STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1234

By: Osburn (Mike)

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to court records; creating the Court Records Protection and Modernization Act; amending 10A O.S. 2011, Sections 2-6-108, as amended by Sections 19, Chapter 404, O.S.L. 2013 and 2-6-109 (10A O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 2-6-108), which relate to juvenile judicial proceedings; allowing certain sealed and expunged records to be destroyed after adjudication when electronically stored; authorizing the Supreme Court of Oklahoma to establish rules; amending 20 O.S. 2011, Sections 1005, 1005.1, 1006, 1007 and 1008, which relate to destruction of court records; removing option for judge objection; allowing certain paper judicial records be destroyed upon adjudication of respective case; prohibiting destruction if not reproduced electronically; allowing traffic and criminal property case records be destroyed after adjudication when electronically stored; authorizing the Supreme Court of Oklahoma to establish rules; allowing small claim case records be destroyed after adjudication when electronically stored; allowing certain documents filed with the court clerk to be destroyed after filing when electronically stored; allowing certain exhibits, court reporter's notes, pleadings and judgments be destroyed when electronically stored; allowing certain depositions be destroyed when electronically stored; providing for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

2 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be

3 | codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Court Records

Protection and Modernization Act".

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6 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 2-6-108, as

amended by Section 19, Chapter 404, O.S.L. 2013 (10A O.S. Supp.

2016, Section 2-6-108), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-6-108. A. No adjudication by the court upon the status of a child in a juvenile proceeding shall operate to impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily resulting from conviction of a crime, nor shall a child be deemed a criminal by reason of a juvenile adjudication.

- B. The court may sua sponte, upon motion by the state or upon motion by the alleged delinquent, order the records of a person alleged to be delinquent to be sealed as follows:
 - 1. When the person has been alleged to be delinquent and:
 - a. one (1) year has elapsed from the later of:
 - (1) dismissal or closure of the case by the court, or
 - (2) notice to the court by the Office of Juvenile

 Affairs or a juvenile bureau of final discharge

 of such person from the supervision of the Office

 of Juvenile Affairs or juvenile bureau, and

1 b. the person has not been found quilty of or admitted to 2 the commission of a subsequent criminal offense in either a juvenile or adult proceeding, and 3 4 no juvenile or adult proceeding for a criminal offense C. 5 is pending; When a juvenile court intake has been completed and: 6 2. 7 the case has been dismissed, or a. b. no petition has been filed pending fulfillment of 8 9 conditions of a voluntary probation, or 10 C. a petition has been filed but no adjudication has 11 occurred pending the fulfillment of conditions of a 12 preadjudicatory probation; 13 When a juvenile participates in a court-approved alternative 14 diversion program for first-time offenders and: 15 the juvenile presents satisfactory evidence to the a. 16 court that the juvenile has successfully completed the 17 program, and 18 the court dismisses the case at the conclusion of the b. 19 deferral period; or 20 When a juvenile participates in a court-approved military 4. 21 mentor program and: 22 the juvenile presents satisfactory evidence to the 23 court that the juvenile has successfully completed the

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program, and

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b. the court dismisses the case at the conclusion of the deferral period.

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The records may be sealed one (1) year after such dismissal or completion of the conditions of a voluntary or preadjudicatory probation, alternative diversion program for first-time offenders, or military mentor program or upon the person attaining the age of eighteen (18) years in the discretion of the court. Upon the sealing of any record of a person alleged to be delinquent pursuant to this title, the record and official actions subject to the order shall be deemed never to have occurred, and the person who is the subject of the record and all juvenile justice agencies may properly reply upon any inquiry in the matter that no such action ever occurred and no such record exists with respect to such person.

- C. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall establish on or before January 1, 1994, a system for sealing records as required by subsection B of this section and records shall be sealed in accordance with the procedures established pursuant to said system.
- D. 1. The court clerk shall seal the juvenile court record indicated in the court's order, except that a confidential index shall be maintained for the purpose of locating records subject to inspection or release pursuant to subsection F of this section.
- 2. When notified by the court clerk of a court order sealing a juvenile court record, the law enforcement agency having records

pertaining to the person shall seal the records as ordered, except basic identification information shall be maintained.

- 3. Except where such documents are necessary to maintain state or federal funding, the juvenile court personnel records pertaining to the person shall be sealed.
- E. Members of the judiciary, district attorneys, the defendant, the defendant's counsel and employees of juvenile bureaus, the Office of Juvenile Affairs assigned juvenile court intake responsibilities, and the Department of Corrections may access records that have been sealed pursuant to this section without a court order for the purpose of determining whether to dismiss an action, seek a voluntary probation, file a petition, or for purposes of sentencing or placement in a case where the person who is the subject of the sealed record is alleged to have committed a subsequent juvenile delinquent act or any adult criminal offense. Provided, any record sealed pursuant to this section may be used in a subsequent juvenile delinquent or adult prosecution only after the issuance of a court order unsealing the record.
 - F. The court may issue an order unsealing sealed juvenile court records, for use for the following purposes:
- 1. In subsequent cases against the same child pursuant to this title;
- 23 2. In an adult criminal proceeding pursuant to Section 2-2-403 or 2-5-101 of this title;

3. Upon conviction of a criminal offense in an adult proceeding, in connection with the sentencing of such person;

- 4. If the person is placed in the custody or under the supervision of the Department of Corrections;
- 5. In accordance with the guidelines adopted pursuant to the Juvenile Offender Tracking Program and Section 620.6 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for maintaining juvenile justice and criminal justice statistical information;
 - 6. For the purpose of a criminal investigation; or
- 7. When the court finds that there is a compelling reason and it is in the interest of justice to order the record unsealed.
- G. Any person or agency having a legitimate interest in a delinquency case or proceeding may petition the court for an order unsealing a juvenile court record. Upon the filing of a petition to unseal any juvenile court record, the court shall set a date for a hearing and shall provide thirty (30) days of notice to all interested parties. The hearing may be closed at the discretion of the court. If, after a hearing, the court determines that there is any reason enumerated in subsection F of this section and it is necessary for the protection of a legitimate public or private interest to unseal the record, the court shall order the record unsealed.
- H. Any record ordered to be sealed pursuant to this section, if not unsealed within ten (10) years of the order, shall be

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1 obliterated or destroyed at the end of the ten-year period\underline{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}
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- 2 provided, that the records may be destroyed after the respective
- 3 case has been adjudicated if, prior to their disposal or
- 4 destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical disk or other
- 5 | media produced pursuant to rules of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The
- 6 | Supreme Court of Oklahoma shall establish rules regulating the
- 7 electronic storage of judicial records provided in this subsection.
- 8 | SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 2-6-109, is
- 9 amended to read as follows:
- 10 Section 2-6-109. A. A person who is the subject of a juvenile
- 11 | court record, that is not confidential as provided by law, may
- 12 | petition the district court in which the juvenile court record is
- 13 | located for an order to expunde all or any part of the record
- 14 pertaining to the person, except basic identification information;
- 15 provided:
- 16 1. The person has attained twenty-one (21) years of age or
- 17 | older;
- 18 2. The person has not been arrested for any adult criminal
- 19 offense and no charge, indictment, or information has been filed or
- 20 | is pending against the person at the time of the petition for an
- 21 | expungement;
- 3. The person has not been subject to any deferred prosecution
- or deferred sentence, and has not been convicted of any criminal
- 24 offense; and

4. All court costs, restitution, fines and other court-ordered requirements have been completed for all juvenile proceedings.

- B. Upon the filing of a petition for expungement of a juvenile court record, the court shall set a date for a hearing, which hearing may be closed at the court's discretion, and shall provide a thirty (30) days' notice of the hearing to the district attorney, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and any other person or agency whom the court has reason to believe may have relevant information related to the expungement of any record.
- C. Upon a finding that the harm to privacy of the person in interest or dangers of unwarranted adverse consequences outweigh the public interest in retaining the records, the court may order the records, or any part thereof except basic identification information, to be expunged. If the court finds that neither expungement of the records nor maintaining of the records unsealed by the agency would serve the ends of justice, the court may enter an appropriate order limiting access to the records. Any order entered pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall specify those agencies to which the court order shall apply.
- D. Upon the entry of an order to expunge any juvenile court record, or any part thereof, the subject official actions shall be deemed never to have occurred, and the person in interest and all juvenile and criminal justice agencies may properly reply, upon any

inquiry in the matter, that no such action ever occurred and that no such record exists with respect to the person.

- E. Inspection of the records included in the order may thereafter be permitted by the court only upon petition by the person in interest who is the subject of the records, the Attorney General, or by the district attorney and only to those persons and for such purposes named in the petition.
- F. Employers, educational institutions, state and local government agencies, officials, and employees shall not, in any application or interview or otherwise, require an applicant to disclose any information contained in any expunged juvenile records. An applicant need not, in answer to any question concerning arrest, juvenile and criminal records, provide information that has been expunged, including any reference to or information concerning expungement and may state that no such action has ever occurred. Such an application may not be denied solely because of the applicant's refusal to disclose information that has been expunged.
- G. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the physical destruction of any juvenile records.
- H. For the purposes of this section, expunged materials which are recorded in the same document as unsealed material may be recorded in a separate document, and sealed, then obliterated in the original document.

I. For the purposes of this act, district court index reference of sealed material shall be destroyed, removed or obliterated.

- J. Any record ordered to be expunged pursuant to this section shall be sealed and, if not unsealed within ten (10) years of the expungement order, may be obliterated or destroyed at the end of the ten-year period; provided, that the records may be destroyed after the respective case has been adjudicated if, prior to their disposal or destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical disk or other media produced pursuant to rules of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of Oklahoma shall establish rules regulating the electronic storage of judicial records provided in this subsection.
- K. Subsequent to records being sealed as provided herein, the district attorney, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, or other interested person or agency may petition the court for an order unsealing any records. Upon filing of a petition, the court shall set a date for hearing, which hearing may be closed at the court's discretion, and shall provide thirty (30) days' notice to all interested parties. If, upon hearing, the court determines there has been a change of conditions or that there is a compelling reason to unseal the records, the court may order all or a portion of the records unsealed.
- L. Nothing herein shall prohibit the introduction of evidence regarding actions sealed pursuant to the provisions of this section

at any hearing or trial for purposes of impeaching the credibility of a witness or as evidence of character testimony pursuant to Section 2608 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

- M. A person who has attained eighteen (18) years of age or older may petition the district or municipal court in which the juvenile court record is located for an order to expunge all or any part of the record pertaining to matters involving truancy provided the person has met the criteria set forth in paragraphs 2 through 4 of subsection A of this section. The petition shall be reviewed by the district or municipal judge with primary responsibility over the juvenile court docket.
- SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1005, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1005. A. Unless there is an objection by the presiding administrative judge or the chief judge of the district court, the The court clerk is authorized to dispose of the judicial records enumerated in this subsection by first offering all or part of the records to the Archives and Records Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for preservation as historical research materials, and by destroying all those which are not accepted by the Division. Nothing shall prohibit the presiding administrative judge or the chief judge of the district court from entering an order for the destruction of records prior to the time limits enumerated in this subsection for good cause shown. In the record destruction

process, any officer may rely upon computerized lists or other electronic data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts or its OCIS/OSCN system. For purposes of determining the time periods in this chapter, the officer may disregard entries or actions taken in the subject cases, such as accounting, internal electronic data or other nonjudicial entries. The Except as provided in subsection B of this section, the judicial records subject to disposal or destruction shall be:

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- 1. Domestic relations cases. This shall include, but not be limited to, cases filed concerning divorce, separate maintenance, annulment, reciprocal actions for enforcement of support, child custody, domestic abuse, foreign judgments in domestic relations cases, income assignments relating to an order of support, paternity, appeal on administrative order relating to support or paternity, habeas corpus relating to children, and other domestic-related filings:
 - a. domestic relations cases that have been dismissed and no pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case for more than one (1) year, and
 - b. all domestic relations cases after a twenty-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case;
- 2. Probate cases. This shall include, but not be limited to, cases filed concerning the probating of estates, guardianships,

conservatorships, protective services to the elderly, powers of attorney, and trusts:

