



Filing and Service of Sealed Documents

As of 9/24/2025, sealed documents are once again to be filed electronically in CM/ECF.

Updates:

- You will receive an NEF confirming your filing.
- Parties in the case who are registered users (and their support staff) will receive a redacted NEF, as notification that a sealed document has been filed.
- The redacted NEF will **not** provide access to the documents.
- A party with the right to access a sealed document can still request a copy by contacting the Clerk's Office online at: [Contact Us | Western District of North Carolina | United States District Court](#).
- The Clerk's Office will serve sealed orders, notices, and other **Court-generated** documents by secure electronic means to attorneys of record.
- The United States Probation Office is responsible for serving attorneys of record with documents filed by their office.

Your Service Requirements:

Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF are longer accessible or viewable electronically, service **cannot** be accomplished through CM/ECF. Certificates of service relating to sealed documents should be revised to no longer include language that appropriate parties were served electronically through the electronic case filing system.

Parties must serve sealed documents by other appropriate means as provided by the Federal Rules of Procedure. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 5 & Fed. R. Crim. P. 49 outlining the rules governing service "by other means" and requirements for filing certificates of service.