

RULE 7A

(Amended ~~July-December 1, 2011~~2012)

FILING SEALED DOCUMENTS AND PLEADINGS

A document or pleading may be filed under seal only upon order of the Court, in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) Motion to Seal and Sealed Documents

To obtain an order allowing one or more documents or pleadings to be sealed, a party shall electronically file on ECF a motion to seal together with the separate document(s) or pleading(s) sought to be sealed. The motion shall propose specific findings as to the need for sealing and the duration the document(s) should be sealed. The motion shall include a statement whether there is agreement of the parties to the sealing. The ECF system will generate and send a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) to counsel of record notifying them of the filing, but counsel will be unable to view the document. If service is required, all counsel must be served in a manner other than through ECF.

(b) Objection to Sealing and Reply

Unless otherwise ordered by the court, any objection to a motion to seal and any reply thereto shall be filed electronically under seal and in accordance with Local Rule 7.

(c) Order

In making specific findings as to the need for sealing and the duration the document(s) shall be sealed, the Court may incorporate by reference the proposed findings in the motion to seal. If the motion to seal is denied, the motion to seal and any supporting document(s) tendered under provisional seal shall remain in the ECF system, sealed indefinitely, unless the Court orders otherwise. The parties should anticipate that the Court's order granting or denying the motion to seal will not be filed under seal and will be publicly available.

(d) Public Notice

The docket entry noting the filing of the motion to seal, and of any objection and reply thereto, and of the filing of the Court's order ~~of the Court~~ thereon, and of the filing of any sealed document(s) or pleading(s) shall be publicly available on ECF, but the document(s) or pleading(s) themselves shall only be available to the Court.

(e) Exceptions

- (1) No motion or order is required for the filing of a ~~redacted~~ document that has been redacted solely to remove personal identifiers pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 ~~or a document under seal that is already subject to an existing protective order~~ or that

is included within a category of pleadings and documents deemed sealed or authorized to be filed ex parte pursuant to a federal statute, the federal rules of procedure, or the local rules of this court. Any filing of a redacted document ~~which had been previously authorized~~ shall reference the ~~prior~~ authority for such ~~filing~~redaction.

- (2) Sealed pleadings and documents, such as deeds, photographs, or bulky exhibits, which cannot be filed electronically shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of the ECF User Manual Documents marked confidential pursuant to an existing protective order may not automatically be filed under seal. The parties must confer and attempt to redact the exhibit in order to remove “confidential” material that is not essential for the court’s use in rendering a decision. If the exhibit cannot be redacted by agreement to remove confidential information, the party claiming that the document should be under seal shall file a motion in compliance with paragraphs (a-b) above.
- (3) Sealed pleadings and documents, such as deeds, photographs, or bulky exhibits, which cannot be filed electronically shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of the ECF User Manual.

APPENDIX II

FORM CONFIDENTIALITY ORDER

[This Form Confidentiality Order shall be submitted under L.R. 26 (d). The form is available on the Court's website under "Forms" at <http://www.med.uscourts.gov>]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF MAINE

)	
)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
v.)	Civil No.
)	[Consent] ¹ Confidentiality Order
)	
Defendant)	

[if by consent] The parties to this Consent Confidentiality Order have agreed to the terms of this Order; accordingly, it is ORDERED:

[if not fully by consent] A party to this action has moved that the Court enter a confidentiality order. The Court has determined that the terms set forth herein are appropriate to protect the respective interests of the parties, the public, and the Court. Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

1. Scope. All documents produced in the course of discovery, including initial disclosures, all responses to discovery requests, all deposition testimony and exhibits, other materials which may be subject to restrictions on disclosure for good cause and information derived directly therefrom (hereinafter collectively "documents"), shall be subject to this Order concerning confidential information

¹ Counsel should include or delete language in brackets as necessary to the specific case.

as set forth below. This Order is subject to the Local Rules of this District and of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on matters of procedure and calculation of time periods.

2. Form and Timing of Designation. A party may designate documents as confidential and restricted in disclosure under this Order by placing or affixing the words “CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER” on the document in a manner that will not interfere with the legibility of the document and that will permit complete removal of the CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER designation. Documents shall be designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER prior to or at the time of the production or disclosure of the documents **[optional:** except for documents produced for inspection under the “Reading Room” provisions set forth in paragraph 4 below]. The designation “CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER” does not mean that the document has any status or protection by statute or otherwise except to the extent and for the purposes of this Order.

3. Documents Which May be Designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER. Any party may designate documents as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER but only after review of the documents by an attorney² or a party appearing *pro se* who has in good faith

² An attorney who reviews the documents and designates them as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER must be admitted to the Bar of at least one state but need not be admitted to practice in the District of Maine and need not file the certification required of visiting lawyers by Local Rule 83.1(c) unless he/she is appearing generally in the case on behalf of a party. By designating documents

determined that the documents contain information protected from disclosure by statute or that should be protected from disclosure as confidential personal information, trade secrets, personnel records, or commercial information. The designation shall be made subject to the standards of Rule 11 and the sanctions of Rule 37 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Information or documents that are available in the public sector may not be designated as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER.

4. [This Reading Room paragraph may be appropriate only in cases involving extensive documents] Reading Room. In order to facilitate timely disclosure of a large number of documents that may contain confidential documents, but that have not yet been reviewed and designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER, the following “Reading Room” procedure may be used at the election of the producing party.

(a) Reading Room Review. Documents may be produced for review at a party’s facility or other physical or electronic controlled location (“Reading Room”) prior to designation as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER. After review of the documents, the party seeking discovery may specify those for which copies are requested. If the producing party elects to designate any documents CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER, the copies shall be so marked prior to further production.

(b) No Waiver of Confidentiality. The production of documents for review within the Reading Room shall not be deemed a waiver of any claim of confidentiality, so long as the reviewing parties are advised that pursuant to this Order the Reading Room may contain confidential documents that have not yet been designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER.

(c) Treatment of Produced Documents as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER. The reviewing party shall treat all documents reviewed in the Reading Room as designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER at the time reviewed. Documents copied and produced from the Reading Room that are not designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER are not subject to this Order.

(d) Production of Documents. Unless otherwise agreed or ordered, copies of Reading Room documents shall be produced within thirty days after the request for copies is made. Production may be made by providing electronic copies of the documents so long as copies reasonably as legible as the originals may be produced therefrom.

5. Depositions. Deposition testimony shall be deemed CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER only if designated as such. Such designation shall be specific as to the portions to be designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER. Depositions, in whole or in part, shall be

designated on the record as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER at the time of the deposition. Deposition testimony so designated shall remain CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER until seven days after delivery of the transcript by the court reporter. Within seven days after delivery of the transcript, a designating party may serve a Notice of Designation to all parties of record as to specific portions of the transcript to be designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER. Thereafter, those portions so designated shall be protected as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER pending objection under the terms of this Order. The failure to serve a Notice of Designation shall waive the CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER designation made on the record of the deposition. [If deposition excerpts have not been designated as confidential pursuant to this order, they are not to be treated as sealed documents when filed with the court.](#)

6. Protection of Confidential Material.

(a) General Protections. Documents designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER under this Order shall not be used or disclosed by the parties, counsel for the parties or any other persons identified in ¶ 6(b) for any purpose whatsoever other than to prepare for and to conduct discovery and trial in this action [adversary proceeding], including any appeal thereof. **[INCLUDE IN PUTATIVE CLASS ACTION CASE:** The parties shall not disclose documents designated as

confidential to putative class members not named as plaintiffs in putative class litigation unless and until one or more classes have been certified.】

(b) Limited Third-Party Disclosures. The parties and counsel for the parties shall not disclose or permit the disclosure of any CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER documents to any third person or entity except as set forth in subparagraphs (1)-(6). Subject to these requirements, the following categories of persons may be allowed to review documents that have been designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER:

(1) Counsel. Counsel for the parties and employees of counsel who have responsibility for the preparation and trial of the action;

(2) Parties. Parties and employees of a party to this Order

[OPTIONAL: If the CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER documents contain trade secrets or other competitive, personnel or confidential information and disclosure to another party could be harmful to the disclosing party, then add language: but only to the extent counsel determines that the specifically named individual party or employee's assistance is reasonably necessary to the conduct of the litigation in which the information is disclosed].

(3) Court Reporters and Recorders. Court reporters and recorders engaged for depositions;

(4) Contractors. Those persons specifically engaged for the limited

purpose of making copies of documents or organizing or processing documents but only after each such person has completed the certification contained in Attachment A, Acknowledgment of Understanding and Agreement to Be Bound.

(5) Consultants and Experts. Consultants, investigators, or experts (hereinafter referred to collectively as “experts”) employed by the parties or counsel for the parties to assist in the preparation and trial of this action [adversary proceeding] but only after such persons have completed the certification contained in Attachment A, Acknowledgment of Understanding and Agreement to Be Bound; and

(6) Others by Consent. Other persons only by written consent of the producing party or upon order of the Court and on such conditions as may be agreed or ordered. All such persons shall execute the certification contained in Attachment A, Acknowledgment of Understanding and Agreement to Be Bound.

(c) Control of Documents. Counsel for the parties shall make reasonable efforts to prevent unauthorized disclosure of documents designated as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER pursuant to the terms of this Order. Counsel shall maintain the originals of the forms signed by persons acknowledging their obligations under this Order for a period of six years from the date of signing.

(d) Copies. Prior to production to another party, all copies, electronic images, duplicates, extracts, summaries or descriptions (hereinafter referred to collectively as “copies”) of documents designated as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER under this Order, or any individual portion of such a document, shall be affixed with the designation “CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER” if the word does not already appear on the copy. All such copies shall thereafter be entitled to the protection of this Order. The term “copies” shall not include indices, electronic databases or lists of documents provided these indices, electronic databases or lists do not contain substantial portions or images of the text of confidential documents or otherwise disclose the substance of the confidential information contained in those documents.

7. Filing of CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

Documents ~~Under Seal~~. Before any document marked as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER is filed with the Clerk the party filing the document shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the document is protected from public disclosure or has been redacted to remove nonessential confidential information. The filing party shall first consult with the party which originally designated the document as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER to determine whether, with the consent of that party, a redacted document may be filed with the Court not under seal. Where agreement is not

possible or adequate, a confidential document may be electronically filed under seal only in accordance with Local Rule 7A. Other than motions [to seal](#) and memoranda governed by Local Rule 7A, if the [confidential](#) contents of CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER documents are incorporated into memoranda or other pleadings filed with the court, counsel shall prepare two versions of the pleadings, a public and a confidential version.

The public version shall contain a redaction of [the contents of references to](#) CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER documents and shall be filed with the Clerk. The confidential version shall be a full and complete version of the pleading, [including any exhibits which the party maintains should be under seal](#) and shall be filed with the Clerk [attached to a motion to seal filed in accordance with](#) ~~under seal under~~ Local Rule 7A. [The public version shall plainly indicate the exhibits \(both by number and description of the exhibit\) that have been filed under seal with the confidential version. In the event the confidential exhibit must be filed under seal because the parties cannot reach agreement on redaction, the filing party, if not the party seeking to maintain confidentiality status, shall describe the document and give it an Exhibit Number, indicating that it will be filed separately under seal by the opposing party. The party seeking to maintain confidential status shall file a motion to seal in accordance with Local Rule 7A within 3 business days of the filing of the opposing party's pleading. Failure to file a timely motion to seal could result in the pleading/exhibit being unsealed by the court without further notice or hearing. upon review of the](#)

8. No Greater Protection of Specific Documents. No party may withhold information from discovery on the ground that it requires protection greater than that afforded by this Order unless the party moves for an order providing such special protection.

9. Challenges by a Party to Designation as Confidential. Any CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER designation is subject to challenge by any party or non-party (hereafter “party”). The following procedure shall apply to any such challenge.

(a) Objection to Confidentiality. Within 30 days of the receipt of any document designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER or of the refusal to produce a document on the ground of such designation, a party may serve upon the designating party an objection to the designation. The objection shall specify the documents to which the objection is directed and shall set forth the reasons for the objection as to each document or category of documents. CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER documents to which objection has been made shall remain CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER until designated otherwise by waiver, agreement or order of the Court.

