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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
CLEVELAND

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2006- 24

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**


ORDER RESTRICTING INTERNET)
ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS) ORDER NO. 2006- 24
IN E.R.I.S.A. CASES)
)

At the regular meeting of judges conducted on October 10, 2006, the Court agreed that Internet access to the individual documents in Employee Retirement Income Security Act (E.R.I.S.A.) cases will be limited to counsel of record and Court staff only. While the Court is limiting Internet access to individual documents in these cases, it will continue to provide access to the documents upon request at its Court Houses, just as it has in the past. In addition, the docket sheets for E.R.I.S.A. cases will continue to be available to the public online. A Docket sheet contains a listing of the documents filed in a case along with a brief description of each document.

This action is adopted in recognition of the fact that individual documents in E.R.I.S.A. cases typically contain social security numbers, financial account numbers, medical records and other sensitive information that require unique handling in order to protect the privacy rights of individuals. This action is consistent with the manner in which the Court has provided access to documents in Social Security Cases since October, 1999 (see General Orders 99-55 and 2000-48 which designated social security cases for electronic filing). The Court is sensitive to the fact that there is a vast difference between making the documents in such cases available to anonymous individuals over the Internet versus providing access to specific case files to individuals at the Court House.

The Court believes that in taking this action it is adopting the best option currently available to protect individuals from identity theft and other forms of online abuse while continuing to provide the public with access to Court records.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

For the Court

James G. Carr
Chief Judge
United States District Court