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| DISTRICT COURT, OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO                     |  | DATE FILED<br>March 11, 2026 8:02 AM<br>CASE NUMBER: 2025CV30009                              |
| Court Address:<br>541 4TH ST, PO BOX 643, OURAY, CO, 81427 |  |   |
| Plaintiff(s) A.C.  |  | △ COURT USE ONLY △<br>Case Number: 2025CV30009<br>Division: 4                      Courtroom: |
| v.   |  |   |
| Defendant(s) JEFFREY WOOD et al.                           |  |   |
| <b>Order on Motion to Intervene and Vacate Order</b>       |  |   |

This matter is before the Court on Intervenor Ouray County Plaindealer's Motion to Intervene and Vacate Order, filed August 4, 2025. For the following reasons, the Motion is granted.

The Motion is primarily opposed by the Plaintiff. With the Complaint and before service, the Plaintiff filed a motion to restrict public access to this file, and the Court granted that request with a finding that the "sensitivity of the subject-matter of this case, combined with the prior alleged harassment of Plaintiff by virtue of her position as a victim and witness to the alleged assault, weigh in favor of restricting public access to these proceedings until further order of the court." To be very clear, the basis for that order was that the Plaintiff is a victim of a sexual assault and had alleged to have been publicly harassed as a result of reporting that assault.

Consistent with CRCP 121, the Court heard the Motion and the parties presented oral argument.

CRCP 121 does not provide much guidance on a standard to apply to the Intervenor's Motion. It reads only that "[u]pon notice to all parties of record, and after hearing, an order limiting access may be reviewed by the court at any time on its own motion or upon the motion of any person." C.R.C.P. 121 Â§ 1-5(4).

Generally, there is a "presumption" that court records should be open to the public. *Anderson v. Home Ins. Co.*, 924 P.2d 1123, 1126 (Colo. App. 1996). "A claim that a court file contains extremely personal, private, and confidential matters is generally insufficient to constitute a privacy interest warranting the sealing of the file." *Doe v. Heitler*, 26 P.3d 539, 544 (Colo. App. 2001).

It is undisputed that some details concerning the underlying sexual assault alleged in this case have been publicly reported. As well, the related criminal cases are currently set for trial or settlement conference, including those cases involving alleged third-party harassment of the victim.

It is also undisputed that some access to the court file does not implicate the Plaintiff's privacy or security, such as the register of actions. In addition, the Plaintiff concedes that there is likely to be less of a privacy implication as the criminal cases proceed with their open, public trials.

After review, the Court concludes that the victim's need for heightened security has abated since the filing of the original motion and complaint. This is so because details of the underlying assault have been continuously publicly reported. As well, the only incident of alleged harassment is being prosecuted and no other incidents of harassment have been reported or disclosed.

While the Plaintiff argues that harassment might increase as the criminal cases get closer to trial and if this court file becomes public, it is not clear why. It does not appear that harassment has increased while reporting on the criminal cases has progressed, and so it follows that it may not increase if reporting on this case progresses as well.

The victim's privacy and right to remain free of harassment or intimidation remain critical interests. But at this point, those interests do not outweigh or overcome the presumption in favor of open proceedings.

For these reasons, the Motion to Intervene for the purpose of prosecuting the instant motion is granted, and the request to vacate the order limiting public access to the file is granted as well.

Issue Date: 3/11/2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cory Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. CORY JACKSON  
District Court Judge