

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

GENERAL ORDER #4

In the Matter of Processing the
Statement of Reasons and Related
Court Documents

At its March 2001 session, the Judicial Conference of the United States approved a policy change restricting from routine public disclosure the Statement of Reasons form attached to the Judgment in a Criminal Case. The Judgment is a public document; however, information contained in the Statement of Reasons attachment includes sensitive information, such as the defendant's address and social security number, and may include cooperating witness information, and other references indicating that a defendant has provided substantial assistance to the government. Recognizing this, the Judicial Conference agreed to place reasonable restrictions on the public access to the Statement of Reasons form attached to the Judgment in a Criminal Case, in order to better protect the safety of defendants and others, such as family members of the defendants.

It is Resolved that: the Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, determining that there is an immediate need to address safety problems engendered by the filing of other court documents that are directly related to the sensitive information contained within the Statement of Reasons, shall determine what other documents shall be lodged and appended to the Statement of Reasons document. Such other documents shall be available for review by the Court of Appeals, Counsel for the Government and Defendant, Probation, and the United States Sentencing Commission.

It is So Ordered this 14th day of September, 2012
At Cooperstown, New York.



Gary L. Sharpe
Chief Judge
U.S. District Court