

Aug 08, 2025

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

IN RE: PROCEDURES FOR THE
FILING OF SEALED DOCUMENTS

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2025-13

In an August 7, 2025, press release, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts announced a requirement for advanced measures to further strengthen protections and secure the integrity of sensitive case documents in the official court record.

THE COURT FINDS that the best way to secure sensitive case documents while ensuring continued access to all public court records is to require that all sealed and ex parte documents be filed only in paper format.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that effective August 11, 2025, all sealed and ex parte documents filed in the Eastern District of Washington's criminal and civil cases must be filed in paper format at the clerk's office filing/intake counters in the Richland, Spokane or Yakima United States Courthouses. The service, filings and wet signature requirements of conventional paper filings in Rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that there will be no electronic access to sealed documents other than by court staff.

The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order provide copies to the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho, Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys, the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Washington, and any other interested person who requests a copy. The District Court Executive is further directed to amend the Eastern District of Washington's *ECF Administrative Procedures* to comport with this General Order.

DATED this 8th day of August 2025.


STANLEY A. BASTIAN
Chief United States District Judge