

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

**Frank Villaran; Frank Thomas Villaran; Erica Simental, individually
and as guardian ad litem for Plaintiff Minors E.V. and J.V.; Marisela
Simental, individually and as guardian ad litem for Plaintiff Minor
L.S. v. County of San Bernardino; Does 1 through 10**

Villaran v. County of San Bernardino · No. 5:25-cv-00979-KK-DTB · Decided September 23, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated protective order entered in Frank Villaran et al. v. County of San Bernardino, a civil action in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. It governs the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing under seal, and final disposition of confidential discovery materials, including peace officer personnel information and security-sensitive law-enforcement policies.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David T. Bristow
DECIDED	September 23, 2025
DOCKET	5:25-cv-00979-KK-DTB
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PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential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	Frank Villaran, Frank Thomas Villaran, Erica Simental, individually and as guardian ad litem for Plaintiff Minors E.V. and J.V., Marisela Simental, individually and as guardian ad litem for Plaintiff Minor L.S. v. County of San Bernardino, Does 1 through 10

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- attorney client privilege
- work product doctrine
- sanctions

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

discovery

evidence

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 the designation, disclosure, use, challenge, filing, return, or destruction of confidential discovery material.

HOLDINGS

1. Good cause existed under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) to enter a stipulated protective order covering qualifying confidential discovery material, including specified peace-officer personnel information and security-sensitive law-enforcement materials.
2. Protected material may be used only to prosecute, defend, or attempt to settle the action and may be disclosed only to authorized persons under the conditions specified in the order; confidentiality obligations continue after final disposition unless modified by the designating party or court.

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 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles." (at 1)

"Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited." (at 5)

"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." (at 7)

"Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue." (at 12)

"Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions." (at 15)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties anticipated discovery involving confidential or privileged information, including peace-officer personnel files, personal and medical information, employment and disciplinary records, complaints and investigations, and compelled officer statements. Discovery could also involve nonpublic sheriff's department policies, procedures, and logs whose disclosure could affect officer safety, security, or investigations. The parties represented that a protective order was needed to facilitate discovery while limiting disclosure and use of that material.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

This federal civil-rights action was pending in the Central District of California. The parties submitted a stipulated protective order concerning confidential, privileged, private, and security-sensitive discovery materials, including peace-officer personnel information and law-enforcement policies and logs. On September 23, 2025, the magistrate judge approved and entered the order.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Sanchez v. City of Santa Ana, 936 F.2d 1027, 1033 (9th Cir. 1990)
- Kerr v. United States District Court for the Northern District of California, 511 F.2d 192, 198 (9th Cir. 1975), aff'd, 426 U.S. 394 (1976)

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