

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

Tara R. and E.G. v. SelectHealth, Inc.; St. Luke's Health System, Ltd.; and St. Luke's Health System Employee Health Care Plan

Tara R. · No. 2:26-cv-00256-JCB · Decided April 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Utah grants Tara R. and E.G.’s motion to proceed under pseudonyms in an action concerning the denial of health insurance benefits for E.G.’s mental health treatment. The court finds exceptional circumstances based on E.G.’s minority when the relevant events occurred, the sensitive medical information at issue, and the lack of prejudice to the defendants, and orders plaintiffs to file their full names under seal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Utah
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jared C. Bennett
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Utah
DECIDED	April 10, 2026
DOCKET	2:26-cv-00256-JCB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs moved to proceed under pseudonyms in an ERISA action concerning denial of health insurance benefits.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court exercises discretion in determining whether exceptional circumstances justify allowing plaintiffs to proceed under pseudonyms, weighing those circumstances against the public interest in access to judicial proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Tara R., E.G. v. SelectHealth, Inc., St. Luke's Health System, Ltd., St. Luke's Health System Employee Health Care Plan

TOPICS

pleadings medical records privacy hipaa civil procedure insurance

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiffs established exceptional circumstances warranting permission to proceed under pseudonyms.
2. Whether the privacy interests arising from E.G.'s status as a minor when the relevant events occurred, the sensitive medical information involved, and the risk that disclosure of Tara R.'s identity would reveal E.G.'s identity outweighed the public interest in disclosure.
3. Whether Plaintiffs should be required to disclose their full names to the court under seal.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiffs may proceed under pseudonyms because the case presents exceptional circumstances, including highly sensitive and personal medical information concerning E.G.'s mental-health treatment and events occurring while E.G. was a minor.
2. Plaintiffs must file a document containing their full names under seal, and that filing must remain sealed unless the court orders otherwise.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The court grants Plaintiffs’ motion to proceed under pseudonyms because this case implicates “exceptional circumstances” the Tenth Circuit and Rule 5.2 recognize as warranting anonymity.”

“In sum, the public interest in access to Plaintiffs’ identities appears relatively limited compared to the interest in protecting Plaintiffs’ identities and matters of a highly sensitive and personal nature.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action concerns Defendants' denial of insurance benefits for E.G.'s mental-health treatment at blueFire Wilderness Therapy. The pleadings and supporting evidence contain sensitive medical records concerning E.G.'s serious mental-health disorders, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts while E.G. was a minor. Plaintiffs' identities were already known to Defendants, who insured Plaintiffs and administered the relevant plan.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed suit using pseudonyms and moved for permission to proceed anonymously. The district court granted the motion and ordered Plaintiffs to file a sealed document containing their full names by April 24, 2026.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Nat'l Commodity & Barter Ass'n, Nat'l Commodity Exch. v. Gibbs, 886 F.2d 1240, 1245 (10th Cir. 1989)

- *Femedeer v. Haun*, 227 F.3d 1244, 1246 (10th Cir. 2000)
- *U.S. Dep't of Just. v. Utah Dep't of Com.*, No. 2:16-cv-00611-DN-DBP, 2017 WL 963203, at *1 (D. Utah Mar. 10, 2007)
- *Lindsey v. Dayton-Hudson Corp.*, 592 F.2d 1118, 1125 (10th Cir. 1979)
- *W.N.J. v. Yocom*, 257 F.3d 1171, 1172 (10th Cir. 2001)
- *N.E. v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of N.C.*, No. 1:21CV684, 2023 WL 2696834, at *15 (M.D.N.C. Feb. 24, 2023)
- *Doe v. USD No. 237*, No. 16-cv-2801-JWL-TJJ, 2017 WL 3839416, at *11 (D. Kan. Sept. 1, 2017)
- *S.E.S. v. Galena Unified Sch. Dist. No. 499*, No. 18-2042-DDC-GEB, 2018 WL 3389878, at *2 (D. Kan. July 12, 2018)

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