <p>“Accredited representatives of the news media shall be allowed to be present at closed hearings, subject to the condition that they refrain from divulging information that would identify any child involved in the proceedings or the parent, guardian or custodian of that child and subject to enabling regulations as the court finds necessary for the maintenance of order and decorum and for the furtherance of the purposes of the Children's Code.” <i>Id.</i></p> <p>The child may be excluded from a neglect or an abuse hearing if the court finds that it is in the child’s best interest. <i>Id.</i></p>	
New York	Family court is open to the public. N.Y. Rules of Ct. §205.4 (2003).	The general public may only be excluded from a courtroom on a case-by-case basis as determined by the judge. N.Y. Rules of Ct. §205.4 (2003). In making this determination, the judge should consider (1) whether the person is likely to or is causing disruption in the person’s presence, (3) what best serves the orderly and sound administration of justice, including the nature of the proceedings, privacy interests of the individuals proceedings, (2) if one of the parties objects to the, and the need for protection of the litigants—especially the children—from harm, (4) whether least restrictive alternatives to exclusion are unavailable or inappropriate. <i>Id.</i>	
North	Hearings are presumed open, but the	No hearing or part of hearing shall be closed if the	

<sup>5</sup> In making this determination, the judge should consider (1) whether the person is likely to or is causing disruption in the proceedings, (2) if one of the parties objects to the person’s presence, (3) what best serves the orderly and sound administration of justice, including the nature of the proceedings, privacy interests of the individuals, and the need for protection of the litigants—especially the children—from harm, (4) whether least restrictive alternatives to exclusion are unavailable or inappropriate. N.Y. Rules of Ct. §205.4.

Carolina	court, in its discretion, shall determine whether the hearing or any part of the hearing shall be closed to the public. N.C. Gen. Stat. §7B-801 (1999).	juvenile requests that it be open. N.C. Gen. Stat. §7B-801 (1999). When making the decision to close the hearing to the public, the court shall consider the nature of the allegations, the age and maturity of the juvenile, the benefit of confidentiality to the juvenile, and the benefit to the juvenile of an open hearing. <i>Id.</i>	
North Dakota	General public is excluded from all hearings except those to declare a person in contempt of court. N.D. Cent. Code §27-20-24(5) (1999).	N/A	
Ohio	Hearings are presumed open. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2151.35 (2002).	The court may exclude the general public from its hearings in a particular case if it holds a separate hearing to determine whether that exclusion is appropriate. If the court does close the proceedings, it may admit those who have a direct interest in the case and those who demonstrate that their need to attend outweighs the interest in keeping the hearing closed. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2151.35 (2002).	
Oklahoma	All proceedings concerning deprived children shall be private unless specifically ordered by the judge to be conducted in public. Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 10, §7003-4.1 (2000).	Those persons with a direct interest in the case shall be admitted to the hearing. Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 10, §7003-4.1 (2000).	A deprived child is defined as any child who is “destitute, homeless, or abandoned,” who does not have proper parental care, or whose “home is an unfit place for a child by reason of neglect, abuse, cruelty, or depravity on the part of the child’s parents, legal guardian, or other person responsible for the child’s health or welfare.” Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 10, §7001-1.3(14) (2000).
Oregon	Proceedings are open to the public. Const. of Or. Art. 1, §10. <sup>7</sup>	N/A	
Pennsylvania	The general public is excluded from	N/A	

<sup>6</sup> When making the decision to close the hearing to the public, the court shall consider the nature of the allegations, the age and maturity of the juvenile, the benefit of confidentiality to the juvenile, and the benefit to the juvenile of an open hearing. N.C. Gen. Stat. §7B-801 (1999).

<sup>7</sup> Or. Rev. Stat. §419.498(1) that granted judges the discretion in juvenile proceedings to exclude the public during any portion of the hearing unless the child or parent objects was held unconstitutional by the Oregon Supreme Court. *State ex rel. Oregonian Pub. Co. v. Deiz*, 613 P.2d 23 (Or. 1980).

	proceedings involving dependent children. 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. §6336 (2000).		
Rhode Island	The general public is excluded from proceedings. R.I. Gen. Laws §14-1-30 (1998).	Only the attorney and those who have a direct interest in the case may be admitted. R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. §14-1-30 (1998).	
South Carolina	The general public must be excluded from proceedings concerning alleged abused, neglected, or delinquent children. S.C. Code Ann. §20-7-755 (1998).	The judge may admit only those persons who he finds to have direct interest in the case or the work of the court. S.C. Code Ann. §20-7-755 (1998).	
South Dakota	Hearings are closed to the public unless the court finds compelling reasons to require otherwise. S.D. Codified Laws §26-7A-36 (1996).	N/A	
Tennessee	The general public excluded from hearings. Tenn. Code Ann. §37-1-124 (1970).	The general public cannot be excluded from a contempt hearing. The child may also be temporarily excluded from the hearing. Tenn. Code Ann. §37-1-124 (1970).	
Texas	Court hearings are open to the public. Tex. Fam. Code §54.08 (2002).	For good cause, the court may determine that the public should be excluded. Tex. Fam. Code §54.08 (2002).	
Utah	All persons who do not have a direct interest in proceedings are excluded. Utah Code Ann. §78-3a-115 (1998).  Pilot program to open hearings established. 2003 Utah H.B. 222.	N/A	
Vermont	The general public is excluded. Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 33, §5523 (1981).	Only those parties, their counsel, witnesses, other persons accompanying a party in the case for his or her assistance, and those persons the court finds to have proper interest in the case or work of the court may be admitted. Ver. Stat. Ann. tit. 33, §5523 (1981).	
Virginia	The general public is excluded from all juvenile court hearings. Va. Rev. Code Ann. §16.1-302 (1996).	N/A	
Washington	All hearings are public except if the judge finds that excluding the public is in the best interests of the child. .	“Either parent, or the child's attorney or guardian ad litem, may move to close a hearing at any time. If the judge finds that it is in the best interests of the child the	

	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §13.34.115 (2003).	court shall exclude the public.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §13.34.115 (2003). Unless the judge determines that it is not in the best interests of the child, the following people may still attend the hearing even if it is closed to the public: “ (a) The child's relatives; (b) The child's foster parents if the child resides in foster care; and (c) Any person requested by the parent.” <i>Id.</i>	
West Virginia	General public is excluded. W.Va. Code Ann. §49-5-2(i) (1999).	Only those persons who the parties request or that the court finds have a legitimate interest in the case may be admitted. W.Va. Code Ann. §49-5-2(i) (1999).	
Wisconsin	The general public shall be excluded from hearings of the juvenile court. Wis. Stat. Ann. §48.299 (1999).	The child, through his or her counsel, may open the proceedings by demanding a public fact-finding hearing. However, the guardian <i>ad litem</i> may overrule this demand. Wis. Stat. Ann. §48.299 (1999).	
Wyoming	Members of the public are excluded from proceedings. Wyo. Stat. Ann. §14-6-224(b) (1999).	A person may be admitted if the court finds that the person has a proper interest in the proceedings or work of the court. Wyo. Stat. Ann. §14-6-224(b) (1999).	