

## **JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION**

Post Office Box 1629 Charleston, West Virginia 25326-1629 (304) 558-0169 FAX (304) 558-0831

May 21, 1998

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1998-07

Dear

Your recent letter to Counsel to the Judicial Investigation Commission was reviewed by the Commission at its recent meeting. In your correspondence you state that H.B. 2135 which become effective June 12, 1998 requires, "the name and identity of any juvenile adjudicated or convicted of a violent or felonious crime shall be made available to the public." You stated that the Juvenile Probation Office will come into compliance with the new law as of June 12, 1998 by providing this information as required by the statute. You indicated that since H.B. 2135 is a major change in the juvenile law concerning confidentiality there has been discussed with your probation officers the need for providing notice to everyone who comes into the probation office of the change which will take place in the law. You ask for an advisory opinion as to whether setting forth parts of the new statute in the juvenile probation office would be a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The Commission could find no legal or ethical prohibition against posting a copy of the statute. The statute is a public document and its language will inform the public about changes which will take place in the law in June. If you have any further question regarding this matter, do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

John W. Bennett, Chairman

JWB:nb