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- a. probate cases that have been dismissed and no pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case for more than one (1) year, and
- b. all probate cases after a twenty-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case;
- 3. Actions brought for money judgment only in which a dismissal or release and satisfaction has been filed for more than one (1) year;
 - 4. Civil (CJ and CS) records of cases:
 - a. civil (CJ and CS) cases that have been dismissed and no pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case for more than one (1) year, and
 - b. all other civil (CJ and CS) cases after a ten-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case;
- 5. Felony criminal records of unadjudicated cases and adjudicated cases:
 - a. felony criminal cases that have been dismissed and no pleading or any action taken in the case for more than one (1) year,

b. felony criminal records of adjudicated cases after a
ten-year period has elapsed since any pleading has
been filed or any action taken in the case, and
c. felony criminal records of adjudicated cases, where

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- c. felony criminal records of adjudicated cases, where
 the sentence imposed was death, life without parole,
 or life, after a fifty-year period has elapsed since
 any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the
 case;
- 6. Misdemeanor records of unadjudicated cases and adjudicated cases:
 - a. misdemeanor cases that have been dismissed and no pleading or any action taken in the case for more than one (1) year,
 - b. misdemeanor records of adjudicated cases after a fiveyear period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case; and
- 7. Juvenile cases. This shall include, but not be limited to, cases filed concerning delinquents, children in need of supervision, deprived children, children in need of treatment, children in need of shelter, and other related juvenile filings:
 - a. juvenile cases that have been dismissed and no pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case for more than one (1) year, and

b. all juvenile cases after a twenty-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case.

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The paper judicial records and the appearance docket books or sheets on which they are entered may be destroyed after the respective case has been adjudicated; provided, that prior to their disposal or destruction, they shall be stored on at least two microfilm records, optical disks, or other appropriate medium, one of which shall be placed in the Archives and Records Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries or in a bank or other appropriate local depository and the other shall be available for public use in the court clerk's office. The copy in the Department of Libraries or other depository shall be available for replacement in case of functional failure of the one available for public use. The cost of the storage medium and equipment for viewing and copying shall be paid out of the court fund, upon approval by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Records reproduced from microfilm, optical disk, and or other media produced pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be received in evidence and have the same legal efficacy as the original. Paper records that are not reproduced from microfilm, optical disk or other media produced pursuant to this subsection shall be kept and maintained for the time period provided in subsection A of this section.

C. Traffic cases. The Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the court clerk of each district court shall destroy the judicial records of traffic cases and the appearance docket books or sheets on which they are entered after a five-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case, except in the case of a conviction for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any narcotic drug, which records shall be destroyed after a ten-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case. The court clerk is authorized to destroy the judicial records and the appearance docket books or sheets on which they are entered after the respective case has been adjudicated if, prior to their disposal or destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical disk or other media produced pursuant to procedures in subsection B of this section.

D. Records of criminal property cases brought pursuant to Section Sections 1321 et seq. through 1327 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be subject to disposal or destruction after a two-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any action taken in the case; provided, that the records may be destroyed after the respective case has been adjudicated if, prior to their disposal or destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical disk or other media produced pursuant to procedures in subsection B of this section.

E. The Supreme Court of Oklahoma shall establish rules regulating the electronic storage of judicial records provided in this section.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1005.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1005.1 A. All paper records which have been recorded on microfilm, microfiche, compact disc₇ or any other recognized technological means may be destroyed after the respective case has been adjudicated or as otherwise provided by law. With the exception of felony conviction records, probate, adoption, quiet title, ejectment, partition, marriage and divorce records, and Indian deed approval records, all court records which have not been recorded on microfilm, microfiche, compact disc₇ or any other recognized technological means and in which no activity has occurred for twenty-two (22) years, may be destroyed or may be given as historical research materials to an appropriate organization as determined by the court clerk of the district court.

B. Small claims cases and justice of the peace court records shall not be subject to microfilm or other permanent recording requirements. The court clerk of each district court shall destroy the judicial records of justice of the peace courts including docket books on which they are entered, and small claims cases including the docket books and sheets on which they are entered after a five-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed or any

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action taken in the case; provided, that the records may be

destroyed after the respective case has been adjudicated if, prior

to their disposal or destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm,

optical disk or other media produced pursuant to rules of the

Oklahoma Supreme Court.
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C. The Supreme Court of Oklahoma shall establish rules regulating the electronic storage of judicial records provided in this section.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1006, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1006. A. Unless there is an objection by the chief judge of the district court, the The court clerk is authorized to destroy all exhibits in all domestic relations cases in which there has been no activity for more than twenty (20) years, and exhibits in all other civil cases in which there has been no activity for more than ten (10) years; provided, that the exhibits may be destroyed if, prior to their disposal or destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical disk or other media produced pursuant to rules of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

B. The chief judge may direct a court reporter to destroy a court reporter's notes after the expiration of ten (10) years from the date of a proceeding, or, if a proceeding has not resulted in an appeal upon which a request has been made to transcribe the proceeding, all notes of a court reporter may be destroyed

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1 | immediately upon completion of transcription of a proceeding;
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- 2 | provided, that the notes may be destroyed if, prior to their
- 3 disposal or destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical
- 4 disk or other media produced pursuant to rules of the Oklahoma
- 5 | Supreme Court.
- 6 C. No pleadings or judgments shall be destroyed under the
- 7 provisions of this section; provided, that the pleadings or
- 8 | judgments may be destroyed if, prior to their disposal or
- 9 destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical disk or other
- 10 | media produced pursuant to rules of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.
- 11 D. The Supreme Court of Oklahoma shall establish rules
- 12 regulating the electronic storage of judicial records provided in
- 13 | this section.
- 14 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1007, is
- 15 amended to read as follows:
- Section 1007. The A. Except as provided in subsection B of
- 17 | this section, the court clerk in each county in Oklahoma is
- 18 authorized to destroy or sell for salvage the documents mentioned in
- 19 this section which have been on file or stored in the court clerk's
- 20 office for a period longer than the time specified below:
- 21 1. One (1) year. All marriage health certificates.;
- 22 2. Two (2) years. All instruments relating to beer, bingo,
- process servers, foreign process servers, closing out sale, and pool
- 24 | hall licenses including the applications, affidavits of residence,

orders for hearing, notices of hearing, affidavits of posting and mailing and duplicate beer license.; and

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- 3. Three (3) years. All duplicate receipts, duplicate vouchers, mechanics' and materialmen's lien records, duplicate deposit tickets, jury lists, juror and witness certificates, court clerk's liens, court fund claims, jury and bailiff records, monthly reports, statutory bonds, cost bonds, paid claims, procedural bonds, court assignments, and court calendars including disposition docket books containing entries which have been posted to the case file docket sheet or computer printed docket sheet, appearance bonds and search warrants in instances where no charges are filed, purchase orders, court minutes and records pertaining to bondspersons' licenses.
- 14 B. The documents provided in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of 15 subsection A of this section may be destroyed after filing in the 16 court clerk's office, and the required time period to store the 17 documents shall not apply if, prior to their disposal or 18 destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm, optical disk or other 19 media produced pursuant to rules of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The 20 Supreme Court of Oklahoma shall establish rules regulating the 21 electronic storage of judicial records provided in this subsection. 22 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1008, is SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 23 amended to read as follows:

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        Section 1008. In each county of this state, the court clerk is
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    hereby authorized to destroy, from time to time, depositions taken
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    in all civil cases, except adoptions, after a ten-year period, and
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    depositions taken in domestic relations cases may be destroyed after
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    a twenty-year period has elapsed since any pleading has been filed
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    or any action taken in the case; provided, that the depositions
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    taken in domestic relations cases may be destroyed if, prior to
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    their disposal or destruction, they are reproduced on microfilm,
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    optical disk or other media produced pursuant to rules of the
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    Oklahoma Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of Oklahoma shall
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    establish rules regulating the electronic storage of judicial
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    records provided in this subsection.
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        SECTION 9. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.
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