UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-109

***IN RE*:**

EXEMPTION OF FEES TO ACCESS PACER FOR KAYHAN SHARIFZADA
_____/

FILED BY NC D.C.
Nov 23, 2026
ANGELA E. NOBLE
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S. D. OF FLA. - WPB

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida maintains case information online with the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) website. The Court encourages the public's use of the database, continues to promote public access, and avoids unreasonable burdens on both users and court staff in retrieving data.

Kayhan Sharifzada is an individual non-party investor in a public limited company involved in litigation before this Court. He requests an exemption of PACER fees associated with access to court records pertaining to that company. For the following reasons, Mr. Sharifzada's request is denied.

PACER allows internet users to obtain case docket information and federal court documents electronically for a fee. *See* S.D. Fla. CM/ECF Admin. Procs. § 1A. The Judicial Conference's published Electronic Public Access Fee Schedule ("Fee Schedule") provides significant free access to members of the public who are not parties to a case. *See Electronic Public Access Fee Schedule*, https://www.uscourts.gov/court-programs/fees/electronic-public-access-fee-schedule. Non-parties may view judicial opinions free of charge through PACER and may inspect electronic court records at no cost using the public access terminals located in the Clerk's Office in any division of the Southern District of Florida. If a non-party chooses to access other court records remotely through PACER, fees are assessed at $0.10 per page, capped at $3.00 per document, and the first $30.00 of PACER usage in any quarterly billing cycle are automatically

waived. *See id.*; PACER Pricing FAQs, https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/faqs/pricing.

Additional exemptions may be granted to a non-party who: (1) falls within a class of users eligible for an exemption, which includes indigents, bankruptcy case trustees, pro bono attorneys, pro bono alternative dispute resolution neutrals, Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations, and individual researchers associated with educational institutions; and (2) demonstrates "that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information". *Fee Schedule, supra.* Consistent with Judicial Conference policy, the Southern District of Florida grants discretionary non-party exemptions only for a defined, non-commercial purpose and for a limited period, and only where the requester establishes eligibility within one of the enumerated classes. *See, e.g.*, S.D. Fla. Admin. Order 2026-108 (Nov. 13, 2026).

Mr. Sharifzada, who is not a party to any action, asserts that he is in a difficult financial situation and is unable to afford the ongoing costs of accessing court records. But Mr. Sharifzada has neither established membership in an eligible class of users under the Fee Schedule nor demonstrated that he has exceeded, or will inevitably exceed, the $30.00 quarterly automatic waiver. And Mr. Sharifzada offers no particularized explanation as to why free access to judicial opinions, the $30.00 quarterly waiver, and the free public access terminals in the Clerk's Office are insufficient to meet his needs without imposing an unreasonable burden.

Finally, Mr. Sharifzada claims he needs the exemption to stay informed about decisions that may affect his and other shareholders' interests in their investments. That argument fails on multiple grounds. To the extent Mr. Sharifzada seeks to monitor the Court's rulings, judicial opinions are already available on PACER free of charge to all users, eliminating any need for a discretionary exemption. And tracking litigation to safeguard personal or shareholder investment interests serves a private financial interest rather than the broad, non-commercial public access

contemplated by the Fee Schedule. Therefore, it is

ORDERED that Mr. Sharifzada's request for an exemption of PACER fees is **DENIED**.

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 23rd day of November, 2026.

CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

cc: Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator · Clerk of Court
Todd McGhie, Chief Deputy Clerk · Administration
PACER Service Center
Michelle Gardner, Attorney Advisor, Multi-Court Exemptions, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts