

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**GENERAL ORDER 20-2
MARCH 12, 2020**

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC EMERGENCY

ORDER CONCERNING JURY TRIALS AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS

SAYLOR, C.J.

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a public health emergency throughout the state in response to the spread of the coronavirus and COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to protect public health, and in order to reduce the size of public gatherings and reduce unnecessary travel, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts hereby issues the following order:

1. The United States courthouses in Boston, Worcester, and Springfield will remain open for business, subject to the following limitations.
2. Effective immediately, all jury trials in the District of Massachusetts scheduled to begin before April 27, 2020 are continued pending further order of the Court. The Court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate.
3. All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin before April 27, 2020, are continued pending further order of the Court. Individual judges may continue trial-specific

deadlines in civil cases in the exercise of their discretion.

4. Individual judges presiding over criminal proceedings may take such actions consistent with this order as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure the fairness of the proceedings and preserve the rights of the parties.
5. The Court is cognizant of the right of criminal defendants to a speedy and public trial under the Sixth Amendment, and the particular application of that right in cases involving defendants who are detained pending trial. Any motion by a criminal defendant seeking an exception to this order in order to exercise that right should be directed to the District Judge assigned to the matter in the first instance; provided, however, that no such exception may be ordered without the approval of the Chief Judge after consultation with the Court.
6. The time period of any continuance entered as a result of this order shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), as the Court finds that the ends of justice served by taking that action outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial. Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion shall be from March 12, 2020, to April 27, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.
7. Individual judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials in the exercise of their discretion, consistent with this order.
8. Judges are strongly encouraged to conduct court proceedings by telephone or video conferencing where practicable.
9. Criminal matters before Magistrate Judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants, shall continue to take place in the ordinary course.

10. Grand juries shall continue to meet pending further order of the Court.

11. The Clerk's Office, Probation, the Bankruptcy Court, and all other Court services shall remain open pending further order of the Court.

So Ordered.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Dennis Saylor IV", written over a horizontal line.

F. Dennis Saylor IV
Chief Judge, United States District Court

Dated: March 12, 2020