

**On February 21, 2012, following a public hearing on February 16, 2012, the justices of the Supreme Court adopted the following new rule of the Connecticut Probate Practice Book, to be effective on July 1, 2012.**

Rule 9  
Confidentiality of Social Security Numbers and  
Employer Identification Numbers

9.1 Filing - Redaction

Except as specifically requested in an official probate court form, or otherwise provided by law or order of the court, persons filing documents with the probate courts shall not include any social security number or employer identification number and shall redact such numbers from any document. The responsibility for omitting or redacting social security numbers and employer identification numbers rests solely with the person filing the document. The probate court or the clerk of the probate court need not review any filed document for compliance with this rule.

9.2 Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number Required

If a social security number or employer identification number is required in connection with a matter before a court of probate, the number shall be reported on a separate sheet containing the name of the individual or entity, the social security number or employer identification number and the matter in the court to which it relates. The separate sheet shall not be recorded and shall be confidential. The court shall not disclose any social security number or employer identification number reported on such second sheet to any person, including any interested party, provided that the court may permit disclosure of such social security number or employer identification number to a person found by the court to require the number for a proper purpose directly related to a matter before the court.

9.3 Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number Not Required

In the event that a person files a document that contains a social security number or employer identification number and the court determines that such number is not required in connection with the proceeding, the court may, in its discretion, direct the clerk to (i) return the document and direct the filing party to resubmit it without the social security number or employer identification number, or (ii) redact the document to render the social security number or employer identification number illegible. In accordance with §9.1 of this rule, nothing in this rule shall be construed to require a court to return a document or to redact a social security number or employer identification number.

#### 9.4 Original Documents

If necessary to avoid modifying an original document, the court may, in its discretion, direct that an original document containing a social security number or employer identification number be sealed, and that a copy thereof, from which only the social security number or employer identification number has been redacted, be placed in the court file.

#### 9.5 Disclosure to State and Federal Agencies

The provisions of this rule shall not prohibit the disclosure of a social security number or employer identification number to an agency of this state, the federal government, or any law enforcement agency, or to any representative thereof acting in his or her official capacity.

#### 9.6 Applicability

This rule shall be applicable to all documents filed in a court of probate on or after July 1, 2012. The court may, in its discretion, apply the provisions of this rule to a document filed prior to that date.