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| STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY | IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICESUPERIOR COURT DIVISION\_\_\_ CVS \_\_\_\_\_ |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Plaintiff,v.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,  Defendant. | **ORDER ON MOTION TO SEAL** |

1. THIS MATTER is before the Court on Defendant’s Motion for Leave to File Under Seal (the “Motion”), filed on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.
2. The Motion requests that [DESCRIBE DOCUMENT PROVISIONALLY FILED UNDER SEAL] be allowed to remain under seal. The Motion represents that the documents in question contain information designated as confidential pursuant to the Protective Order entered in this action [IF APPLICABLE]. Furthermore, the Motion represents that Plaintiff and all other affected parties and non-parties to this action consent to the relief requested.
3. Plaintiff filed redacted versions of the documents sought to be filed under seal on the public record on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.
4. Documents filed in the courts of this State are “open to the inspection of the public,” except as prohibited by law. N.C.G.S. § 7A-109(a); *Virmani v. Presbyterian Health Servs. Corp.*, 350 N.C. 449, 463, 515 S.E.2d 675, 685 (1999). Nevertheless, “the trial court may limit [the public’s right to access to civil court proceedings and records] when there is a compelling countervailing public interest and . . . sealing of documents is required to protect such countervailing public interest.” *Doe v. Doe*, 823 S.E.2d 583, 591 (N.C. Ct. App. 2018) (quoting *Virmani*, 350 N.C. at 476, 515 S.E.2d at 693). Such limitations should be applied only when they are “required in the interest of the proper and fair administration of justice[.]” *Virmani*, 350 N.C. at 463, 515 S.E.2d at 685.
5. The party seeking to maintain materials under seal bears the burden of establishing the need for filing under seal and redactions of information sought to be sealed by a party should be as limited as practicable. “The determination of whether [documents] should be filed under seal is within the discretion of the trial court.” *Taylor v. Fernandes*, 2018 NCBC LEXIS 4, at \*4 (N.C. Super. Ct. Jan. 18, 2018) (citing *In re Investigation into Death of Cooper*, 200 N.C. App. 180, 186, 683 S.E.2d 418, 423 (2009)).
6. The Court has reviewed the documents in question and has compared these documents with the public, redacted versions thereof where applicable. The Court concludes that the redactions in the public versions of these documents are as limited as practicable and do not burden the public’s right to access records of this Court. The Court further concludes that the information redacted from the public versions of these documents is properly redacted and protected from public view because the information protected from public view is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Accordingly, these documents shall remain under seal indefinitely pending further order of the Court.
7. THEREFORE, the Court hereby ORDERS as follows:
	1. The Motion is GRANTED.
	2. The documents filed provisionally under seal by Defendant shall remain under seal indefinitely pending further order of the Court.

SO ORDERED, this the \_\_\_\_th day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

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|  | Superior Court Judge Presiding |
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