

**FILED**

**September 23, 2025**

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

**KAREN MITCHELL  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT  
COURT**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 19-2**

To protect sealed records filed in the judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system from unauthorized access, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has mandated that sealed records in CM/ECF be further restricted. Until a better solution for securing sealed records is available, it is ordered that:

1. **Electronic Access to Sealed Documents.** Sealed documents may be filed in CM/ECF under existing procedures but will not be accessible or viewable to the parties by electronic means once filed.
2. **Service of Restricted and Sealed Documents Filed in CM/ECF.** Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF are no longer accessible or viewable electronically, service of those documents cannot be accomplished through CM/ECF. Therefore, parties must serve all sealed documents by other appropriate means as provided by the Federal Rules of Procedure. The clerk's office will serve sealed orders by mail or other appropriate means.
3. **Additional Copies of Sealed Documents.** Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF are no longer accessible or viewable electronically, a party with the right to access a sealed document who requires a copy of the sealed document should obtain a copy from the filing party. The filing party must provide a copy to a party with a right to access who requests a copy if one has not already been provided. The Clerk's Office can provide a copy to an authorized party but must charge the copy fees set forth in the Judicial Conference's [fee schedule](#).
4. **Highly Sensitive Documents (HSDs).** Sealed documents that are defined as HSDs will continue to be subject to the Court's HSD procedures set forth in Miscellaneous Order No. 61-1.

This Order takes effect when the Administrative Office removes external sealed access in CM/ECF and will be in effect until further order of the Court. This Order supersedes all inconsistent provisions in local rules or orders of the Court. Any questions about the filing of and access to sealed documents should be directed to the Clerk's Office at CM/ECF helpdesk at: 214-753-2633 or 866-243-2866.

**SO ORDERED.**

September 23, 2025.

  
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REED O'CONNOR  
CHIEF JUDGE