

Local Criminal Rule 49.1-2 - Filing Under Seal

(a) Maintaining Cases Under Seal. There is a presumption upon the initial appearance of a defendant on a sealed charging instrument that the entire case, including a multi-defendant case in which the defendant is the first to appear, should be unsealed. To maintain a case under seal, no later than at the time of the initial appearance, a party must file a motion and brief in support establishing good cause why the court should maintain the case under seal following the procedures set forth in subsections (d) and (e). The clerk will maintain a seal on the case until the court rules on the motion. If the court denies the motion, the clerk will unseal the case 21 days after service of the Order, absent Fed. R. Crim. P. 59(a) objection, motion to reconsider, notice by a party of an intent to file an interlocutory appeal, or further court order.

(b) Filing Documents Under Seal - General Rule. Unless authorized in subsection (c), other rule, statute or court order, the clerk may not maintain under seal any document. Once a document is sealed, the clerk may not, without a court order, allow anyone to see it other than:

- (1) the court and its staff;
- (2) the clerk's staff; and
- (3) the attorney(s) who has/have appeared in the individual defendant's case to which the document pertains.

(c) No Separate Motion Necessary. The following documents may be filed under seal without motion or further order of the court, provided counsel has a good faith belief that sealing is required to ensure the safety, privacy or cooperation of a person or entity, or to otherwise protect a substantial public interest:

- (1) charging instruments (e.g., complaint, information, indictment) and accompanying documents (prior to the initial appearance of the defendant as set forth above in subsection (a));
- (2) warrant-type applications (e.g., arrest warrants, search warrants, pen registers, trap and trace devices, tracking orders, cell site orders, and wiretaps under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2516 and 2703);
- (3) motions for tax return information pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6103;
- (4) documents filed in grand jury proceedings;
- (5) documents filed in juvenile proceedings;

(6) plea agreements that reference a defendant's cooperation and related documents, whether filed by the government or the defendant;

(7) motions for sentence variance filed pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 35(b) or U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1, and supporting or related documents, such as a motion for temporary custody;

(8) motions for competency evaluation and related documents, filed under the provisions of Fed. R. Crim. P. 12.2 and 18 U.S.C. § 4241.

With the exception of charging documents addressed in subsection (c)(1), such documents shall remain under seal subject to further order of the court.

(d) Separate Motion Necessary - Filing Documents Under Seal - Procedure.

(1) To file a document under seal, a party must file it electronically as required under section 18 of the *ECF Policies and Procedures Manual* unless excused from electronic filing under S.D. Ind. L.R. 5-2(a) and 5-3(e). In either case, the party must include a cover sheet as the first page for each document being filed under seal that must include:

(A) the case caption;

(B) the title of the document, or an appropriate name to identify it on the public docket if the title cannot be publicly disclosed; and

(C) the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing the document.

(2) Except as provided under subsection (c), a party filing a document under seal must contemporaneously:

(A) file a Motion to Maintain Document(s) Under Seal, and

(i) if the filing party designated the subject information confidential, *e.g.*, a trade secret, proprietary information, or a business practice or procedure, a Brief in Support that complies with the requirements of subsection (e); and/or

(ii) if the filing party did not designate the subject information confidential, an identification of the designating party(ies); and

(B) unless the motion is to be considered *ex parte*, in which case no service is required, serve an unredacted and complete version of the sealed document upon all counsel and *pro se* parties.

(3) The designating party(ies) identified according to subsection (2)(A)(ii) must, within 14 days of service of the Motion to Maintain Document(s) under Seal, file a

Statement Authorizing Unsealing of Document (or specific portions thereof), or a Brief in Support that complies with the requirements of subsection (e). If the designating party fails to file such Statement or Brief, then the filing party must notify the court of that failure. The court may summarily rule on the (d)(2)(A) motion to seal if the designating party does not file the required Statement or Brief.

(e) Brief in Support. A Brief in Support must not exceed 10 pages in length and must include:

(1) identification of the case and/or each specific document or portion(s) thereof that the party contends should remain under seal;

(2) the reasons demonstrating good cause to maintain the case and/or document, or portion(s) thereof, under seal including:

(A) why less restrictive alternatives to sealing, such as redaction, will not afford adequate protection; and

(B) how the case and/or document satisfies applicable authority for it to be maintained under seal; and

(C) the time period for which the case and/or document should remain sealed; and

(3) a statement as to whether maintenance of the case and/or document under seal is opposed by any party or why such party's position is unknown; and

(4) a proposed order as an attachment.

(f) Opposition to Maintenance Under Seal. The filing of an Opposition to a Motion to Maintain Case or Document(s) Under Seal is governed by S.D. Ind. L.R. 7-1, but the time for response is triggered by the filing of the Brief in Support. Any Brief in Opposition must not exceed 10 pages in length.

(g) Denial of Motion to Maintain Under Seal. If the court denies the motion, the clerk will unseal the document(s) 21 days after service of the Order, absent Fed. R. Crim. P. 59(a) objection, motion to reconsider, notice by a party of an intent to file an interlocutory appeal, or further court order.

Local Rules Advisory Committee Comments Re: 2015 New Rule

New Local Criminal Rule 49.1-2 replaces Local Rule 5-11 for filing cases and/or documents under seal in criminal matters and includes a list of documents that may be filed under seal without a motion and a detailed procedure for obtaining permission from the court to maintain cases and filed documents under seal. Whenever

practical, the parties should confer regarding redaction in lieu of filing sealed documents. In addition, the rule encourages the parties to follow Seventh Circuit guidance on the legal parameters for maintaining cases and documents under seal.

Note: Adopted effective January 1, 2015.