

11th Cir. R. 25-5 Maintaining Privacy of Personal Data. In order to promote electronic access to case files while also protecting personal privacy and other legitimate interests, parties shall refrain from including, or shall partially redact where inclusion is necessary, the following personal data identifiers from all pleadings filed with the court, including exhibits thereto, whether filed electronically or in paper, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

- a. Social Security numbers and Taxpayer Identification numbers. If an individual's social security number or taxpayer identification number must be included in a pleading, only the last four digits of that number should be used.
- b. Names of minor children. If the involvement of a minor child must be mentioned, only the initials of that child should be used. For purposes of this rule, a minor child is any person under the age of eighteen years, unless otherwise provided by statute or court order.
- c. Dates of birth. If an individual's date of birth must be included in a pleading, only the year should be used.
- d. Financial account numbers. If financial account numbers are relevant, only the last four digits of these numbers should be used.
- e. Home addresses. If a home address must be included, only the city and state should be used.

Subject to the exemptions from the redaction requirement contained in the Federal Rules of Civil, Criminal, and Bankruptcy Procedure, as made applicable to the courts of appeals through FRAP 25(a)(5), a party filing a document containing the personal data identifiers listed above shall file a redacted document for the public file and either:

(1) a reference list under seal. The reference list shall contain the complete personal data identifier and the redacted identifier used in its place in the redacted filing. All references in the filing to the redacted identifiers included in the reference list will be construed to refer to the corresponding complete personal data identifiers. The reference list must be filed under seal, may be amended as of right, and shall be retained by the court as part of the record. A motion to file the reference list under seal is not required. Or

(2) an unredacted document under seal, along with a motion to file the unredacted document under seal specifying the type of personal data identifier included in the document and why the party believes that including it in the document is necessary or relevant. If permitted to be filed, both the redacted and unredacted documents shall be retained by the court as part of the record.

The responsibility for redacting these personal data identifiers rests solely with counsel and the parties. The clerk will not review each pleading for compliance with this rule. A person waives the protection of this rule as to the person's own information by filing it without redaction and not under seal.

Consistent with FRAP 25(a)(5), electronic public access is not provided to pleadings filed with the court in social security appeals and immigration appeals. Therefore, parties in social security appeals and immigration appeals are exempt from the requirements of this rule.

In addition to the foregoing, a party should exercise caution when filing a document that contains any of the following information. A party filing a redacted document that contains any of the following information must comply with the rules for filing an unredacted document as described in numbered paragraph (2) above.

- Personal identifying number, such as driver's license number;
- medical records, treatment and diagnosis;
- employment history;
- individual financial information;
- proprietary or trade secret information;
- information regarding an individual's cooperation with the government;
- national security information;
- sensitive security information as described in 49 U.S.C. § 114(s).

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