FILED
JAN 11 2021
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 CREATED BY COVID-19	)))	General Order No. 21-1

GENERAL ORDER

This Order amends General Order Nos. 20-14, 20-18, 20-21 and 20-30 and addresses only jury trials, grand jury proceedings, and naturalization ceremonies. 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, in the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and finds it appropriate at this time to continue with grand jury proceedings and naturalization ceremonies under the guidance set forth in General Order 20-14. With respect to jury trials, the Court finds that given the large number of prospective jurors and party-affiliated personnel necessary to conduct such proceedings, continuation of all jury trial proceedings through March 1, 2021, is appropriate.

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 measures as set forth in General Order No. 20-14.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective immediately, all jury trials scheduled to commence now through March 1, 2021, in the Ed Edmondson Federal Courthouse are CONTINUED pending further order of the Court. This is without prejudice to the decision of a trial judge to proceed with trial if the interests of justice outweigh the safety risks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the time period of any continuance entered through March 1, 2021, 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 warrant.

The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than March 1, 2021.

It is so ordered this 11th day of January, 2021.

Ronald A. White

RONALD A. WHITE
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT