

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF  
FLORIDA, ORLANDO DIVISION

**Zesty Paws LLC and Health and Happiness (H&H) US International  
Incorporated v. Nutramax Laboratories, Inc. and Nutramax  
Laboratories Veterinary Sciences, Inc.**

Zesty Paws · No. 6:24-cv-1788-CEM-LHP · Decided January 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The court denies Defendants’ unopposed motion to seal portions of their reply in support of summary judgment and an exhibit containing deposition testimony designated as confidential. The court holds that the parties failed to establish good cause under the applicable local rule and Eleventh Circuit access-to-court-records standards, and orders Defendants to file unredacted versions publicly within fifteen days.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Leslie Hoffman Price                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| DECIDED               | January 6, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DOCKET                | 6:24-cv-1788-CEM-LHP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Defendants moved under seal to file an unredacted reply in support of their motion for summary judgment and an exhibit containing deposition testimony. Plaintiffs filed a response stating that they supported the sealing request but would not file a supporting memorandum. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court applied the common-law presumption of public access to judicial records and balanced that interest against the asserted need for confidentiality under the good-cause standard.                                                                                       |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unpublished district court order; persuasive authority only                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## TOPICS

civil procedure summary judgment commercial litigation

## PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure commercial litigation

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Defendants established good cause under Local Rule 1.11 and the Eleventh Circuit's common-law public-access standard to seal portions of a summary-judgment reply and an exhibit containing allegedly confidential business information.

## HOLDINGS

1. A party seeking to seal judicial records connected to a motion for summary judgment must adequately demonstrate good cause and address the governing sealing requirements; merely designating materials as confidential is insufficient.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“The right of access creates a rebuttable presumption in favor of openness of court records”* (Order)

*“simply designating a document as confidential is insufficient to establish good cause for sealing”* (Order)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendants sought to seal an unredacted copy of their reply supporting summary judgment and Exhibit 19, which contained part of a deposition transcript designated confidential by Plaintiffs. Defendants provided no support beyond pointing to Plaintiffs' confidentiality designation, and Plaintiffs offered no substantive explanation for sealing the materials.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

During the underlying civil action, Defendants moved to seal portions of their summary-judgment reply and Exhibit 19. The district court denied the motion because Defendants relied only on confidentiality designations and did not establish good cause under Local Rule 1.11 and the Eleventh Circuit's public-access standard. The court ordered Defendants to file unredacted versions on the public docket after fifteen days.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- Chicago Tribune Co. v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., 263 F.3d 1304, 1311-12 (11th Cir. 2001)
- U.S. v. Rosenthal, 763 F.2d 1291 (11th Cir. 1985)

- Gubarev v. BuzzFeed, Inc., 365 F. Supp. 3d 1250, 1256 (S.D. Fla. 2019)
- Romero v. Drummond Co., Inc., 480 F.3d 1234, 1246 (11th Cir. 2007)
- Zap Aviation, LLC v. Nxt Jet, Inc., No. 6:23-cv-1149-RBD-LHP, 2025 WL 81342, at \*4-5 (M.D. Fla. Jan. 13, 2025)
- Newman v. Graddick, 696 F.2d 796, 803 (11th Cir. 1983)
- Regions Bank v. Kaplan, No. 8:16-cv-2867-T-23 AAS, 2017 WL 11025768, at \*2 (M.D. Fla. Dec. 11, 2017)

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