

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN RE:

PROCEDURES FOR FILING, ACCESS, AND
MANAGEMENT OF SEALED DOCUMENTS.

ORDER

WHEREAS a recent escalation in cyberattacks on the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) systems of federal courts requires the implementation of new procedures for the storage and management of sealed documents;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Standing Order 3:25-mc-694-TMC, In Re: Procedures for the Filing of Sealed Documents, entered September 16, 2025, as a temporary measure to preserve the integrity of this Court's docket, is rescinded and Filing Users are directed to resume filing sealed documents via CM/ECF; and

IT IS FURTHERED ORDERED that, effective as of the date of this Order and until such time as the court orders otherwise,

1. **Definition of Sealed Documents.** The term "sealed documents" as used in this Order includes both sealed and restricted access documents that are not available through public terminal access.
2. **Electronic Access to Sealed Documents.** Although filing sealed documents in CM/ECF will resume and continue under existing procedures (including Local Civil Rule 5.03, Local Criminal 49.01, and the *Electronic Case Filing Policies and Procedures*), sealed documents will no longer be accessible or viewable by electronic means.
3. **Service of Sealed Documents Filed in CM/ECF.** Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF are no longer accessible or viewable electronically, service of those documents can no longer be accomplished through CM/ECF. Parties will have to serve sealed documents by other authorized means as provided by the Federal Rules of Procedure. The court will serve sealed documents in paper by U.S. Mail or other authorized means.
4. **Additional Copies of Sealed Documents.** Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF will no longer be accessible or viewable electronically, a party or non-party with the right to access a sealed document in a case who requires a copy of a sealed document must contact the clerk's office to request a paper copy. Applicable copy fees set forth in the District Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule will be applied to such requests.
5. **Highly Sensitive Documents (HSDs).** Sealed documents that are defined as HSDs will continue to be subject to the court's HSD procedures as set forth in Standing Order 3:21-mc-20-RBH, In re: Procedures for the Filing, Service, and Management of Highly Sensitive Documents.

6. **Questions about Sealed Document Procedures.** Any questions about the filing of and access to sealed documents should be directed to the clerk's office.

This Order supersedes any and all inconsistent local rules, standing orders, and provisions in the *Electronic Case Filing Policies and Procedures*.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 24th day of September 2025.



Timothy M. Cain
Chief United States District Court Judge