

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2020-1

PANDEMIC RELATED CURTAILED OPERATIONS

**ORDER**

This Order is being issued in response to the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) outbreak in Louisiana. On March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Louisiana declared a State of Emergency. On March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a National Emergency. The World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has described the outbreak in the United States as a "rapidly evolving situation" and is providing continuous guidance regarding appropriate public and private responses to COVID-19. The CDC's guidance includes multiple types of mitigation strategies, including but not limited to social distancing, as well as other strategies generally aimed at reducing or avoiding exposure to infected individuals which the Court has carefully considered. To combat the spread of the disease, given the severity of risk posed to the public, court staff, and other court agencies, and considering the CDC's advisements to take precautions by limiting exposure to the virus, the Middle District of Louisiana will enforce the following protocol effective March 16, 2020.

**IT IS ORDERED,**

1. All civil and criminal trials (bench and jury) be and are hereby postponed to a date, to be determined by the presiding Judge, on or after May 1, 2020. This

postponement does not affect any other pending deadlines other than the pre-trial conference and trial dates. Parties seeking to modify other deadlines must do so by written motion. Contact information for District Court is available at: <http://www.lamd.uscourts.gov/>. Contact information for Bankruptcy Court is available at: <https://www.lamb.uscourts.gov/>.

2. All civil evidentiary hearings and other in-court hearings and proceedings requiring personal appearances, on the dockets of the United States District Court and the United States Bankruptcy Court, set between the date of this Order and April 10, 2020 are hereby postponed, to be reset by, and at the discretion of, the presiding Judge.
3. All grand jury proceedings in the Middle District of Louisiana are postponed until further order of this Court.
4. With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the recommendations from the above public health organizations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the postponements implemented by this Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the postponements outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).
5. Until further order of this Court, initial appearances in criminal matters before Magistrate Judges pursuant to Rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

shall be conducted by video conference or as otherwise ordered by the Court or the presiding Magistrate Judge.

6. Criminal matters before Magistrate Judges, such as arraignments, detention hearings (and appeals to district judges from detention orders), and the issuance of search warrants, shall continue to take place in the ordinary course, or by video conference at the discretion of the assigned judge, until further order of this Court.
7. Re-arraignments and sentencing hearings, on the docket of the United States District Court, set between the date of this Order and April 10, 2020 are hereby postponed, to be reset by, and at the discretion of, the presiding Judge.
8. Case-by-case exceptions to the postponements ordered herein may be ordered for non-jury matters at the discretion of the presiding Judge.
9. This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil, criminal, or bankruptcy motions that can be resolved without oral argument or handled by telephone or video conference. Parties are encouraged to seek resetting of any dates affected by this Order by video conference or other practical means for submission and consideration.
10. Prescriptive, peremptive and statute of limitation deadlines are hereby interrupted until April 13, 2020.
11. Inquiries concerning filing or other deadlines, not specifically addressed herein, should be directed to the assigned Judge by written motion.
12. No in-person filings will be accepted through April 13, 2020 or until further order of this Court. Filings in sealed matters which are required to be filed conventionally (in-person) pursuant to administrative procedures shall be filed by facsimile to

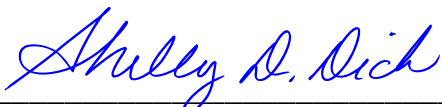
(225) 389-3501. Electronic filing via the CM/ECF system will be fully functional and help desk support will be available. Online resources are available at <http://www.lamd.uscourts.gov/>, via email at [cmecfhelpdesk@lamd.uscourts.gov](mailto:cmecfhelpdesk@lamd.uscourts.gov) or via telephone at (225) 389-3552.

The public is encouraged to use online court resources or contact the Court by telephone.

- Telephone contact information for District Court is available at: <http://www.lamd.uscourts.gov/>. Telephone contact information for Bankruptcy Court is available at: <https://www.lamb.uscourts.gov/>.
- If you are scheduled to meet with a probation or pretrial services officer, please contact the Probation and Pretrial Services Office at (225) 389-3600. Nothing in this Order affects or modifies in any way the terms and conditions of release for any persons subject to pretrial or post-conviction supervision.
- To Pay Criminal Debt, please click the LAMD Criminal Debt Quick Link available at the District Court's website (<http://www.lamd.uscourts.gov/>) or visit <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/40038723/>.
- If you are a juror, please contact the Jury Administrator at (225) 389-3650.
- For District Court matters, please contact the Clerk of Court at (225) 389-3500.
- For Bankruptcy Court matters, please contact the Clerk of Court at (225) 346-3333.

This Order will remain in effect until further order of this Court.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 13th day of March 2020.



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SHELLY D. DICK, CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA