

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

MALIBU MEDIA, LLC,
Plaintiff,

v.

**JOHN DOE subscriber assigned IP
address 32.210.49.237,**
Defendant.

No. 3:18-cv-01037 (VLB)

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO SERVE
THIRD PARTY SUBPOENA PRIOR TO A RULE 26(f) CONFERENCE**

Plaintiff Malibu Media LLC alleges that defendant John Doe, identified only by his IP address, committed copyright infringement by distributing plaintiff's adult films using BitTorrent, a peer-to-peer file distribution network. Dkt. No. 1. Plaintiff moves pursuant to Fed R. Civ. P. 26(d)(1) for leave to serve a third-party subpoena on defendant's internet service provider ("ISP") for the limited purpose of discovering defendant's identity; only with defendant's identity will plaintiff be able to serve defendant with process and proceed with the case. Dkt. No. 9-2, at 13. For substantially the reasons set forth in plaintiff's motion and supporting documents, I will GRANT the motion, having concluded that plaintiff has established good cause for entry of this order.

Plaintiff acknowledges the concerns raised by many courts around the nation that, given the nature of the films allegedly distributed by defendants, defendants may feel coerced to settle these suits merely to prevent public

disclosure of defendants' identifying information.¹ See, e.g., *Malibu Media, LLC v. Doe*, 2015 WL 4092417 (S.D.N.Y.); *Malibu Media, LLC v. Doe*, 2015 WL 1780965 (S.D.N.Y.); *Malibu Media, LLC v. Doe*, 2015 WL 4923114 (S.D.N.Y.). I share these concerns. This order is therefore subject to the following conditions and limitations:

1. Plaintiff may subpoena defendant's ISP only to obtain defendant's name and address, but not defendant's e-mail or telephone number. Plaintiff may only use defendant's name and address, if obtained by defendant's ISP, for the purposes of this litigation; plaintiff is ordered not to disclose defendant's name or address, or any other identifying information other than defendant's ISP number, that plaintiff may subsequently learn. Plaintiff shall not threaten to disclose any of defendant's identifying information. Defendant will be permitted to litigate this case anonymously unless and until this Court orders otherwise and only after defendant has had an opportunity to challenge the disclosure. Therefore, plaintiff is ordered not to publicly file any of defendant's identifying information and to file all documents containing defendant's identifying information under seal.
2. Plaintiff may immediately serve a Rule 45 subpoena on defendant's ISP to obtain defendant's name and current and permanent address. Plaintiff is expressly not permitted to subpoena the ISP for defendant's e-mail addresses or telephone numbers. Plaintiff shall serve defendant's ISP with a copy of the complaint, this Order, and the subpoena.
3. After having been served with the subpoena, the ISP will delay producing to plaintiff the subpoenaed information until after it has provided defendant John Doe with:
 - a. Notice that this suit has been filed naming defendant as the one that allegedly downloaded copyright protected work;
 - b. A copy of the subpoena, the complaint filed in this lawsuit, and this Order; and
 - c. Notice that the ISP will comply with the subpoena and produce

¹ Plaintiff consents to conditions in this order prohibiting it from initiating a settlement with defendant prior to serving him with the complaint, as well as an order allowing defendant to proceed anonymously. Dkt. No. 9-2, at 4-5.

