

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

**FILED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
United States District Court  
Eastern District of Tennessee  
Date: *Mar 16, 2021, 3:41 pm*

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| <b>In Re:</b>  | ) | SO-21-07                                    |
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|  | ) |   |
| <b>Fourth Extension of Authorization for<br/>Video and Audio Teleconferencing<br/>During COVID-19 Pandemic Pursuant<br/>to CARES Act</b> | ) | Chief District Judge<br>Travis R. McDonough |
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**STANDING ORDER**

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Pursuant to the CARES Act, H.R. 748, the Court entered Standing Order 20-08 on March 30, 2020, authorizing the use of audio and video conferencing, under certain circumstances and with the consent of the defendant, for various criminal case events during the course of the COVID-19 emergency, to remain in effect for 90 days after entry of the order. Pursuant to Standing Order 20-14, the authorization granted by Standing Order 20-08 was extended for an additional 90 days until September 26, 2020. Pursuant to Standing Order 20-17, the authorization granted by Standing Order 20-08 was again extended for an additional 90 days until December 25, 2020. Pursuant to Standing Order 20-22, the authorization granted by Standing Order 20-08 was again extended for an additional 90 days until March 25, 2021.

On March 13, 2020, by Proclamation 9994, the President declared a national emergency concerning the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Because the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause significant risk to the public health and safety of the Nation, the President continued the national emergency pursuant to Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) beyond March 1, 2021. Continuation of the National Emergency Concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic, 86 FR 11599

(Feb. 24, 2021). The Judicial Conference of the United States (“JCUS”) continues to find that the emergency conditions created by COVID-19 have affected and will continue to materially affect the functioning of the federal courts generally. Although conditions appear to be improving in Tennessee, COVID-19 continues to spread and vaccinations are not yet universally available. Accordingly, pursuant to 15002(b)(3)(A) of the CARES Act, the Chief Judge of this District hereby finds that a fourth extension of the authorization of the use of audio and video conferencing, as detailed by Standing Order 20-08, is necessary.

Therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the authorization for video or audio teleconferencing, as set forth in Standing Order 20-08, and as extended by Standing Order 20-14, Standing Order 20-17, and Standing Order 20-22, is extended until the earlier of: (1) the date the Chief Judge determines the authorization is no longer warranted, (2) the date on which the emergency authority granted by the JCUS is terminated, (3) the date authorization has been terminated pursuant to section 15002(b)(5) of the CARES Act, or (4) June 23, 2021. If this authorization has not been terminated before June 23, 2021, this Court will review this authorization and determine whether to extend it for a period not to exceed 90 days.

**SO ORDERED.**

  
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**TRAVIS R. MCDONOUGH**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**