

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

IN RE: NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES  
UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES  
CREATED BY COVID-19

**GENERAL ORDER**

Under Title 8 of the United States Code, § 1421(b)(1)(B), federal judges in the District of Minnesota have the exclusive authority to administer the oath of allegiance to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens of the United States. Our exclusive authority to administer the oath applies only during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the Attorney General certifies to the Court that an applicant is eligible for naturalization. 8 U.S.C. § 1421(b)(3)(A).

As a result of the significant health concerns presented by the COVID-19 outbreak for a public gathering of any size and notification from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that their Minnesota office is currently unable to process new citizen applications or handle ceremonies, the District of Minnesota is suspending all naturalization ceremonies within this District through May 8, 2020. This decision has been made to promote the health and safety of Court and Executive Branch personnel, and our new citizens and their guests who attend a naturalization proceeding.

The temporary suspension of naturalization proceedings will not divest the United States District Court, District of Minnesota of its exclusive authority to administer the oath of allegiance to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens in this District. See 8 U.S.C. § 1421(b)(3)(A).

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

1. Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020, all naturalization ceremonies are suspended in the District of Minnesota through May 8, 2020.
2. Individuals who need to obtain an expedited administration of the oath of allegiance should contact their immigration officer who will work with the Court to determine how best to proceed.

FILED 3/19/2020  
KATE M. FOGARTY

JUDGMENT ENTD  
DEPUTY CLERK 

3. The Court will vacate or amend this order no later than May 8, 2020.

Dated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 19, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.



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JOHN R. TUNHEIM

Chief Judge

United States District Court