



Sealed/Restricted Document Frequently Asked Questions

Recently, there have been a series of cyberattacks in both the private and public sectors, including the Judiciary's CM/ECF system. To protect the security of sealed and restricted filings, our Court has issued new mandates for secure handling of these documents. Please see the Court's [Standing Order Regarding Procedures for Access and Management of Sealed Documents](#) for further direction. **Updated to include information for Box.com, effective 11/3/2025.**

1. Can I file sealed documents in CM/ECF? **As of 9/24/2025, yes.**
2. Can I view sealed documents on PACER? **No. Sealed documents, including sealed indictments, are not available to the public and cannot be found on PACER.**
3. How can I get a copy of a sealed Order/Notice entered in my case? **The Clerk's Office will serve any sealed orders, notices, and other Court-generated documents by secure electronic means to active attorneys of record via Box.com. Secondary email accounts will only receive notice if added to the primary Box.com account.**
4. What about sealed documents currently on CM/ECF? **Sealed documents previously filed are only accessible to court users. Please request a copy by contacting the Clerk's Office at [Contact Us | Western District of North Carolina | United States District Court](#). Select "Sealed Document Copy Requests" from the category options and specify both the case number and document number(s).**
5. What documents are not impacted? **Documents with Public Terminal access (Social Security case files, plea agreements, etc...) and unsealed Transcripts remain available in ECF. You will continue to have access as attorney of record using your ECF login credentials.**
6. We have relied on CM/ECF to serve electronically filed documents. How does this affect service? **Because sealed documents are no longer accessible electronically, service**

cannot be achieved through CM/ECF. Please refer to Service of Sealed Documents on our [Attorney Insider Insights](#) page for additional information.

7. How do I get a copy of a sealed document I've just filed? **After filing a sealed document in ECF, you will receive a file-stamped copy to your Box.com account. Because sealed documents filed in CM/ECF are no longer accessible or viewable electronically, service cannot be accomplished through CM/ECF. (See [Filing and Service of Sealed Documents-NEW.pdf](#) for additional information).**
8. How will prosecutors and defense attorneys receive pretrial reports, presentence investigation reports, and other documents filed by the US Probation Office? **The USPO is responsible for serving attorneys of record with documents that originate from their office via Box.com. Please allow time for service and reach out to the USPO if not received timely. The Clerk's Office will continue to provide historical documents filed on or before 9/29/2025 when requested.**
9. How can I access a sealed document in Box.com? **When documents are shared to your Box.com account, you will receive an email notification. Click the Document Number link in the email. You will be prompted to log in to Box.com to view the sealed file. Please retrieve the document(s) and save in another location as they are automatically deleted after 14 days.**
10. What if a sealed document has been incorrectly filed? **The document will need to be replaced or refiled. Please reach out to the Clerk's Office ASAP.**
11. How do I submit a Sealed Proposed Order? **Please submit your Sealed Proposed Order to the appropriate Chambers in CM/ECF using: Civil Events > CyberClerk > Submit Document to Court > Submit Proposed Document to Judge.**
12. What if I haven't been served by opposing counsel? **As of 9/25/2025, all sealed documents originating outside the Court should be served by the filing party to the primary email address of the attorneys of record. The Clerk's Office is providing courtesy copies up to and including 9/25/2025. If filed after 9/25/2025, please reach out to the filing attorney regarding service.**

For ongoing updates, resources, and additional information, please continue to check the Court's *Attorney Insider Insights* page.