

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY  
COVID-19

**GENERAL ORDER**

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America has declared a national emergency in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Minnesota has declared a peacetime emergency to coordinate Minnesota's strategy to protect Minnesotans from COVID-19;

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

NOW THEREFORE, in order to protect public health, and in order to reduce the size of public gatherings and reduce unnecessary travel, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that:

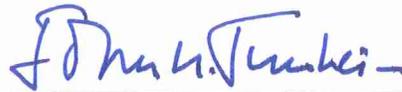
1. The United States Courthouses in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Fergus Falls will remain open for business, subject to the following limitations.
2. Effective immediately, all jury trials in the District of Minnesota are continued through April 27, 2020. The Court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate.
3. All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases are continued through April 27, 2020. Individual judges may continue trial-specific deadlines in civil cases in the exercise of their discretion.
4. Individual judges presiding over criminal proceedings may take such actions consistent with this order as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure the fairness of the proceedings and preserve the rights of the parties.

FILED 3/13/20  
KATE M. FOGARTY  
JUDGMENT ENTD  
DEPUTY CLERK *Apbell*

5. For criminal trials, the Court on its own motion, finds that the time of the continuances implemented by this order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice are served by ordering the continuances and outweigh the best interests of the public and of the criminal defendants under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion shall be from March 13, 2020, to April 27, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.
6. Individual judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials in the exercise of their discretion, consistent with this order. Judges may conduct court proceedings by telephone or video conferencing where practicable and consistent with the law.
7. Criminal matters before magistrate judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants, will continue to take place in the ordinary course.
8. During criminal case hearings, counsel and clients will be encouraged to avoid standing at the lectern together.
9. Grand jury proceedings in this District will take place the week of March 16. Grand jury proceedings are continued from March 23, 2020, through April 27, 2020. Due to the unavailability of a grand jury in this District from March 23, 2020 to April 27, 2020, the 30-day time period for filing an indictment is tolled as to each defendant through April 27, 2020. See 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b).
10. All attorney admission ceremonies are continued through April 27, 2020; attorneys that must be admitted on an emergency basis may contact the Clerk's Office for assistance.
11. The Clerk's Office, the Probation & Pretrial Services Office, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and all other Court services will remain open pending further order of the Court. The Clerk's Office intake desk and ECF helpdesks will continue to be staffed and mail will be received and processed. Electronic filings may still be made through CM/ECF. Please consult the District Court's website at [www.mnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov) and the Bankruptcy Court's website at [www.mnb.uscourts.gov](http://www.mnb.uscourts.gov) for current information regarding the Clerk's Office locations and available services.

12. The Court will vacate or amend this order no later than April 27, 2020.

Dated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 13, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.



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JOHN R. TUNHEIM  
Chief Judge  
United States District Court