

27 confidential and exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1),
28 Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State
29 Constitution. The personal health of an individual and the
30 treatment he or she receives are intensely private matters. An
31 individual's forensic behavioral health evaluation should not be
32 made public merely because it is filed with the court.
33 Protecting forensic behavioral health evaluations is necessary
34 to consistently protect the health care privacy rights of all
35 persons. Making these evaluations confidential and exempt will
36 protect information of a sensitive personal nature, the release
37 of which would cause unwarranted damage to the reputation of an
38 individual. Further, the knowledge that sensitive personal
39 information is subject to disclosure could have a chilling
40 effect on mental health experts who conduct the evaluations for
41 use by the court. Therefore, making these evaluations
42 confidential and exempt allows courts to effectively and
43 efficiently make decisions relating to the competency of
44 individuals who interact with the state courts system.

45 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.