

**United States District Court  
Eastern District of Texas**



**Filing and Redaction of Sensitive Information**

## **Filing and Redaction of Sensitive Information**

### **Sensitive or Confidential Information**

Documents requested or authorized to be filed under seal or filed ex parte shall be filed in electronic form. All sealed documents filed with the court must comply with the file size and other form requirements of Local Rules CV-5(a) and CV-7. Counsel is responsible for serving documents under seal.

### **Witness Lists**

When preparing a witness list, do not include the witnesses' addresses. Witness lists are not considered sealed documents, and when scanned, are available over the internet.

### **REDACTION OF PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS**

The parties shall refrain from including, or shall redact where inclusion is necessary, the following personal identifiers from all documents filed with the court:

1. **Social Security Numbers.** If an individual's Social Security number must be included in a document, only the last four digits of that number should be used.
2. **Names of Minor Children.** If the involvement of minor children must be mentioned, only the initials of that child should be used.
3. **Dates of birth.** If an individual's date of birth must be included in a document, only the year should be used.
4. **Financial account numbers.** If financial account numbers are relevant, only the last four digits of these numbers should be used.
5. **Home addresses in Criminal Cases.** If a home address must be included, only the city and state should be listed.

The purpose of this rule is to avoid publication of sensitive personal information in court documents that are available on the internet. The responsibility for redacting personal identifiers rests solely with counsel and the parties. The clerk will not review each pleading for compliance with this rule.