

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION**

In re:
CORONAVIRUS
PUBLIC EMERGENCY

Case No. 3:20-mc-5-J-32

**ORDER CONCERNING JURY TRIALS
AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS**

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce exposure to the coronavirus and to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Court issues this Order to protect public health, reduce the size of public gatherings (including jury trials), and prevent unnecessary travel. The United States Courthouse in Jacksonville will remain open for business, subject to these limitations:

1. Effective immediately, all jury trials in the **Jacksonville Division** scheduled to begin before **May 31, 2020**, are continued pending further order of the Court. The Court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as appropriate.

2. 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.

3. The Court is cognizant of the right of criminal defendants to a speedy and public trial, and the application of that right in cases against defendants detained pending trial. Any motion by a criminal defendant seeking an exception to this Order to exercise that right should be filed in the respective case.

4. The time period of any continuance in a criminal case entered because of this Order or any extension of this Order is excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), as the Court finds that the ends of justice served by taking this action outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial. Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion is from the date of this Order to May 31, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances warrant.

5. A notice or order will enter in each criminal and civil case set for a jury trial before May 31, 2020, to reset the trial and associated case deadlines.

6. Individual judges will continue to conduct hearings, conferences, and bench trials in the exercise of discretion, consistent with this Order. Where practicable, such proceedings will be postponed or conducted by telephone or video conference.

7. Motions for the suspension or continuance of deadlines in civil or criminal cases should be filed in the respective case.

8. All in-person meet and confer requirements in civil cases are suspended, and these meetings may be conducted by telephone or video conferencing without any further need to seek leave of court.

9. Criminal matters before Magistrate Judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and search-warrant requests, where they cannot be postponed, shall continue to take place in the ordinary course, except that Magistrate Judges may conduct criminal proceedings by videoconference or telephone, to the extent consistent with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

10. Grand juries shall continue to meet as directed by the United States Attorney's Office pending further order of the Court. Absent emergencies, additional grand jury empanelment will be postponed pending further order of the Court.

11. The federal courthouse and all its agencies remain open and operating. Consult the Clerk's Office or the appropriate agency for more information.

DONE AND ORDERED in Jacksonville, Florida this 20th day of March,
2020.



TIMOTHY J. CORRIGAN
United States District Judge

Copies:

Honorable Steven Merryday, Chief Judge
All Jacksonville Division District Judges,
Bankruptcy Judges, and Magistrate Judges
Maurice Grant, Branch Chief,
Federal Defender's Office-Jacksonville
Frank Talbot, Chief Assistant,
U.S. Attorney's Office-Jacksonville
Elizabeth M. Warren, Clerk of Court
Jim Leanhart, Jacksonville Division Manager
Timothy Luksha, Jacksonville Jury Administrator
U.S. Marshals Service-Jacksonville
U.S. Probation Office-Jacksonville
U.S. Pretrial Services-Jacksonville
William Smith, GSA Building Manager,
Bryan Simpson U.S. Courthouse