

1
2
3
4
5
6
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 ROMERO HEAD, as the court-appointed
11 Personal Representative of the Estate of
12 ROMEO A. HEAD,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 DISTTECH, LLC, *et al.*,

16 Defendants.

CASE NO. C16-1727 RSM

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
UNOPPOSED MOTION TO
REDACT AND ORDER TO FILE
UNDER SEAL

17 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion to Redact Certain
18 Information from Pleadings Re: Minor Settlement. Dkts. #108. Plaintiff requests that the
19 Court "allow for counsel and the court-appointed Guardian ad Litem ("GAL") to file
20 pleadings with respect to approval of the agreed settlement and proposed disbursements with
21 the settlement amount and disbursement amounts to be redacted." *Id.* at 1. Plaintiff cites no
22 legal authority for his request, arguing only that "the strong presumption of public access to
23 court files, is outweighed by the privacy interests of the surviving children." *Id.* at 2. This
24 motion is not opposed by Defendants.

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPOSED MOTION TO REDACT AND ORDER TO
FILE UNDER SEAL - 1

1 The Court agrees with Plaintiff that privacy concerns warrant the filing of the
2 unredacted GAL reports under seal, along with unsealed versions with the settlement amount
3 and disbursement amounts redacted. Although it is unclear if this is exactly what Plaintiff was
4 requesting, pursuant to LCR 17(c), the GALs are investigating the adequacy of the offered
5 settlement and preparing reports to the Court on that subject. The Court cannot properly review
6 these reports without being privy to the settlement amounts. Plaintiff cites no authority to deny
7 the Court that information. Accordingly, the GALs must file both sealed and redacted versions
8 of their reports.

9 Having reviewed the relevant briefing and the remainder of the record, the Court hereby
10 finds and ORDERS that Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion to Redact Certain Information from
11 Pleadings Re: Minor Settlement, Dkts. #108, is GRANTED. Counsel for the parties and the
12 court-appointed GALs may file pleadings with the settlement amount and the proposed
13 disbursement amounts redacted, and are ORDERED to file sealed versions.

14
15 DATED this 16 day of April, 2018.

16
17 

18 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
19 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
20
21
22
23
24