

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Estate of Damon Beitz v. Riverside Police Department

Estate of Beitz · No. 5:24-cv-02084-SSS-JPR · Decided April 2, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated protective order entered in a federal civil action involving claims by the Estate of Damon Beitz and Lisa Perry against Riverside-area public entities and individual defendants. It governs the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, handling, and final disposition of confidential discovery material. The order was signed by the parties and entered by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on April 2, 2025.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jean P. Rosenbluth
DECIDED	April 2, 2025
DOCKET	5:24-cv-02084-SSS-JPR
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties stipulated to entry of a protective order governing confidential discovery material in this pending civil-rights action. The magistrate judge approved and entered the stipulated protective order for good cause shown.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- sanctions
- section 1983
- police misconduct

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights
- discovery

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 should govern designation, challenge, use, disclosure, sealing, and disposition of protected discovery material.

HOLDINGS

1. For good cause shown, the court entered the parties' stipulated protective order governing confidential discovery material in the action.
2. The protective order does not itself authorize filing protected material under seal; a party seeking to file such material under seal must comply with Central District of California Local Rule 79-5 and obtain a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific material.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue.” (12.3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The litigation is expected to involve medical records, autopsy records, private third-party information, police reporting and investigative materials, internal police reviews, and peace-officer personnel records. The parties represented that these materials may contain confidential, proprietary, private, or privileged information warranting limited protection from public disclosure and use outside the litigation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs brought a federal civil-rights action against the Riverside Police Department, the City and County of Riverside, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and individual defendants. The parties submitted a stipulated protective order addressing designation, use, disclosure, challenge, sealing, and final disposition of confidential discovery material. On April 2, 2025, Magistrate Judge Jean P. Rosenbluth entered the order.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

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