

Judicial Conference Policy on Sealed Cases

An entire civil case file should only be sealed when consistent with the following criteria:

- a. Sealing the entire civil case file is required by statute or rule or justified by a showing of extraordinary circumstances and the absence of narrower feasible and effective alternatives (such as sealing discrete documents or redacting information), so that sealing an entire case file is a last resort;
- b. A judge makes or promptly reviews the decision to seal a civil case;
- c. Any order sealing a civil case contains findings justifying the sealing of the entire case, unless the case is required to be sealed by statute or rule; and
- d. The seal is lifted when the reason for sealing has ended.