

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-13

In response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Western District of Arkansas, the Court continued all civil and criminal trials within the district until further order of the Court. The Court's moratorium on trials previously entered in Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1, 2020-4, 2020-5, 2020-8 and 2020-11 is hereby lifted.

In order to continue to protect the public health and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, all trials (civil and criminal) scheduled to begin after September 8, 2020, will proceed or be continued at the discretion of the presiding judge after consideration of the severity of risk posed to the parties, the attorneys, the witnesses, the jurors, the public, court staff and other court agencies.

If a criminal jury trial is continued, the Court finds that the time of continuance implemented by this order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice are served by ordering the continuances and outweigh the best interests of the public and of the criminal defendants under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Absent further order of the Court, the period of exclusion shall be from March 16, 2020, to the date that the criminal jury trial commences. Where appropriate, the presiding judge will enter orders in individual cases to extend deadlines and exclude time under the Speed Trial Act.

All other court proceedings (civil and criminal), whether before a District Judge or a Magistrate Judge, will take place either in person or by video or telephone conference at the

discretion of the presiding judge after consideration of the severity of risk posed to the parties, the attorneys, the public, court staff and other court agencies.

The remaining naturalization ceremonies scheduled in 2020 are cancelled. All naturalizations will be conducted administratively by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) staff.

This Order will remain in effect until December 31, 2020, unless vacated or amended by the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2020.

  
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SUSAN O. HICKEY  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE