

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH,
NORTHERN DIVISION

RVLock & Co, LLC v. MNDZ, LLC and Nicholas Menendez

RVLock · No. 1:25-cv-00182 · Decided April 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Utah grants in part and denies in part RVLock & Co., LLC’s motions to seal portions of its complaint and amended complaint, and denies the defendants’ motion to seal an employment contract. The court permits sealing of paragraphs 64 and 65, which concern product, supplier, and business-plan information, while directing that contract-related information and the separately sealed contract be unsealed.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Utah, Northern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Daphne A. Oberg, United States Magistrate Judge
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Utah, Northern Division
DECIDED	April 27, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00182
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	In a trade-secret misappropriation action, the plaintiff moved to seal portions of its complaint and first amended complaint, and the defendants moved to seal an employment contract attached to their opposition.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the common-law presumption of public access to judicial records and required the party seeking restriction of access to show a significant countervailing interest that heavily outweighs the public interest in access.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; memorandum decision and order from a federal district court with no reporter citation.

TOPICS

- trade secrets
- misappropriation of trade secrets
- civil procedure
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether portions of the complaint and first amended complaint discussing a confidential employment contract should remain sealed.
2. Whether paragraphs 64 and 65 of the complaint and first amended complaint, concerning RVLock's product, supplier, and business plans, should be sealed.
3. Whether the employment contract attached to the defendants' opposition should be filed under seal.

HOLDINGS

1. The court denied RVLock's motions to seal the portions of the complaint and first amended complaint discussing the employment contract and denied the defendants' motion to seal the contract because RVLock abandoned its request to protect that information and confidentiality alone was insufficient.
2. The court granted RVLock's motions to seal paragraphs 64 and 65 because those limited portions appeared to disclose proprietary information concerning RVLock's product, supplier, and business plans, and RVLock demonstrated an interest sufficient to justify sealing them.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Courts have long recognized a common-law right of access to judicial records."

"The burden is on the party seeking to restrict access to show some significant interest that outweighs the presumption."

"documents containing sensitive, proprietary information concerning a party's business practices may properly be sealed"

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

RVLock alleged that paragraphs 15 through 23 of its pleadings discussed a confidential employment contract and that paragraphs 64 and 65 discussed a supplier, a product, and business plans. After the defendants argued that the employment contract was a standard document without sensitive information, RVLock abandoned its request to seal the contract-related information. RVLock maintained that disclosure of the supplier and business-plan information would affect its competitiveness.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

RVLock moved for leave to file its complaint and first amended complaint under seal. The defendants opposed and separately moved to seal the employment contract attached to their opposition. RVLock abandoned its request to seal contract-related information but continued to seek sealing of allegations concerning a supplier, product, and business plans. The court granted RVLock's motions in part and denied them in part, denied the defendants' motion, ordered limited redactions, and directed that docket entry 28 be unsealed.

DISPOSITION

CASES CITED

- Colony Ins. Co. v. Burke, 698 F.3d 1222, 1241 (10th Cir. 2012)
- Mann v. Boatright, 477 F.3d 1140, 1149 (10th Cir. 2007)
- Deherrera v. Decker Truck Line, Inc., 820 F.3d 1147, 1162 n.8 (10th Cir. 2016)
- Braun v. Medtronic Sofamor Danek, Inc., 719 F. App'x 782, 801 n.8 (10th Cir. 2017) (unpublished)
- Sacchi v. IHC Health Servs., Inc., 918 F.3d 1155, 1160 (10th Cir. 2019)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH NORTHERN DIVISION MEMORANDUM DECISION AND RYLOCK & CO, LLC, a Utah limited liability ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND company, DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFF'S MOTIONS TO SEAL Plaintiff, (DOC. NOS. 2 & 21) AND DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION v. TO SEAL (DOC. NO. 26) MNDZ, LLC, a Utah limited liability Case No. 1:25-cv-00182 company; and NICHOLAS MENENDEZ, an individual, District Judge Tena Campbell Defendants.

Magistrate Judge Daphne A. Oberg In this trade secret misappropriation action, the parties have filed various motions to seal.¹ RYLock & Co, LLC, has moved for leave to file its complaint and first amended complaint under seal, generally asserting certain paragraphs contain “information from a confidential employment contract as well as trade secret information.”² MNDZ, LLC, and Nicholas Menendez oppose, arguing the contract is a standard document with no 1 (Pl.'s Mot. for Leave to File [Compl.]

Under Seal 1, Doc. No. 2; Pl.'s Mot. for Leave to File [Am. Compl.] Under Seal 1, Doc. No. 21; Defs.' Mot. for Leave to File Under Seal Ex. A to Defs.' Opp'n to Mot. for Leave to File Under Seal, Doc. No. 26.) ² (Mot. for Leave to File [Compl.]

Under Seal 1, Doc. No. 2; Mot. for Leave to File [Am. Compl.] Under Seal 1, Doc. No. 21.) Both motions seek to seal the same paragraphs of each pleading. (See Sealed Compl. ¶¶ 15–23, Doc. No. 3 (discussing provisions of employment contract); Sealed Am. Compl. ¶¶ 15–23, Doc. No. 22 (same); see also Sealed Compl. ¶¶ 64–65, Doc. No. 3 (discussing transition document); Sealed Am.

Compl. ¶¶ 64–65, Doc. No. 22 (same).) sensitive information.³ The defendants attached a copy of the contract to their opposition, which they separately seek to seal solely because RYLock asserts it is confidential.⁴ In reply, RYLock abandons its request to seal information concerning the contract.⁵ But RYLock argues paragraphs 64 and 65 of its complaint and first amended complaint name a supplier and discuss business plans for a product, which is confidential and proprietary

information that would affect the company's competitiveness if disclosed.⁶ RVLock's motions are granted in part and denied in part, and the defendants' motion is denied. "Courts have long recognized a common-law right of access to judicial records."⁷ Indeed, the District of Utah's local rules provide that court records are "presumptively open to the public," and sealing of court records is "highly discouraged."⁸ But the right of public access is "not absolute."⁹ "[T]he presumption in favor of access to judicial records may be overcome where countervailing interests heavily outweigh the 3 (Opp'n to Mot. for Leave to File Under Seal (Opp'n) 2-3, Doc.

No. 25.) 4 (Defs.' Mot. for Leave to File Under Seal Ex. A to Opp'n, Doc. No. 26.) 5 (Reply in Supp. of Mot. for Leave to File Under Seal 3, Doc. No. 30 (explaining it sought to seal the portions discussing the contract "out of an abundance of caution" and, in light of the defendants' opposition, "is amenable to unsealing information concerning the contract").)

6 (See *id.* at 2-3.) 7 *Colony Ins. Co. v. Burke*, 698 F.3d 1222, 1241 (10th Cir. 2012) (quoting *Mann v. Boatright*, 477 F.3d 1140, 1149 (10th Cir. 2007)). 8 DUCivR 5-3(a)(1). 9 *Colony Ins. Co.*, 698 F.3d at 1241 (citation omitted). public interests in access."¹⁰ "The burden is on the party seeking to restrict access to show some significant interest that outweighs the presumption."¹¹ For example, documents containing sensitive, proprietary information concerning a party's business practices may properly be sealed,¹² whereas a mere "interest in preserving the confidentiality of [a] contract does not necessarily constitute a sufficiently substantial justification."¹³ Here, because RVLock no longer seeks to seal information concerning the contract, the defendants' motion to file the contract under seal and RVLock's motions to seal the paragraphs in its pleadings discussing the contract are denied.

But where paragraphs 64 and 65 of the complaint and first amended complaint appear to discuss RVLock's product, supplier, and business plans, RVLock has demonstrated an interest sufficient to justify sealing these limited portions of the pleadings.¹⁴ Accordingly, RVLock's motions are granted as to paragraphs 64 and 65. 10 *Id.* (internal quotation marks omitted).

11 *Id.* (internal quotation marks omitted). 12 See *Deherrera v. Decker Truck Line, Inc.*, 820 F.3d 1147, 1162 n.8 (10th Cir. 2016); *Braun v. Medtronic Sofamor Danek, Inc.*, 719 F. App'x 782, 801 n.8 (10th Cir. 2017) (unpublished). 13 *Sacchi v. IHC Health Servs., Inc.*, 918 F.3d 1155, 1160 (10th Cir. 2019). 14 This ruling may be revisited if, at a later stage in the case, it can be shown RVLock's continued interest in sealing the information no longer heavily outweighs the public's interest in access.

CONCLUSION RVLock's motions to seal[®] are granted in part and denied in part, the defendants' motion to seal[®] is denied. The court orders as follows: 1. Within seven days, RVLock must file new versions of the complaint and first amended complaint, redacting only the provisions identified in paragraphs 64 and 65.

The unredacted versions of these pleadings' shall remain sealed until otherwise ordered. 2. The document temporarily sealed'® in connection with the defendants' opposition brief shall be unsealed. Specifically, the clerk is directed to unseal the filing at docket number 28. DATED this 20th day of April, 2026. BY THE COURT: dapetcel. iesg— United States Magistrate Judge 1S (Doc.

Nos. 2 & 21.) '6 (Doc. No. 26.) 17 (Doc. Nos. 3 & 22.) (Doc. No. 28.)