

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-11

This Administrative Order is being issued in response to the continued outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Western District of Arkansas. Considering the severity of risk posed to the public, court staff, and other court agencies district wide, the following order will be implemented within all divisions in the Western District of Arkansas:

1) All civil and criminal trials (bench and jury) currently scheduled to begin before September 8, 2020 are continued pending further order of the Court. The postponement of these cases will be assessed by the Court in mid to late August to determine whether further postponement is appropriate.

2) As to criminal trials, the time between the date of this administrative order and the new trial date shall be excluded from consideration of the Speedy Trial Act pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering these continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial

3) Criminal matters before a Magistrate Judge, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants shall continue to take place either in person or by video conference at the discretion, and as scheduled, by the presiding judge.

4) Change of plea and sentencing hearings shall continue to take place either in person or by video conference at the discretion, and as scheduled, by the presiding judge.

5) All civil hearings and other court proceedings, including settlement conferences, will take place either in person or by video conference at the discretion, and as scheduled, by the presiding judge.

6) All petty offense (CVB) proceedings are continued until August 31, 2020.

7) The naturalization ceremony scheduled for August 21, 2020 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas is cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

5) Unless amended by this Order, all provisions of Administrative Order No. 2020-1, Administrative Order No. 2020-4, Administrative Order No. 2020-5, Administrative Order No. 2020-7 and Administrative Order No. 2020-8 remain in effect.

This Order remains in effect until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 28th day of July, 2020.


SUSAN O. HICKEY
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE