

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Hunter Kerhart v. Memorial Health Services, et al.

Kerhart v. Memorial Health Services · No. 2:25-cv-05188-AJR · Decided November 14, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated protective order entered in Hunter Kerhart v. Memorial Health Services, et al., in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. It governs the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing, and final disposition of confidential discovery materials, including procedures for inadvertent disclosure and unauthorized use. The order was stipulated and signed by counsel on November 14, 2025, and ordered by Magistrate Judge A. Joel Rihlich on the same date.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	A. Joel Richlin
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	November 14, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-05188-AJR
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties stipulated to and petitioned the court to enter a protective order governing confidential discovery material in the pending federal action. The magistrate judge entered the stipulated protective order for good cause shown.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) for protection of confidential discovery material.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Hunter Kerhart v. Memorial Health Services, et al.

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- sanctions
- contempt
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether good cause existed under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) to enter a stipulated protective order governing confidential discovery material.
2. What procedures and restrictions should govern the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, sealing, and final disposition of protected discovery material.

HOLDINGS

1. For good cause shown, the court entered the parties' stipulated protective order to protect qualifying confidential, proprietary, commercial, financial, and private information produced or generated in discovery.
2. The protective order does not authorize blanket sealing. A party seeking to file protected material under seal must comply with Central District of California Local Rule 79-5 and obtain a court order authorizing sealing of the specific material.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“This Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.” (Order at 1)

“Once a case proceeds to trial, all of the court-filed information to be introduced that was previously designated as confidential or maintained pursuant to this protective order becomes public and will be presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of the trial.” (§ 4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties anticipated discovery involving customer and pricing lists and other commercial, financial, proprietary, and private information. They sought limits on public disclosure and use of such information outside the litigation. The court found good cause to enter the stipulated protective order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was pending in the Central District of California. The parties submitted a proposed stipulated protective order addressing the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing, and final disposition of confidential discovery materials, and the court approved and entered it on November 14, 2025.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir. 2006)

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