(b) Obligation to Meet and Confer. The objecting party and the party which designated the documents to which objection has been made shall have fifteen (15) days from service of the objection to meet and confer in a

good faith effort to resolve the objection by agreement. If agreement is reached confirming or waiving the CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER designation as to any documents subject to the objection, the designating party shall serve on all parties a notice specifying the documents and the nature of the agreement.

(c) Obligation to File Motion. If the parties cannot reach agreement in the absence of agreement as to any documents designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER, for the purpose of discovery, the designating party shall file within 30 days of the service of the objection a motion to retain the CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER designation. The moving party has the burden to show good cause for the CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER designation. The failure to file the motion waives the CONFIDENTIAL – SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER designation of documents to which an objection was made, but the fact that the parties have agreed that the document will remain confidential for all purposes other than use in court does not mean that the item will necessarily be ordered sealed by the Court, even in the absence of objection by the opposing party.

10. Action by the Court. Applications to the Court for an order relating to documents designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER shall be by motion under Local Rule 7. Nothing in this Order or any action or agreement of a party under this Order limits the Court's power to make orders

concerning the disclosure of documents produced in discovery or at trial.

11. Use of Confidential Documents or Information at Trial. A party which intends to present or which anticipates that another party may present at trial CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER documents or information derived therefrom shall identify the issue, not the information, in the pretrial memorandum. The Court may thereafter make such orders as are necessary to govern the use of such documents or information at trial.

12. Obligations on Conclusion of Litigation.

(a) Order Remains in Effect. Unless otherwise agreed or ordered, this Order shall remain in force after dismissal or entry of final judgment not subject to further appeal.

(b) Return of CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER Documents. Within thirty days after dismissal or entry of final judgment not subject to further appeal, all documents treated as CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER under this Order, including copies as defined in ¶ 6(d), shall be returned to the producing party unless: (1) the document has been offered into evidence or filed without restriction as to disclosure; (2) the parties agree to destruction in lieu of return; or (3) as to documents bearing the notations, summations, or other mental impressions of the receiving party, that party elects to destroy the documents and certifies to the producing party that it has done so. Notwithstanding the above requirements to return or destroy documents,

counsel may retain attorney work product, including an index which refers or relates to information designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER, so long as that work product does not duplicate verbatim substantial portions of the text or images of confidential documents. This work product shall continue to be CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER under this Order. An attorney may use his or her work product in a subsequent litigation provided that its use does not disclose or use CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER documents.

(c) Deletion of Documents Filed under Seal from ECF System. Filings under seal shall be deleted from the ECF system only upon order of the Court.

13. Order Subject to Modification. This Order shall be subject to modification by the Court on its own motion or on motion of a party or any other person with standing concerning the subject matter. Motions to modify this Order shall be served and filed under Local Rule 7.

14. No Prior Judicial Determination. This Order is entered based on the representations and agreements of the parties and for the purpose of facilitating discovery. Nothing herein shall be construed or presented as a judicial determination that any documents or information designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER by counsel or the parties is subject to protection under Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or otherwise

until such time as the Court may rule on a specific document or issue.

15. Persons Bound. This Order shall take effect when entered and shall be binding upon all counsel and their law firms, the parties, and persons made subject to this Order by its terms.

So Ordered.

Dated:

U.S. District Judge
U.S. Magistrate Judge
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

[Delete signature blocks if not wholly by consent]

**WE SO MOVE
and agree to abide by the
terms of this Order**

**WE SO MOVE/CONSENT
and agree to abide by the
terms of this Order**

Signature

Signature

Printed Name

Printed Name

Counsel for: _____ Counsel for: _____

Dated:

Dated:

ATTACHMENT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MAINE

)	
)	Civil No.
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
)	
Defendant)	

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND
AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he/she has read the Confidentiality Order dated _____ in the above-captioned action and attached hereto, understands the terms thereof, and agrees to be bound by its terms. The undersigned submits to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the District of Maine in matters relating to the Confidentiality Order and understands that the terms of the Confidentiality Order obligate him/her to use documents designated CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER in accordance with the Order solely for the purposes of the above-captioned action, and not to disclose any such documents or

information derived directly therefrom to any other person, firm or concern.

The undersigned acknowledges that violation of the Confidentiality Order may result in penalties for contempt of court.

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Employer: _____

Business Address: _____

Date: _____ Signature _____