

**FILED**

JUN 24 2020

PATRICK KEANEY  
Clerk, U.S. District Court

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

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

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE )  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES ) General Order No. 20-14  
CREATED BY COVID-19 )

GENERAL ORDER

This Order amends General Order 20-11. The Court continues to monitor the evolving nature and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 throughout the United States, the State of Oklahoma, and, in particular, the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and finds it appropriate at this time to consider reconstituting additional 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 Order Nos. 6, 9, and 11.

Having considered the criteria outlined in the Administrative Office's Memorandum, along with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local public health authorities, the Court concludes that it is appropriate to continue with grand jury proceedings and naturalization ceremonies subject to the implementation of precautionary screening, social distancing, and personal protective equipment measures (including recently implemented General Order No. 20-12 requiring the wearing of face coverings or masks) to assure the safety and well-being of all participants, court personnel, and others associated with such proceedings and ceremonies. With respect to grand jury proceedings, the Court will communicate with all grand jurors in advance of any 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 naturalization ceremonies, the Court will limit the number of applicants in any one ceremony to 20 and will not allow family members, friends, or other members of the public to personally attend the ceremonies. The Court will livestream the naturalization ceremonies for public viewing.

With respect to jury trials, the Court finds these proceedings are not conducive to being fully reconstituted at this time and they should be continued through August 3, 2020, however, certain pilot trials may to be conducted in July 2020 as authorized by the Chief Judge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, effective immediately, grand jury proceedings and naturalization ceremonies 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 scheduled to commence now through August 3, 2020, in the Ed Edmondson Federal Courthouse, are CONTINUED pending further order of the Court, with the exception of certain pilot trials to be conducted in July 2020 as authorized by the Chief Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the time period of any continuance entered through August 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 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 August 3, 2020.

It is so ordered this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.



RONALD A. WHITE  
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT