

How to Ensure that File and Printer Sharing is explicitly allowed through your Windows Defender Firewall for Private networks.

To explicitly allow **File and Printer Sharing** through your firewall, follow these step-by-step instructions:

Step-by-Step Firewall Guide

1. **Open Firewall Settings:** Press the Win key, type **Allow an app through Windows Firewall**, and press Enter.
2. **Change Settings:** Click the **Change settings** button at the top right of the window (this requires administrator permission).
3. **Locate the Feature:** Scroll down the list until you find **File and Printer Sharing**.
4. **Check the Boxes:** Ensure the checkbox next to **File and Printer Sharing** is checked.
5. **Set Network Profile:** Look across that same row and check the box under the **Private** column. Leave **Public** unchecked for security.
6. **Save Changes:** Click **OK** at the bottom to apply the settings and restart your computer.

Quick Alternative: PowerShell Command

If the settings window is frozen or hidden, you can force this rule open instantly using an administrative command:

1. Right-click the **Start** button and select **Terminal (Admin)** or **PowerShell (Admin)**.
2. Copy, paste, and run this exact command:
powershell
Enable-NetFirewallRule -DisplayGroup "File and Printer Sharing"
Use code with caution.

If you are still getting **error 0x80070035**, it means the basic network settings are fine, but Windows is physically failing to resolve the location or block-level security parameters are refusing the handshake.

1. Bypass Name Resolution (Use the IP Address)

Windows often fails to find a computer by its name (e.g., `\\MY-NAS-DRIVE`) due to a local DNS or NetBIOS lag.

1. Go to the host device or computer you are trying to connect to and find its local IP address (e.g., `192.168.1.15`).
2. On your main PC, press `Win + R`.
3. Type the IP address directly using double backslashes: `\\192.168.1.15` (replace with your target IP) and press **Enter**.

2. Enable NetBIOS over TCP/IP

If using the IP address works, your NetBIOS protocol is disabled, preventing Windows from mapping local network names.

1. Press **Win + R**, type **ncpa.cp1**, and press **Enter** to open Network Connections.
2. Right-click your active connection (Wi-Fi or Ethernet) and select **Properties**.
3. Double-click **Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)**.
4. Click the **Advanced** button at the bottom right.
5. Go to the **WINS** tab.
6. Under NetBIOS settings, select **Enable NetBIOS over TCP/IP**. Click **OK** on all windows.

3. Disable SMB Signing Constraints (Recent Windows Updates)

Recent Windows updates automatically block network paths to older computers or NAS systems by forcing "SMB Signing". You can bypass this restriction using PowerShell:

1. Right-click the **Start** button and select **Terminal (Admin)** or **PowerShell (Admin)**.
2. Copy and paste the following commands one by one, pressing **Enter** after each:
powershell
`Set-SmbClientConfiguration -RequireSecuritySignature $false -Force`
Use code with caution.
powershell
`Set-ItemProperty -Path "HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\LanmanWorkstation\Parameters" RequireSecureNegotiate -Value 0 -Force`
Use code with caution.
3. Restart your computer completely to force Windows to apply the relaxed security handshake.