

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

**IN RE: EXTENSION OF COURT)
OPERATIONS UNDER THE) Administrative Order No. 2020-19
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES)
RESULTING FROM COVID-19)
OUTBREAK)**

On March 17, 2020, this Court entered Administrative Order No. 2020-12, In Re: Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Resulting From COVID-19 Outbreak, in response to President Trump’s March 13, 2020, declaration that the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) outbreak was a national emergency, and in light of guidance considered from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), as well as federal, state, and local public health authorities, in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and Western District of Tennessee Court employees. The Court hereby extends and otherwise modifies its March 17, 2020, Administrative Order No. 2020-12 and Orders as follows effective through and including May 1, 2020:

- 1) All civil judicial proceedings currently scheduled are hereby CONTINUED until after May 1, 2020, and will be rescheduled. Counsel will be notified of such new settings well in advance of any rescheduled dates. If the Court determines, on a case-by-case basis, that certain civil matters must be heard prior to May 1, 2020, Counsel will be provided with ample notice of such proceedings.
- 2) All currently scheduled criminal judicial proceedings other than initial appearances, arraignments, bond and detention hearings, and other in-person criminal proceedings presided over by magistrate judges, are hereby CONTINUED until after May 1, 2020, and will be rescheduled. Counsel will be notified of such new settings well in advance of any rescheduled dates. If the Court determines that a criminal matter must be heard prior to May 1, 2020, due to exigent circumstances or to serve the ends of justice, ample prior notice of such proceedings will be provided to all counsel. Initial appearances, arraignments, bond and detention hearings, and other in-person criminal proceedings will be conducted on a schedule determined by the magistrate judge assigned to criminal duty and will be conducted by video conferencing or as directed by the magistrate judge.

- 3) All civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled to commence now through May 1, 2020, are hereby CONTINUED until further notice. All grand juries already selected will not meet until after May 1, 2020, unless an emergency grand jury proceeding is deemed necessary prior to May 1, 2020.
- 4) Due to the Court's reduced ability to secure an adequate number of jurors and the public health declarations made by the President of the United States, the World Health Organization, and the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the time period of the continuances implemented by this Administrative Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and each defendant in a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Prior to May 1, 2020, the Court will reevaluate then-existing circumstances and updated guidance from the CDC and federal, state, and local public health authorities, to determine whether circumstances warrant an extension of the May 1, 2020, date or whether judicial proceedings, including jury trials and grand jury proceedings, can resume.

The Clerk's divisional office in Memphis will be closed to the public. Staff will be available by telephone, mail will be received, but no counter operations will remain open. Provisions are being made for pro se litigants to file documents as required by depositing them in a secure location being established inside the Front Street public entrance during regular business hours. Please refer to Administrative Order No. 2020-14 for information relating to the closure of the Clerk's divisional office in Jackson and continued Court operations in light of such closure. Electronic filings may still be made through the CM/ECF system. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing available Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

FOR THE COURT this 3rd day of April, 2020,

s/ S. Thomas Anderson
S. THOMAS ANDERSON
CHIEF, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE