

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil No. 09-cv-01869-MSK-BNB

JESUS VARGAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the Unopposed Motion for Stipulated Protective Order. [Docket No. 28.]

Plaintiff's First Set of Request for Documents pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 34, requests that Defendant produce documents that are protected from disclosure pursuant to the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1320d et seq., including employment records, medical records, alcohol and drug tests, social security numbers, and records of persons not parties to this civil action. In response, the Defendant objected to disclosing the documents, asserting that disclosure of the records without a court order could be a violation of the Privacy Act and/or and the Health

Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. In addition, future discovery may request the production of medical records related to Plaintiff and to other persons not parties to this civil action.

In an effort to resolve this discovery dispute, the parties have submitted this Stipulated Protective Order, pursuant *Gillard v. Boulder Valley School District RE-2*, 196 F.R.D. 382 (D. Colo. 2000).

The Court having considered this matter finds that the requested discovery and future discovery could lead to the discovery of admissible evidence and that there is good cause shown for the entry of the Stipulated Protective Order to protect the discovery and dissemination of confidential information or information which will improperly annoy, embarrass, or oppress any party, witness, or person providing discovery in this case, therefor it is hereby ORDERED:

1. This Protective Order shall apply to all documents, materials, and information, including without limitation, documents produced, answers to interrogatories, responses to requests for admission, deposition testimony, and other information disclosed pursuant to the disclosure or discovery duties created by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

2. As used in this Protective Order, "document" is defined as provided in Fed.R.Civ.P. 34(a). A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within

the meaning of this term.

3. Information designated “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be information that is confidential and implicates common law and statutory privacy interests of (a) current or former employees of the United States Postal Service, (b) Plaintiff, and (c) persons not parties to this civil action. CONFIDENTIAL information shall not be disclosed or used for any purpose except the preparation and trial of this case.

4. CONFIDENTIAL documents, materials, and/or information (collectively “CONFIDENTIAL information”) shall not, without the consent of the party producing it or further Order of the Court, be disclosed except that such information may be disclosed to:

- (a) attorneys actively working on this case;
- (b) persons regularly employed or associated with the attorneys actively working on the case whose assistance is required by said attorneys in the preparation for trial, at trial, or at other proceedings in this case;
- (c) the parties;
- (d) expert witnesses and consultants retained in connection with this proceeding, to the extent such disclosure is necessary for preparation, trial or other proceedings in this case;

- (e) the Court and its employees (“Court Personnel”);
- (f) stenographic reporters who are engaged in proceedings necessarily incident to the conduct of this action;
- (g) deponents, witnesses, or potential witnesses; and
- (h) other persons by written agreement of the parties.

5. Prior to disclosing any CONFIDENTIAL information to any person listed above (other than counsel, persons employed by counsel, Court Personnel and stenographic reporters), counsel shall provide such person with a copy of this Protective Order and obtain from such person a written acknowledgment stating that he or she has read this Protective Order and agrees to be bound by its provisions. All such acknowledgments shall be retained by counsel and shall be subject to in camera review by the Court if good cause for review is demonstrated by opposing counsel.

6. Documents are designated as CONFIDENTIAL by placing or affixing on them (in a manner that will not interfere with their legibility) the following or other appropriate notice: “CONFIDENTIAL.”

7. Whenever a deposition involves the disclosure of CONFIDENTIAL information, the deposition or portions thereof shall be designated as CONFIDENTIAL and shall be subject to the provisions of this Protective Order. Such designation shall be made on the record during the deposition whenever

possible, but a party may designate portions of depositions as CONFIDENTIAL after transcription, provided written notice of the designation is promptly given to all counsel of record within thirty (30) days after notice by the court reporter of the completion of the transcript.

8. A party may object to the designation of particular CONFIDENTIAL information by giving written notice to the party designating the disputed information. The written notice shall identify the information to which the objection is made. If the parties cannot resolve the objection within ten (10) business days after the time the notice is received, it shall be the obligation of the party designating the information as CONFIDENTIAL to file an appropriate motion requesting that the Court determine whether the disputed information should be subject to the terms of this Protective Order. If such a motion is timely filed, the disputed information shall be treated as CONFIDENTIAL under the terms of this Protective Order until the Court rules on the motion. If the designating party fails to file such a motion within the prescribed time, the disputed information shall lose its designation as CONFIDENTIAL and shall not thereafter be treated as CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with this Protective Order. In connection with a motion filed under this provision, the party designating the information as CONFIDENTIAL shall bear the burden of establishing that good cause exists for the disputed information to be treated as

CONFIDENTIAL.

9. At the conclusion of this case, unless other arrangements are agreed upon, each document and all copies thereof which have been designated as CONFIDENTIAL shall be returned to the party that designated it CONFIDENTIAL, or the parties may elect to destroy CONFIDENTIAL documents. Where the parties agree to destroy CONFIDENTIAL documents, the destroying party shall provide all parties with an affidavit confirming the destruction.

10. This Protective Order may be modified by the Court at any time for good cause shown following notice to all parties and an opportunity for them to be heard.

DATED March 3, 2010, at Denver, Colorado.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Boyd N. Boland
United States Magistrate Judge

The parties, by their respective attorneys, agree and stipulate to the entry of this PROTECTIVE ORDER.

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