

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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

**GENERAL ORDER**  
**No. 12**

WHEREAS, the Court has issued a series of General Orders re: Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19, which are available on the Court's website at [www.mnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov);

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 and extended the peacetime emergency through May 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Minnesota has issued Emergency Executive Order 20-48, Extending and Modifying Stay at Home Order, Continuing Temporary Closure of Bars, Restaurants, and Other Places of Public Accommodation, and Allowing Additional Workers in Certain Non-Critical Sectors to Return to Safe Work Places through May 17, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Emergency Executive Order 20-48, Extending and Modifying Stay at Home Order, does not limit, prohibit, or restrict in any way the operations of the federal government, or the movement of federal officials in Minnesota while acting in their official capacity, including federal judicial staff and personnel;

WHEREAS, local detention facilities continue to implement several COVID-19 related restrictions that impact the ability of pretrial detainees to consult with legal counsel and sign documents;

WHEREAS, the Judges of the United States District Court, District of Minnesota, have considered and extensively discussed the various interests implicated by the COVID-19 outbreak and any court response to the outbreak, including: the health of jurors, witnesses, parties, attorneys, the public, court staff, and judges; the constitutional rights

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KATE M. FOGARTY

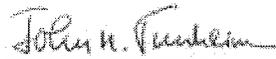
JUDGMENT ENTERED  
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of criminal defendants and other parties; and the public's interest in, and the court's duty to ensure, the effective and expeditious administration of justice;

NOW THEREFORE, to continue respond to the challenges presented by the COVID- 19 outbreak, and provide for the effective administration of criminal justice, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that:

1. Any document in a criminal case that requires or requests the signature of the defendant may be signed electronically while this order is in effect. If the defendant's electronic signature is impracticable to obtain, defense counsel or the presiding judge may sign on the defendant's behalf when the defendant, after an opportunity to consult with counsel, consents.
2. The series of General Orders entered by this Court since March 26, 2020, remain in effect, except for any changes addressed in this Order.
3. This order will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

Dated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 8, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.



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JOHN R. TUNHEIM  
Chief Judge  
United States District Court