



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Special Order No. 2-90

1. The District Judges of this Court have considered and adopted the attached amendments to the local civil and criminal rules of this Court. These amendments revise LR 7.1, LR 7.2(c), and LR 79.3(b); repeal LCrR 49.5(a) and (b); and revise LCrR 55.3(b).
2. Unless modified after receipt of public comment, these amended rules shall take effect on September 1, 2020 and shall apply to all proceedings in civil and criminal actions thereafter commenced and, insofar as just and practicable, all civil and criminal actions then pending.
3. Any persons who desire to comment on any of these amended rules may do so by submitting written comments to:

Clerk of Court  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas  
Attention: 2020 Rules Revision Comments  
1100 Commerce Street, Room 1452  
Dallas, Texas 75242-1495

The deadline by which the Clerk must receive comments is June 1, 2020.

4. The Clerk of Court is directed to make the necessary distribution.

**SO ORDERED.**

March 2, 2020

FOR THE COURT:



BARBARA M.G. LYNN  
CHIEF JUDGE

1  
2  
3  
**2020 PROPOSED  
LOCAL RULES AMENDMENTS**

4 New material in an existing rule is **redlined**. Deleted material is ~~stricken out~~. A repealed  
5 rule is designated “[REPEALED].”

6 Local Civil Rules

7 **LR 7.1 Motion Practice.**

8 Unless **specifically controlled by another local civil rule or** otherwise directed by the  
9 presiding judge, motion practice is controlled by subsection (h) of this rule. In addition, the parties  
10 must comply with the following:

11 \* \* \*

12 **LR 7.2 Briefs.**

13 \* \* \*

14 **(c) Length.** **Unless another local civil rule provides otherwise,**  
15 **a** ~~A~~ brief must not exceed 25 pages (excluding the table of contents  
16 and table of authorities). A reply brief must not exceed 10 pages.  
17 Permission to file a brief in excess of these page limitations will be  
18 granted by the presiding judge only for extraordinary and compelling  
19 reasons.

20 \* \* \*

21 **LR 79.3 Sealed Documents.**

22 (a) A party may file under seal any document that a statute or rule requires or permits  
23 to be so filed. The term “document,” as used in this rule, means any pleading,  
24 motion, other paper, or physical item that the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure  
25 permit or require to be filed.

26 (b) If no statute or rule requires or permits a document to be filed under seal, a party may  
27 file a document under seal only on motion and by permission of the presiding judge.

28 ~~(1) When a party files on paper a motion for leave to file a document under seal,~~  
29 ~~the clerk must file the motion under seal. The party must attach as an exhibit~~  
30 ~~to the motion a copy of the document to be filed under seal. The party must~~  
31 ~~also submit with the motion the original and a judge’s copy of the document~~  
32 ~~to be filed under seal. The original of the document must neither be~~  
33 ~~physically attached to the motion nor made an exhibit to the motion. If leave~~  
34 ~~to file the document under seal is granted, the clerk must file the original of~~  
35 ~~the document under seal.~~

36 (c) ~~(2) When a party files by electronic means a motion for leave to file a document~~  
37 ~~under seal, the party may file the motion under seal and must attach the proposed~~  
38 ~~sealed document as an exhibit. If leave is granted, the sealed document will be~~  
39 ~~deemed filed as of the date of the order granting leave, or as otherwise specified by~~  
40 ~~the presiding judge, and the clerk will file a copy of the sealed document.~~

41 Local Criminal Rules

42 **LCrR 49.5 Electronic Signature. [REPEALED]**

43 (a) **What Constitutes Electronic Signature.** The signature of an attorney who submits  
44 a pleading, motion, or other paper for filing by electronic means is the login and  
45 password issued to the attorney by the clerk.

46 (b) **Requirements for Electronic Signature.** An attorney who submits a document for  
47 filing by electronic means must place on the document an “s/” and the typed named  
48 of the attorney, or a graphical signature, in the space where the attorney’s signature  
49 would have appeared had the document been submitted on paper.

50 \* \* \*

51 **LCrR 55.3 Sealed Documents.**

52 (a) A party may file under seal any document that a statute or rule requires or permits  
53 to be so filed. The term “document,” as used in this rule, means any pleading,  
54 motion, other paper, or physical item that the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
55 permit or require to be filed.

56 (b) If no statute or rule requires or permits a document to be filed under seal, a party may  
57 file a document under seal only on motion and by permission of the presiding judge.

58 ~~(1) When a party files on paper a motion for leave to file a document under seal,~~  
59 ~~the clerk must file the motion under seal. The party must attach as an exhibit~~  
60 ~~to the motion a copy of the document to be filed under seal. The party must~~  
61 ~~also submit with the motion the original and a judge’s copy of the document~~  
62 ~~to be filed under seal. The original of the document must neither be~~  
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69 ~~deemed filed as of the date of the order granting leave, or as otherwise specified by~~  
70 ~~the presiding judge, and the clerk will file a copy of the sealed document.~~