UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN THE MATTER OF: PRESENTATION OF CONTAMINATED MATERIALS FOR FILING

ORDER

Documents submitted to the Clerk for filing with this Court must not be contaminated or tainted with any substances that are or could reasonably be believed to be a bodily fluid or other biohazard. In addition to the health risks that contaminated materials could pose to Court personnel, pursuant to the federally-mandated Occupant Emergency Plan that applies to Court facilities, the Court's receipt of such materials may require the attention of law enforcement and public health authorities including, but not limited to, the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service, and local law enforcement and emergency responders. Submission of such materials to the Court could threaten the safety of Court staff, and unnecessarily wastes the valuable and limited resources that are available to the judiciary and to public safety agencies while perceived threats are investigated and cleared. The Court has determined that such documents are unacceptable and should not be accepted for filing.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk, Deputy Clerks, and other Court staff will reject materials of any kind that are submitted for filing but which are or are reasonably believed to be contaminated or tainted with blood, any other bodily fluid, or other biohazardous matter. If reasonably possible, any such materials will be returned, unfiled. When return of the materials would unjustifiably expose Court staff to potential harm, such materials will be delivered to the United States Marshals Service for appropriate disposition, which may include destruction.

SO ORDERED this 6th day of March, 2018.

For the Court,

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JANE E. MAGNUS-STINSON, CHIEF JUDGE United States District Court