

Attachment to Protective Order

(Case Title); (Case Number)

THIS MATTER is before the Court on the Stipulated Protective Order between Plaintiff (*Plaintiff Name*) and Defendant (*Defendant Name*) Each time restrictions on access to records from hearings are sought, courts must follow these steps: first, the proponent of closure and/or sealing must make some showing of the need therefore; second, anyone present when a closure motion is made must be given an opportunity to object; third, Court, proponents, and objectors should carefully analyze whether requested method for curtailing access would be both the less restrictive means available and effective in protecting the interest threatened; fourth, Court must weigh competing interests of parties and the public and consider the alternative or less restrictive methods; and fifth, order must be no broader in its application or duration than necessary to serve its purpose. *Seattle Times Co. v. Ishikawa*, 97 Wash.2d 30, 640 P.2d 716 (1982); *Dreiling v. Jain*, 151 Wash.2d 900(2004); *Rufer v. Abbott Labs*, 154 Wash.2d 530, 540 (2005).

Therefore, while the parties are free to designate any document not filed with the courts as “sealed” or “confidential” or “protected” and limit its dissemination and use, each document that is to be filed with the court must be subject to the above analysis and treatment and a court order reflecting the same and authorizing sealing of that pleading and file must be obtained. This may be done by motion noted without oral argument. The burden is on the party proposing that the document be sealed to provide the needed information so that the Court can determine whether all, a portion, or none of the documents may be filed under seal.

Moving parties seeking to seal any documents filed with the court must meet this burden. Specifically, they must identify specific competing interests of parties and the public or considered alternatives or less restrictive methods, such as redaction of confidential or proprietary information. Finally, the order must be no broader in its application necessary to serve its purpose.

Before filing any substantive documents that contain information sought to be sealed, the moving party must obtain an order allowing documents to be sealed or redacted. This requires the moving party to allow sufficient time for noting its motion and receiving a ruling from the Court prior to filing the documents. Documents with substantive redactions shall not be filed without prior permission by of this Court.

This protective order is therefore subject to these limitations and must comply with these provisions and General Rule (GR) 15 before any documents are sealed in the public file.

DATED this ____ day of June, 2025.

Judge Michael K. Ryan