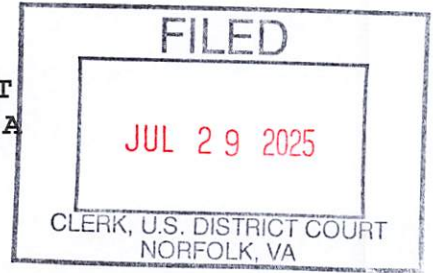


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA



IN RE: PROCEDURES FOR THE
FILING OF SEALED DOCUMENTS

STANDING ORDER

In response to recent cyberattacks directed at public and private sector computer systems, including attacks directed at the judiciary, information technology specialists have advised this Court of the need to take additional steps to better secure our case management system. Public users enjoy direct access to this Court's electronic filing system through PACER and CM/ECF, and while this access creates cybersecurity vulnerabilities, there is a vital need to preserve the integrity of this critical public resource.

THE COURT FINDS that the best way to secure our case management system and ensure continued constitutional and common law access to all public Court records is to require that all sealed documents be filed only in paper format. This measure preserves the integrity of the PACER and CM/ECF systems by shielding documents properly designated as non-public from unauthorized electronic access by nefarious actors.

Importantly, this Standing Order does not change the criteria that permit a document to be filed under seal; instead, it changes the process for filing a sealed document. As contemplated by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5(d)(3)(A) and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49(b)(3)(A), the Court finds that "good cause" exists to adopt this updated filing procedure.

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, effective as of the date of this Standing Order, and until such time as the Court orders otherwise, all sealed documents shall be subject to the "hard copy" handling requirements applicable to documents treated as Highly Sensitive Documents ("HSD"). These handling requirements are set forth in § 2 of this

Court's April 14, 2021 "Second Amended Standing Order" providing the procedure for the filing, service, and management of HSD. The Clerk's Office of this Court will be available to assist counsel and pro se parties and answer questions regarding the updated procedures for submitting sealed material.

Rules governing sealing materials can be found in Local Civil Rule 5 and Local Criminal Rule 49. Although sealed materials that do not qualify as HSD will be handled following the HSD hard copy filing procedures, these materials should be referred to in relevant submissions as "Sealed" documents rather than as "Highly Sensitive Documents." Any materials that are permissibly filed under seal without the need for an accompanying motion to seal, such as a Fed. R. Crim. P. 35 motion for reduced sentence, may continue to be filed under seal without a motion.

Any questions about how a sealed document should be filed with the Court pursuant to this Standing Order should be directed to the Clerk's Office in the relevant Division of this Court:

Alexandria - (703) 299-2100
Newport News - (757) 247-0784
Norfolk - (757) 222-7202
Richmond - (804) 916-2220

IT IS SO ORDERED this 29th day of July, 2025.

/s/ 

Mark S. Davis
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE