

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

**Rodionova v. Qatar Airways Group (Q.C.S.C.)**

Rodionova · No. 25-cv-05838-TSH · Decided July 24, 2025

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SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of California denied Plaintiff Iana Rodionova’s motion to seal her in forma pauperis application. The court held that the application contained no information requiring redaction and that the plaintiff had not shown that sealing was warranted under Civil Local Rule 79-5.

OPINION

Rodionova v. Qatar Airways Group (Q.C.S.C.)

PER CURIAM.

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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

6 7 IANA RODIONOVA, Case No. 25-cv-05838-TSH 8 Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO SEAL

9 v. Re: Dkt. No. 6

10 QATAR AIRWAYS GROUP (Q.C.S.C.), et

al., 11 Defendants. 12 13 Plaintiff Iana Rodionova has filed a “Motion to Seal Application IFP,” which, given her 14 pro se status, the Court construes as a request to seal her in forma pauperis application (ECF No. 15 3) pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5.1 ECF No. 6. 16 “The public has a right of access to the Court’s files.” Civ. L.R. 79-5(a). Litigants must 17 “minimize the number of documents filed under seal” and “avoid wherever possible sealing entire 18 documents (as opposed to merely redacting the truly sensitive information in a document).” Id. 19 The party requesting sealing must provide “a specific statement of the applicable legal standard 20 21 1 Plaintiff and her husband, Sergey Firsov, have filed at least 22 cases in this District over the last four months. See Firsov v. Alaska Airlines, 5:25-cv-02841; Rodionova v. Qatar Airways Group 22 (Q.C.S.C.), 5:25-cv-02871; Firsov v. Frontier Airlines, Inc., 5:25-cv-02898; Rodionova et al v. Western Union Financial Services, Inc., 3:25-cv-03054; Firsov v. Skyscanner, Inc et al., 4:25-cv-23 03198; Firsov, minor, by & through parent Sergey Firsov v. Church of Scientology of Silicon Valley et al., 5:25-cv-03265; Firsov v. JetBlue Airways Corporation, 3:25-cv-03387; Firsov v. 24 Austrian Airlines AG, 5:25-cv-03504; Firsov v. Turkish Airlines, Inc., 3:25-cv-03689; Firsov v. Scandinavian Airlines of North America, Inc., 4:25-cv-03691; Firsov v. United Airlines, Inc et al.,

25 5:25-cv-03784; Firsov v. United Airlines, Inc. et al., 4:25-cv-03903; Rodionova v. Turkish  
Airlines, Inc. et al., 3:25-cv-03912; Firsov et al v. Air Canada, Inc., 3:25-cv-04058; Firsov et al v.  
26 Moneygram Payment Systems, Inc., 5:25-cv-04726; Firsov et al v. Western Union Financial  
Services, Inc., 5:25-cv-04727; Firsov et al v. Dandelion Payments, Inc., 5:25-cv-04765; Firsov v.  
27 JetBlue Airways Corporation, 3:25-cv-05240; Firsov et al v. Qatar Airways Group (Q.C.S.C.),  
1 and the reasons for keeping a document under seal.” Civ. L.R. 79-5(c)(1). This must include an  
2 || explanation of “(i) the legitimate private or public interests that warrant sealing; (11) the injury  
that 3 will result if sealing is denied; and (iii) why a less restrictive alternative to sealing is not 4 ||  
sufficient.” Id. 5 Here, none of the information in Plaintiffs application requires redaction, and  
financial 6 affidavits in support of applications to proceed in forma pauperis generally are not filed  
under seal. 7 || See Cooney v. California, 2013 WL 1748053, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 23, 2013)  
(“Plaintiffs IFP 8 application contains information no more private than any of the other IFP  
applications that are 9 || regularly publicly filed with this Court.”); Rodionova v. Qatar Airways  
Grp. (Q.C.S.C.), 2025 WL 10 1870775, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. June 16, 2025) (denying Rodionova’s  
motion to seal IFP application 11 that included the same financial information as in this case);  
Firsov v. Frontier Airlines, Inc., 2025 12 || WL 1533138, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. May 28, 2025) (denying  
Firsov’s motion to seal IFP application); 13 Firsov v. Skyscanner, Inc., 2025 WL 1900328, at \*2  
(N.D. Cal. June 27, 2025) (same). 14 || Accordingly, Plaintiff’s motion to seal is DENIED. 3 15 IT  
IS SO ORDERED. 17 Dated: July 24, 2025 18 LAA. Lj —  
THOMAS S. HIXSON  
19 United States Magistrate Judge 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28