

notwithstanding, the court cannot ignore the presumption in favor of public access. *Ashcraft*, 218 F.3d at 302. Accordingly, in order to seal documents, the court must: “(1) provide public notice of the request to seal and allow interested parties a reasonable opportunity to object, (2) consider less drastic alternatives to sealing the documents, and (3) provide specific reasons and factual findings supporting its decision to seal the documents and for rejecting the alternatives.” *Id.*

The public-notice requirement has been satisfied by Defendant’s electronic filing of the motion to seal, which includes a non-confidential description of the documents it seeks to have filed under seal. ECF No. 27; 27-1. *See* Local Civ. Rule 5.03(D) (requiring provision of public notice of the motion to seal and finding the docketing of such a motion to satisfy that requirement). Defendant filed the Motion on August 8, 2014, and no one, including Plaintiff, has opposed Defendant’s Motion to Seal.

Regarding the remaining requirements, the court has reviewed the documents Defendant seeks to seal and finds that it is appropriate to grant Defendant’s Motion. In conducting its review, the court considered less-drastric alternatives to sealing Defendant’s Reply and Exhibits E and F to Defendant’s Reply but finds no reasonable less-drastric alternative available. The documents sought to be filed under seal contain or consist of confidential medical information and an affidavit concerning medical information about an individual and the individual’s family. The court has independently reviewed the documents in camera and concludes that the documents do not lend themselves to selective redaction.

The court, therefore, grants Defendant’s Motion to Seal, ECF No. 27, and Defendant’s Reply and Exhibits E and F to the Reply to Defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment, ECF No. 21, are to be filed under seal.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

September 11, 2014
Florence, South Carolina

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kaymani D. West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Kaymani D. West
United States Magistrate Judge