

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
Washington Unit
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www.vermontjudiciary.org



CIVIL DIVISION
Case No. 24-CV-04273

Juliet Stephens v. Shannon Gilmour

ENTRY REGARDING MOTION

Title: Motion to Seal and Redact Minor Child's Information (Motion: 35)
Filer: Shannon Gilmour
Filed Date: June 19, 2026

The motion is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART.

Defendant Gilmour has filed a motion seeking to redact or seal portions of the appeal volumes prepared for her appeal from an October 2025 jury trial. Ms. Gilmour has partially identified pages that she claims either contain sensitive information or the full name of her daughter M.G.

As the Court has indicated in prior rulings, it will not extend the redaction to exhibits where M.G.'s name is mentioned in passing. As noted in the Court's April 9, 2026 Order, the mere reference in passing to M.G. in a document, such as a lease document, is not cause, in and of itself, to redact or seal the document. Defendant's repeated reliance on 33 V.S.A. § 5117 is inapposite as that statute controls juvenile proceedings, not civil proceedings where the mention of a minor's name is not restricted in the same way. As noted before, the Court understands the purpose of the prior redacting orders to be primarily an effort to remove M.G.'s name from the action and inure her from any negative implications that might follow a party to an eviction. Additionally, the Court has granted this Order to restore some semblance of privacy to a minor that does not appear to have wanted to be made a part of this action.

Nevertheless, the Court did not intend and will not interpret its earlier rulings to create a hermetic seal around M.G. in this action, particularly with pre-existing documents, such as the lease, where her name is limited and buried in the details. To the extent that Defendant seeks additional redactions beyond the Court's prior rulings, particularly concerning the lease and other exhibits that may mention M.G.'s name in passing, the motion is **Denied**.

Defendant also seeks to have the Court remove what she has identified as 139 instances where M.G.'s name is referenced throughout the 1081 pages of the appellate record. With three

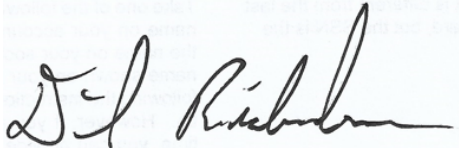
exceptions, Defendant does not identify any specific pages where these references appear. As the Court has indicated in prior orders, it is not the role of the Court to police the record. Nevertheless, the Court has reviewed the three Appeal Volumes and has found two docketing statements that contain M.G.'s unredacted name as was recorded in the court's docketing system. These instances should be redacted, and they are limited to the following pages: Appeal Volume 1, pages 12–40; and Appeal Volume 2: pages 108–122. The Court Clerk will redact M.G.'s name from these pages. In this respect, Defendant's motion is **Granted**.

As to the pages cited by Defendant, pages, 74 and 477 in Volume 2 and pages, 3,4, 42, 43, and 78 in Volume 3, the Court found either no reference to M.G. on either page cited or on the immediately preceding or succeeding pages, or evidence that the redaction was already in place. For these reasons, the Court finds no evidence that M.G.'s name is widely contained in the appeal volumes, and the remaining request for relief on this portion of Defendant's motion is **Denied**.

Finally, Defendant has identified approximately 14 pages of Appeal Volume 2 that contain exhibits with personal photographs, drawings, and school records related to M.G. While Defendant filed these documents with the Court, they were never admitted and were not generally made public. As such, the Court finds good cause to seal these 12 pages for the reasons articulated above, to allow a minor and a non-party protect some of her privacy. The problem with the pages cited by Defendant Gilmour, however, is that they do not line up with the pagination of the volume. Therefore, the Court will **Grant** this portion of Defendant's motion and seal the following pages: Appeal Volume 2: pages 103, 104, 245, 248–53, 269–72, 289. The Court Clerk shall prepare a sealed version of this record, but the unsealed version shall remain available to the parties.

The remainder of Defendant's motion is **Denied** as it goes beyond the Court's prior orders. **So Ordered**.

Electronically signed on 7/3/2026 1:25 AM pursuant to V.R.E.F. 9(d)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Richardson", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Daniel Richardson
Superior Court Judge