

FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

JAN 23 2020

Clerk, U.S. Courts
District Of Montana
Missoula Division

IN RE: Sealing of Court Records.

STANDING ORDER No. DLC-52

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, with the exception of criminal cases involving a juvenile defendant, any sealed case file shall be presumptively considered suitable for unsealing after the case file has been closed for a period of three years or more. Such case files shall be unsealed unless the parties are able to show cause why the case file should be sealed permanently, or for some lesser fixed period.

To effectuate this order, the clerk of this court shall, on an annual basis, compile a report of all sealed cases that have been closed for a period of three years or longer, excluding criminal cases involving a juvenile defendant. As to each such case, the clerk shall notify the parties that the case will be unsealed unless one or more of the parties is able to show cause why the case file should be sealed permanently, or for some lesser fixed period. The parties shall have no fewer than 21 days from the date of the clerk's notice in which to respond and show cause. Attempts to show cause why a case file should remain sealed shall be considered and resolved via written order by the presiding judge or, in the event the presiding judge is no longer serving on the court, by the chief judge or his or her designee. In the absence of a timely response from any party to the clerk's notice, the clerk shall unseal the case in question pursuant to this order.

At the conclusion of the annual review process, the clerk shall make a report to the court of all cases unsealed pursuant to this order.

The clerk of court is directed to post this order on the court's public website, and to notify the judicial officers of this district and the Local Rules Committee of the entry of this order.

DATED this 23rd day of January, 2020.



Dana L. Christensen, Chief Judge
United States District Court