

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

IN RE: *
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT * MISC. NO. 00-308
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 *

STANDING ORDER 2020-07

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, and has implemented a stay-at-home order of indefinite duration; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, preventing the spread of COVID-19 requires limiting public contact to essential matters; and

WHEREAS, participants in court proceedings are necessarily often in close proximity to each other; and

WHEREAS, this Court has issued its Standing Order 2020-05 postponing and continuing all civil and criminal petit jury selections and trials, and other non-emergency proceedings, through April 24, 2020, the Court has now determined it necessary to extend the terms of that Order through June 5, 2020. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland that, effective immediately, all civil and criminal petit jury selections and jury trials scheduled to commence through June 5, 2020 before any district or magistrate judge in any courthouse in the District of Maryland are POSTPONED and CONTINUED pending further Order of the Court; and it is further

ORDERED that with regard to criminal trials, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the continuances implemented by this Order and its prior iterations 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); and it is further

ORDERED that all other civil, criminal, and bankruptcy proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, including court appearances, trials, hearings, settlement conferences, conference calls, naturalization and admission ceremonies, and grand jury meetings now scheduled to occur through June 5, 2020, are POSTPONED. The proceedings will be rescheduled at a later date, unless 1) the presiding judge in an individual case issues an order after the date of this Order directing that a particular proceeding will be held on or before June 5, 2020, or 2) a new date is established by an administrative order of the Bankruptcy Court issued after the date of this Order. Chambers will contact counsel to reschedule proceedings when appropriate. If a presiding judge in an individual case has already rescheduled a proceeding, after March 16, 2020, to a date now affected by this extended Order, counsel should contact chambers to determine whether the new date again needs to be rescheduled. By separate order, Central Violations Bureau proceedings (misdemeanor, traffic, and petty offense dockets) have been postponed and continued through May 31, 2020; and it is further

ORDERED that all filing deadlines, in all cases, originally set to fall between March 16, 2020, and June 5, 2020, are EXTENDED by eighty-four (84) days, unless 1) the presiding judge in an individual case sets a different date by an order issued after the date of this Order, or 2) a

new date is established by an administrative order of the Bankruptcy Court issued after the date of this Order. The eighty-four day extension does not apply if a presiding judge in an individual case has already set a new filing deadline, after March 16, 2020, to a date now affected by this extended Order. However, if counsel is unable to meet a deadline while remaining in full compliance with orders and public health guidance relating to COVID-19, counsel should seek an extension of time. Civil discovery deadlines and procedures will be addressed in a separate order; and it is further

ORDERED that due to the unavailability of a grand jury in this District, the 30-day time period for filing an indictment or an information is TOLLED as to each defendant during the time period March 16, 2020 through June 5, 2020, in alignment with 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b); and it is further

ORDERED that the Court will remain open for emergency criminal, civil, and bankruptcy proceedings related to public safety, public health and welfare, and individual liberty; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order does not toll any applicable statute of limitations. Electronic filing through CM/ECF will remain available, and self-represented litigants may deposit and date-stamp papers in drop boxes at each courthouse between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For emergency criminal matters, please contact the assigned duty magistrate judge. For emergency civil matters, please contact the Clerk's Office at (410) 962-3625 or (301) 802-6170. For emergency bankruptcy matters, please contact the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office at (410) 962-2688 for Baltimore and (301) 344-8018 for Greenbelt; and it is further

ORDERED that further Orders addressing COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 will be entered as circumstances warrant; and it is further

ORDERED that Standing Order 2020-05 is SUPERSEDED.

Date: April 10, 2020

/s/ JAMES K. BREDAR
James K. Bredar, Chief Judge
United States District Court