



# TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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February 7, 2005

Justices, Supreme Court of Texas  
Members, Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee

Ladies and Gentleman:

In August 2004, the Texas Judicial Council submitted to our Court a report entitled *Public Access to Court Case Records in Texas*. As discussed in that report, the Council examined the personal privacy and public safety implications that arise when court case records are made available to the public on the internet. After conducting extensive research and holding seven public hearings on the issue, the Council recommended that the Supreme Court of Texas implement a Sensitive Data Form and Remote Access Policy. As you know, our Court forwarded the Council's report and recommendations to the Supreme Court Advisory Committee in November 2004.

During the Council's January 18, 2005 public hearing, Lisa Hobbs informed the Council that the chair of the Advisory Committee had referred the Council's report to the Subcommittee on Rules of Judicial Administration for study. Several Council members expressed their concern that presently court clerks across the state are placing case records that may contain sensitive or personal information on the internet without any guidance from our Court. Given the Council's sense of urgency and unanimous support for the Sensitive Data Form, the Council felt compelled to recommend that our Court expedite the rulemaking process to implement the Data Form as soon as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Wallace B. Jefferson  
Chair, Texas Judicial Council  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

## Senneff, Angie

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**From:** Lisa Hobbs [Lisa.Hobbs@courts.state.tx.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2005 5:10 PM  
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**Subject:** TJC Letter



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SCAC Members:

Here is a letter from the Texas Judicial Council recommending that the "Court expedite the rulemaking process to implement the Sensitive Data Form as soon as possible."

-- Lisa

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