

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
GENERAL ORDER 20-01**

**March 13, 2020**

**IN RE: COVID-19 PUBLIC EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Illinois has declared a public health emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised public and private entities to take precautions in order to reduce the spread of the virus, the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois recognizes the need to take measures to effectuate these goals, while also continuing to fulfill its mission and keep both its civil and criminal court functions operating.

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby adopts the following measures to effectuate these goals, effective immediately and until April 3, 2020, or further Order of the Court:

1. The United States Courthouses located within the District shall remain open;
2. All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before April 3, 2020, are continued and shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after April 3, 2020;
3. All Petty Offense (CVB) proceedings are continued and shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after April 3, 2020;
4. All civil hearings, including settlement conferences, shall be conducted by telephone or video teleconference;
5. In criminal proceedings:
  - a. When reviewing a complaint or deciding whether to issue a warrant or summons, judges shall do so by reliable electronic means, rather than in person, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 4.1;
  - b. Initial appearances and arraignments shall be conducted by video conference pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 5(f) and 10(c) when practicable and with the consent of the defendant;
  - c. When a detention hearing has been set and a defendant decides to consent to detention, the defendant shall file a written motion waiving his or her right to a detention hearing before the scheduled hearing;
  - d. All hearings on the revocation of supervised release scheduled to begin before April 3, 2020, are continued and shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after April 3, 2020;
  - e. All sentencing hearings scheduled to begin before April 3, 2020, are continued and shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after April 3, 2020;
  - f. Motions to continue in-person criminal hearings shall be made by written motion no less than three (3) days prior to the scheduled hearing and setting forth in the body of the motion 1) whether the opposing party agrees to the continuance; 2) the reasons for the continuance; and 3) why the ends of justice outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial.

In criminal cases, the Court finds that the time period of any continuance entered from the date of this Order through April 3, 2020, 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, given the need to protect the health and safety of defendants, their counsel, prosecutors, court staff, and the public by reducing the number of in-person hearings to the fullest extent possible.

Entered for the Court:

s/ Sara Darrow

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Hon. Sara Darrow  
Chief United States District Judge