

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE
United States District Court
Eastern District of Tennessee
Date: *Mar 16, 2020, 3:15 pm*

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER)
THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES) SO-20-06
CREATED BY COVID-19)

STANDING ORDER

Given that the World Health Organization has declared the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a pandemic, that the Governor of the State of Tennessee has declared a public health emergency throughout the state in response to the spread of COVID-19 and given that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised the taking of precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective immediately:

1. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee will remain open for business, subject to the following limitations. Staff in the Clerk's Office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and intake desks will remain open for filings. Electronic filings may still be made through the CM/ECF system. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.
2. Subject to any exceptions identified below, all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to commence from **March 16, 2020** through **April 24, 2020**, before any district or magistrate judge in any division in the Eastern District of Tennessee are **CONTINUED**, except as otherwise ordered by the presiding judge. The Court may issue other orders concerning further continuances as necessary and appropriate.
3. With regard to criminal jury trials, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health recommendations

on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the risks posed to the jurors and the public, the time period of the continuances implemented by this Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Should any speedy trial motion or challenges associated with the findings in this District-wide Order be filed in any individual case, the presiding judge is encouraged to make any necessary case-specific findings in the record of such case.

4. Although jury trials are continued through April 24, 2020, cases not scheduled for a jury trial during this period will continue as scheduled. This Order does not otherwise impact case-specific deadlines contained in each case's Scheduling Order. Other case proceedings will continue to take place in the ordinary course of business. However, to the extent practicable, oral proceedings will be conducted by telephone or video conferencing.
5. All grand jury proceedings in Greeneville and Chattanooga shall be suspended through **April 24, 2020**; this Standing Order does not affect the present Grand Jury scheduled for Knoxville on March 17, 2020 nor does it affect the future scheduling of the Knoxville Grand Jury; further, the United States Attorney is permitted to continue to utilize the grand jury in the Knoxville Division of this Court as scheduled and to have it consider matters arising in all divisions of this Court, in order to ensure that the consideration and investigation of criminal activities may continue without interruption across the District.

6. All civil trials that are scheduled to commence *without a jury* will be handled at the discretion of the presiding judge based on the case's particular facts and circumstances.
7. All misdemeanor, traffic and petty offense dockets (also known as the CVB docket) scheduled in all Divisions of this Court through **April 24, 2020**, are hereby CONTINUED. New dates for the cases scheduled on such dockets shall be reset without the need to file any motions with the Court. The Court anticipates that each Division of this Court will issue their own individual orders identifying the names and/or dates of the specific dockets that are covered by the instant District-wide General Order.
8. All non-essential judicial activities such as courthouse tours and naturalization ceremonies shall be canceled until further order of the Court.
9. The Court encourages parties and counsel to report, prior to personally appearing in Court, any concerns they have about health issues or relevant symptoms so that the Court can make informed decisions in the interest of justice and in the interest of the public's health.
10. It is further ordered that the following persons shall not enter any United States Courthouse in the Eastern District of Tennessee: any person who has been in China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Iran, and Europe within the past 14 days from the date of the entry of this Standing Order or from the date in which such person is seeking entry into the Courthouse; or persons who reside or have been in contact with someone who has been in one of the countries listed above within the past 14 days; or persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, health agency or other healthcare provider; or persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone

who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or persons experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath. To ensure the implementation of this provision of this Standing Order, the United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers are accordingly DIRECTED to appropriately screen any visitors entering the United States Courthouses in the Eastern District of Tennessee consistent with these visitor restrictions and shall deny entry to anyone attempting to enter in violation of this Order.

11. As dictated by the ever-changing circumstances and the anticipated increase in community spread of the coronavirus, the Court may issue further responses as the situation evolves, including possible extensions of the timeframes set forth in this Order.

ENTER:


PAMELA L. REEVES
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE