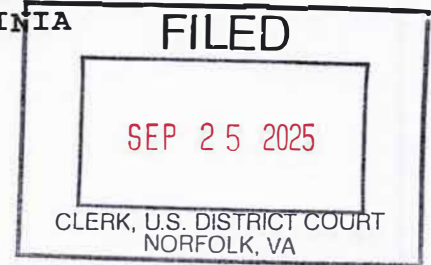


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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, a new procedure was adopted in July of this year eliminating litigants' ability to electronically file sealed documents and requiring "paper only" filing of all sealed material. Since that time, the Court has diligently worked to develop a revised filing system that would ease the burden on litigants, while protecting the integrity of our electronic case management system and ensuring uninterrupted access to all public Court records.

The Court's Standing Order dated July 29, 2025, is hereby **RESCINDED** and is replaced by the instant Standing Order. It is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. **Electronic Filing & Access to Sealed Documents.** Sealed documents should once again be filed electronically in CM/ECF under the E-Filing procedures in place prior to July 29, 2025, as amended by any future updates to those procedures. Although electronic filing of sealed documents will resume, litigants will no longer be able to access or view such sealed documents by electronic means.
2. **Service of Sealed Documents Filed in CM/ECF.** Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF will not be accessible or viewable by litigants electronically, service of those documents can no longer be accomplished through CM/ECF. After filing sealed documents on CM/ECF, parties will have to serve the sealed documents by other appropriate means as provided by the Federal Rules of Procedure. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 5 & Fed. R. Crim. P. 49 (outlining the rules governing service "by other means" and requirements for filing certificates of service). The Court will generally serve sealed documents in paper by mail.

3. **Additional Copies of Sealed Documents.** Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF are no longer accessible or viewable by litigants electronically, a party with the right to access a sealed document who requires a copy of such document will have to contact the Clerk's Office to request a paper copy. Applicable copy fees will be applied to such requests.
4. **Highly Sensitive Documents (HSDs).** Sealed documents that are defined as HSDs will continue to be subject to the Court's HSD procedures.
5. **Questions about Sealed Document Procedures.** Any questions about how a sealed document should be filed with the Court or accessed 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) 222-7201
Richmond -	(804) 916-2220

This Order supersedes any and all inconsistent prior Court Orders and prior CM/ECF manuals or training materials.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.

/s/ 

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Mark S. Davis  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE