

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

L.V.Q. v. The GEO Group, Inc.

No. 1:24-cv-0656-KES-CDB (E.D. Cal. Aug. 4, 2025) · No. 1:24-cv-0656-KES-CDB · Decided August 5, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted The GEO Group, Inc.’s unopposed request to seal unredacted documents filed in connection with its motion to appoint a guardian ad litem. The court ordered the declaration of defense counsel and attached exhibits to be sealed until further order, directed the Clerk to restrict access, and required Defendant to submit specified materials within five days.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	August 5, 2025
DOCKET	1:24-cv-0656-KES-CDB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered the defendant's unopposed request to seal unredacted documents inadvertently filed in connection with a motion to appoint a guardian ad litem.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the sealing factors identified in <i>Oregonian Publishing Co. v. U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon</i> , including whether sealing serves a compelling interest, whether that interest would be harmed absent closure, and whether less restrictive alternatives would adequately protect the interest.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

- guardianship procedure
- guardian ad litem
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- guardianship procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should seal the unredacted declaration and exhibits filed in connection with the defendant's motion to appoint a guardian ad litem.
2. Whether sealing was necessary because no less restrictive alternative would adequately protect the confidential or protected information.

HOLDINGS

1. The court held that sealing the unredacted declaration of defense counsel and Exhibits A and B attached to the motion to appoint a guardian ad litem was warranted because the documents contained sensitive information that should have been redacted under the court's prior protective order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court finds that, for the reasons stated in Defendant’s request and amended notice of errata, sealing the declaration of Defendant’s counsel and Exhibits A and B attached to Defendant’s motion to appoint guardian ad litem, documents of which contain sensitive information that should have been redacted pursuant to the Court’s order (see Doc. 6), serves a compelling interest.” (at 2)

“The Clerk of the Court is DIRECTED to lock and make inaccessible to all CM/ECF users the Declaration of Deann R. Rivard and attached exhibits (Doc. 39-1).” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The defendant inadvertently filed unredacted documents containing confidential or protected information in support of its motion to appoint a guardian ad litem. The documents consisted of defense counsel's declaration and two attached exhibits. The defendant represented that the information should have been redacted under the court's prior order allowing the plaintiff to proceed under a pseudonym and granting a protective order, and it submitted redacted versions of the affected materials.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The defendant filed documents supporting its motion to appoint a guardian ad litem, including a declaration and exhibits containing confidential or protected information. The defendant then requested that the unredacted documents be sealed and submitted redacted versions. The court granted the request and directed the Clerk to restrict access to the unredacted filings.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Oregonian Publ'g Co. v. U.S. Dist. Court for Dist. of Or., 920 F.2d 1462 (9th Cir. 1990)

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