

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: :
: **PLEA AGREEMENT PROCEDURE** : **STANDING ORDER NO. 17-11**
:

WHEREAS, the Board of Judges of the Middle District of Pennsylvania has considered the public's right to access court documents, and has balanced that right with the need to protect the safety of criminal defendants and federal inmates, whether they may or may not have cooperated, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. In every criminal case resolved by plea agreement, in addition to a written Plea Agreement, the Government shall file a separate Plea Agreement Addendum, which shall state whether or not the Defendant has or has not cooperated. Every Plea Agreement Addendum shall be filed under seal.

2. Every Sentencing Memorandum shall have attached to it a Sentencing Addendum, indicating whether or not the Defendant has cooperated, along with any supporting information or documentation. Every Sentencing Addendum shall be filed under seal.

3. The transcript of every plea of guilty and every sentencing hearing shall include a notation of a bench conference concerning whether the Defendant has or has not cooperated. A transcript memorializing the bench conference shall be separately prepared, and shall be filed separately under seal.

4. Every Plea Agreement Addendum, Sentencing Addendum, and transcript filed under seal pursuant to this Order shall thereafter remain under seal, and shall not be accessible to case participants or others through CM/ECF.

5. Counsel are personally responsible for providing Plea Agreement Addenda and Sentencing Memorandum Addenda to opposing counsel prior to the date for entry of a guilty plea or sentencing.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of November, 2017



Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge