

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

IN RE: JULY 2021 JURY TRIALS

)

General Order No. 21-15

FILED

JUN 30 2021

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

GENERAL ORDER

This Order amends General Order 21-12 and addresses jury trials, grand jury proceedings, and naturalization ceremonies. The Court will conduct limited criminal trials in July 2021. Counsel will be advised by the presiding judge if their case is set on the July 2021 trial docket. All other criminal jury trials on the July 2021 trial docket are continued, to be reset by the presiding judge who will also address trial-related deadlines. The Court finds that the restrictions previously in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a significant accumulation of criminal trials. These restrictions limited the number of trials that could be safely conducted over the past 16 months; consequently, continuances were granted and numerous criminal cases await trial.

The Court has now eased the COVID-19 restrictions as a result of the recent guidance by the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") with respect to vaccinated individuals. See General Order 21-11. The sheer number of cases this accumulation presents, along with the increased criminal filings in this district due to the Supreme Court's ruling in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, 140 S.Ct. 2452 (2020), however, render it impossible to try all criminal cases currently scheduled for trial in July 2021. The Court has undertaken all measures within its means, including exercising its emergency powers under 28 U.S.C. § 141, to set for trial as many cases as possible, but finds it is unable to accommodate all cases for trial in July 2021. The Court must necessarily continue all but a limited number of criminal trials.

Therefore, the period of delay in criminal cases resulting from continuances implemented as a result of this Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 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. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Finally, grand jury proceedings and naturalization ceremonies will go forward as scheduled subject to the provisions of General Order No. 21-11.

It is so ordered this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.



RONALD A. WHITE  
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT