

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

IN RE: GOVERNMENT'S MOTION
TO REMOVE HIGHLY SENSITIVE
DOCUMENTS FROM CM/ECF

Administrative Order No. 25-MS-078

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Federal courts across the country were previously notified by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) of cybersecurity breaches, first identified in 2021, and now most recently identified in 2025, in the Case Management/Electronic Case Files system (CM/ECF). Following this notification, the Court requested the Department of Justice (DOJ) identify and provide a list of cases containing highly sensitive documents (HSDs).

Pursuant to the Court's HSD policy outlined in Administrative Order 21-RL-001, the DOJ provided a list of such cases to the Court. The Court will maintain this list in its records.

The DOJ has also filed the attached motion with the Court requesting that all cases and/or documents on this list be removed from CM/ECF and stored outside of the electronic filing system.

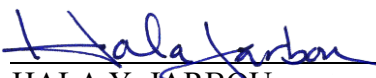
Having received and reviewed this list, the Court finds good cause to require filing and maintenance of all the cases and/or documents on this list outside of the Court's electronic filing system, pending deployment of additional security protocols by the AO. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that the government's motion is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Administrative Order shall serve as the omnibus order applicable to all the cases listed by the government, in lieu of orders to be filed in each individual case.

FOR THE COURT:

Dated: August 28, 2025



HALA Y. JARBOU
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE:

HIGHLY SENSITIVE
DOCUMENTS

Hon. HALA Y. JARBOU
Chief United States District Judge

**Government's Motion to Remove
Highly Sensitive Documents from CM/ECF**

In 2021, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts made Courts aware of policy changes regarding highly sensitive documents (HSDs). (*See* Western District of Michigan U.S. District Court Administrative Order 21-RL-001¹.) The policy required the filing and maintenance of certain HSDs outside of the Court's electronic filing system (also referred to as CM/ECF) because of widespread cybersecurity breaches. HSDs include "documents a party has moved to seal that contain highly sensitive information, defined as information that could be readily used to harm or compromise the interests of the United States." *Id.* Relevant factors include "whether the case involves matters of national security, foreign sovereign interests, or cyber security; the extent of domestic or international interests; the involvement of public officials; or the reputational interests of the United States or its agencies." (*Id.*)

Recently, heightened concerns about the cybersecurity breaches of CM/ECF led the government to reconsider which matters should be removed from CM/ECF and stored outside of that electronic filing system. Consistent with guidance it

¹ Found at <https://www.miwd.uscourts.gov/sites/miwd/files/Admin%20Order%2021-RL-001.pdf>, last accessed 8/19/2025.

received from the Department of Justice and the Court, the government identified HSDs and sent a list of such items securely to the Clerk's Office for the Western District of Michigan. The government hereby requests that these items be removed from CM/ECF. ~~A proposed order is attached.~~

Respectfully submitted,

TIMOTHY VERHEY
United States Attorney

Date: August 19, 2025

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