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WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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**NOTICE TO THE BAR AND PUBLIC  
MODIFIED FILING PROCEDURES ADDRESS SECURITY CONCERNS  
January 20, 2021**

The United States District Court for the Western District of New York is responding to the recent disclosure of wide-spread cybersecurity breaches of government computer systems with new security procedures to protect highly sensitive confidential documents.

While it is not known if this breach has affected the Western District directly, these new procedures are intended to protect the security of certain highly confidential sealed filings maintained in the Court's electronic files in CM/ECF.

The Court issued a General Order on January 11, 2021, describing the types of documents considered Highly Sensitive Documents, and describing the process for filing such documents with the Court. HSDs comprise a limited group of documents that contain highly sensitive criminal or commercial information. The General Order issued on January 20, 2021 supersedes the January 11, 2021 General Order.

As explained in the General Order, certain documents in criminal cases are considered Authorized HSDs and a party seeking to file such a document shall manually file the document without making a motion to treat the document as an HSD.

If a document is not an Authorized HSD, but a party believes that it contains highly sensitive information and therefore believes it should be treated as an HSD, the party shall file a motion requesting that the document be treated as an HSD and that it be filed manually.

Questions may be directed to the Clerk's Office by telephone at 716-551-1700 (Buffalo) or 585-613-4000 (Rochester).

Mary C. Loewenguth, Clerk of Court