

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

**FILED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
United States District Court  
Eastern District of Tennessee  
Date: *Dec 14, 2021, 9:13 am*

**In Re:** )  
 ) SO-21-17  
 )  
**Seventh Extension of Authorization for** )  
**Video and Audio Teleconferencing** ) Chief District Judge  
**During COVID-19 Pandemic Pursuant** ) Travis R. McDonough  
**to CARES Act** )

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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. Pursuant to Standing Order 21-07, the authorization granted by Standing Order 20-08 was again extended for an additional 90 days until June 23, 2021. Pursuant to Standing Order SO-21-11, the authorization granted by Standing Order 20-08 was again extended for an additional 90 days until September 21, 2021. Pursuant to Standing Order SO-21-13, the authorization granted by Standing Order SO-21-11 was again extended for an additional 90 days until December 20, 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 are improving in Tennessee, COVID-19 continues to spread as of September 13, 2021, and only 50.4% of individuals residing in Tennessee are fully vaccinated.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, pursuant to 15002(b)(3)(A) of the CARES Act, the Chief Judge of this district hereby finds that a seventh 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, Standing Order 20-22, Standing Order 21-07, Standing Order 21-11, and Standing Order 21-13, 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) March 18, 2022. If this authorization has not been

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<sup>1</sup> See CDC Tennessee COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting (Dec. 14, 2021, 8:56 AM), <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/covid-19-vaccine.html>.

terminated before March 18, 2022, 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**  
**CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**