



United States District Court

District of Minnesota

John R. Tunheim, Chief Judge

Kate Fogarty, Clerk of Court

612-664-5000

Warren E. Burger Federal
Building and U.S.
Courthouse
316 North Robert Street
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55101

Edward J. Devitt U.S.
Courthouse and Federal
Building
118 South Mill Street
Suite 212
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Gerald W. Heaney
Federal Building and U.S.
Courthouse and
Customhouse
515 West First Street
Suite 417
Duluth, MN 55802

Diana E. Murphy United
States Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Suite 202
Minneapolis, MN 55415

March 26, 2021

NEWS RELEASE

United States District Court for the District of Minnesota COVID-19 Update – Continuation of Remote Proceedings under the CARES Act

Minneapolis, MN – The Court continues to follow strict protocols to ensure the health and safety of all visitors to the federal courthouses. As a result of the extension of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act the Judicial Conference of the United States made the necessary finding under the CARES Act that COVID-19 emergency conditions have materially affected and will continue to materially affect the functioning of the federal courts. In response and pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3) of the CARES Act, and following current public health guidelines, General Order #27 was issued by Chief Judge John R. Tunheim on March 25, 2021. This authorizes the continued use of videoconferencing or telephone conferencing for Criminal hearings with defendant consent. Virtual Criminal jury trials are not authorized.

Please review the order for more specific details [HERE](#).

The Court will continue 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 continuing to provide remote working options for staff.

Additional questions can be directed to Public Information Officer, Rebeccah Parks at Rebeccah.Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov.

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