



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

### District of Minnesota

John R. Tunheim, Chief Judge

Kate Fogarty, Clerk

Warren E. Burger Federal  
Building and U.S. Courthouse  
316 North Robert Street  
Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 848-1100

Diana E. Murphy U.S.  
Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Suite 202  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
(612) 664-5000

Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building  
and U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse  
515 West First Street  
Suite 417  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 529-3500

Edward J. Devitt U.S.  
Courthouse and Federal Building  
118 South Mill Street  
Suite 212  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
(218) 739-5758

May 15, 2020

## NEWS RELEASE

### United States District Court for the District of Minnesota COVID-19 Update – Civil and Criminal Proceedings

Minneapolis, MN – In accordance with the CARES Act, which was signed into law by President Trump on March 27, the District of Minnesota continues to be a national leader in the utilization of video and teleconference services to continue both civil and criminal proceedings, as well as critical, internal court meetings. Since mid-April, the court, including the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office, has conducted over 400 videoconference sessions, with over 4,500 participants.

The Clerk's Office remains open to assist attorneys and the public by telephone, email, and online chat from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. The Clerk's Office intake desks in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Fergus Falls are closed to the public through July 5, 2020. The Clerk's Office will continue to accept electronic filings in civil and criminal cases through electronic case filing system (CM/ECF) and online payments through [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov). The Clerk's Office will continue to accept filings and payments by check and money order through the U.S. Mail. Instructions for mailing documents to the Court or utilizing an in-person dropbox may be found in the General Order from Chief Judge John R. Tunheim here: [https://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/sites/mnd/files/2020-0326\\_COVID-19-General-Order-No4.pdf](https://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/sites/mnd/files/2020-0326_COVID-19-General-Order-No4.pdf).

Given Minnesota Governor Walz's updated guidance regarding public health safety precautions, the court issued the following extension to court operations due to COVID-19:

For criminal matters:

- a. Criminal proceedings where a defendant refuses to consent to conducting the proceeding using videoconferencing, or telephone conferencing if videoconferencing is not reasonably available, are continued until July 5, 2020.
- b. All criminal jury trials are continued through July 5, 2020.
- c. All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases are continued through July 5, 2020.

- d. All Central Violations Bureau or petty offense hearings are continued until July 5, 2020.

For civil matters:

- a. All civil jury trials are continued through July 5, 2020.
- b. All civil trial-specific deadlines are continued through July 5, 2020.
- c. All civil hearings that cannot be conducted using videoconference or telephone conference are continued through July 5, 2020.

Please review General Order No. 14 for more specific details:  
[https://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/sites/mnd/files/2020-0515\\_COVID-19-General-Order-No14.pdf](https://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/sites/mnd/files/2020-0515_COVID-19-General-Order-No14.pdf).

The Court continues to monitor the most current statements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as all communications disseminated by the Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts (AO), regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Court is following recommended guidelines from public health officials and preparedness guidance from the AO, including cancelling or postponing all non-essential events and travel, increasing sanitation efforts in all courtrooms and public spaces, and increasing remote working options for staff.

Additional questions can be directed to Media Coordinator, Rebecca Parks at [Rebecca.Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov).

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