

Notice and Warning
Sanctions for Including Social Security and Financial Account Information in Filed Documents

Effective January 1, 2008, rule 1.20 of the California Rules of Court, which is applicable to all documents filed in all civil and criminal proceedings unless otherwise required by law, provides that parties and their attorneys must not include, or must redact where inclusion is necessary, social security numbers and financial account numbers, except for the last four digits of these numbers, from any document filed with the court other than under seal. Rule 1.20 provides that the responsibility for excluding or redacting identifiers from all documents filed with the court “rests solely with the parties and their attorneys. The court clerk will not review each pleading or other paper for compliance with this provision.” (Calif. Rules of Court, rule 1.20(b)(3)).

In addition to any other sanctions permitted by law, the court may order any person, after written notice and an opportunity to be heard, to pay reasonable monetary sanctions to the court or an aggrieved person, or both, for failure without good cause to comply with this requirement. See rule 2.30(b) of the California Rules of Court.