

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING

**ADOPTION: OF LOCAL RULE 5.3 and
DELETION OF LOCAL RULE 10.1
Effective Immediately (May 6, 2003)**

In light of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-347) and the advent of electronic filing, the Judges of the United States District Court have determined to strike Local Rule 10.1 and adopt a new Local Rule 5.3 effective May 6, 2003, to address privacy concerns. The court has determined pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071(e) that there is an immediate need for these amendments to the Local Rules. Those wishing to comment on the adoption of Local Rule 5.3 may do so in writing. All comments must be received on or before June 30, 2003 and should be addressed to:

Hon. Douglas P. Woodlock
Chairman, Rules Committee
c/o Helen M. Costello, Projects Manager
United States District Court
United States Courthouse - Suite 2300
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

/s/
Tony Anastas
Clerk of Court

Date: May 6, 2003

5.3 PERSONAL DATA IDENTIFIERS

(A) Restrictions on Personal Identifiers in Filings

In compliance with the policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and the E-Government Act of 2002, and in order to promote electronic access to case files while also protecting personal privacy and other legitimate interests, parties shall refrain from including, or shall partially redact where inclusion is necessary, the following personal data identifiers from all filings submitted to the court, including exhibits thereto, whether filed electronically or in paper, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

(1) *Social Security numbers.* If an individual's social security number must be included in a filing, only the last four digits of that number should be used.

(2) *Names of minor children.* If the involvement of a minor child must be mentioned, only the initials of that child should be used.

(3) *Dates of birth.* If an individual's date of birth must be included in a pleading, only the year should be used.

(4) *Financial account numbers.* If financial account numbers are relevant, only the last four digits of these numbers should be used.

(B) Non-Redacted Filings under Seal

In compliance with the E-Government Act of 2002, a party wishing to file a document containing the personal data identifiers listed above may file an unredacted document under seal, pursuant to Local Rule 7.2. This document shall be retained by the court as part of the record. The court may, however, still require the party to file a redacted copy for the public file.

(C) Responsibility for Redaction

The responsibility for redacting these personal identifiers rests solely with counsel and the parties. The Clerk will not review each pleading for compliance with this rule.

~~10.1 SOCIAL SECURITY APPEALS~~

~~In all appeals from the denial of Social Security benefits, the appellant's social security number shall be inscribed in the caption of the complaint.~~