

FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

APR 30 2020

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID-19

)
) General Order No. 20-11
)

By PATRICK KEANEY
Clerk, U.S. District Court
Deputy Clerk

GENERAL ORDER

This Order amends General Order 20-9. The Court continues to monitor the evolving nature and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 throughout the United States and, in particular, the State of Oklahoma and the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and finds it appropriate at this time to consider reconstituting court proceedings under a phased-in approach as outlined in the April 24, 2020, Memorandum from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts re: Updated Guidance Regarding Judiciary Response to COVID-19. This General Order addresses only jury trials, grand jury proceedings, and naturalization ceremonies - the subjects of previous General Orders Nos. 6 and 9.

Having considered the criteria outlined in the Administrative Office's Memorandum, along with the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and local public health authorities, the Court concludes that it is appropriate to hold grand jury proceedings beginning on June 9, 2020, subject to the implementation of precautionary screening, social distancing, and personal protective equipment measures to assure the safety and well-being of grand jurors, court personnel, and others associated with the grand jury proceedings. The Court will communicate with all grand jurors in advance of the proceedings to advise of them of the precautionary measures and to inquire about any situations or conditions which would make it untenable for a grand juror to appear. The Court will further communicate with the United States Attorney's Office on the protocol for conducting the grand jury proceedings.

With respect to jury trials and naturalization proceedings, the Court finds these proceedings are not conducive to reconstitution at this time and they should be continued through July 6, 2020.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the June 9, 2020, grand jury session will go forward as scheduled subject to precautionary screening, social distancing, and personal protective equipment measures.


IT IS FUTHER ORDERED that, effective immediately, all jury trials and naturalization ceremonies scheduled to commence now through July 6, 2020, in the Ed Edmondson Federal Courthouse, are CONTINUED pending further order of the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the time period of any continuance entered through

July 6, 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 such action outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.

The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than July 6, 2020.

It is so ordered this 30th day of April, 2020.



RONALD A. WHITE
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT