

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Keiron Helms v. State of California Highway Patrol; County of
Riverside; City of Hemet; Hemet Police Department; Hobbs; and
Does 1-10

Helms protective order · No. 5:24-cv-02667-SSS-PVCx · Decided August 27, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated protective order entered in a federal civil action in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. It governs the designation, disclosure, use, challenge, filing, and final disposition of confidential discovery materials, and includes an acknowledgment and agreement to be bound.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Pedro V. Castillo
DECIDED	August 27, 2025
DOCKET	5:24-cv-02667-SSS-PVCx
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties stipulated to entry of a protective order governing confidential discovery material, and the court entered the order for good cause shown.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Keiron Helms v. State of California Highway Patrol, County of Riverside, City of Hemet, Hemet Police Department, Hobbs, Does 1-10

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- sanctions
- contempt

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether good cause existed under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) to enter the parties' stipulated protective order.
2. What restrictions and procedures should govern designation, disclosure, challenge, use, filing, and final disposition of confidential discovery material.

HOLDINGS

1. For good cause shown by the parties' stipulation, the court entered the stipulated protective order governing confidential discovery material in the action.
2. A designating party must limit confidentiality designations to specific material that qualifies for protection; mass, indiscriminate, and routinized designations are prohibited, and unjustified or improper designations may result in sanctions.
3. Protected material may be used only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle the action and may be disclosed only to persons and under the conditions specified in the order.
4. The protective order does not authorize filing protected material under seal; a party must comply with Central District of California Local Rule 79-5 and obtain a court order authorizing the sealing of specific material.
5. The protective order's confidentiality terms do not extend beyond commencement of trial, subject to any later trial-judge determination supported by compelling reasons; after final disposition, protected material must generally be returned or destroyed upon written request within the specified period, subject to archival-copy provisions.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends under the applicable legal principles.” (§ 1.A)

“Once a case proceeds to trial, all of the information that was designated as confidential or maintained pursuant to this protective order becomes public and will be presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of the trial.” (§ 4)

“A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action.” (§ 7.1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action is expected to involve discovery of confidential records, personal medical records, investigation information, third-party information, employment and financial information, and information potentially protected by official-information or other privileges. The parties sought restrictions on disclosure and use of such

material to protect privacy and facilitate discovery while preserving procedures for challenging designations and seeking to file materials under seal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Keiron Helms brought a federal civil-rights action against the listed governmental and individual defendants. The parties anticipated discovery involving medical, investigative, employment, financial, privacy-sensitive, and potentially privileged information, stipulated to a protective order, and submitted it for court approval. The court entered the stipulated protective order on August 27, 2025.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Seattle Times Co. v. Rhinehart*, 467 U.S. 20, 35 n.21 (1984)
- *Soto v. City of Concord*, 162 F.R.D. 603, 617 (N.D. Cal. 1995)
- *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir. 2006)

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