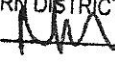


FILED

MAR 13 2020

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY  DEPUTY

**ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

This Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of novel coronavirus in the United States and the State of Texas. The World Health Organization has declared that COVID-19 qualifies as a global pandemic, having spread across more than 120 countries with more than 1,600 confirmed cases in the United States. The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas has been closely monitoring the outbreak of novel coronavirus (which causes the disease designated as COVID-19), including careful monitoring of the developing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The CDC has described the outbreak in the United States as a "rapidly evolving situation" and is providing continuously updated guidance as to the appropriate community response to COVID-19 as conditions worsen. The CDC's guidance includes multiple types of mitigation strategies generally aimed at reducing or avoiding exposure to infected individuals.

As of the date of this Order, there have been several confirmed cases of coronavirus within the Western District of Texas, specifically the Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio Divisions. The State of Texas has made a disaster declaration in response. The CDC and other public health entities have recommended social distancing as a means to limit further community spread of COVID-19. The Court is concerned with the health and safety of the public, Court employees, staff of other entities with whom Court personnel interact, litigants, counsel, interpreters, law enforcement officials, and jurors, who must work in close quarters to hear evidence and to deliberate.

Therefore, given the severity of the risk to the persons listed above by the spread of COVID-19 in the Western District of Texas, and taking into consideration matters of public health, while reducing the size of public gatherings and the need for travel, the Court orders as follows:

1. All civil and criminal bench and jury trials scheduled to begin on any date from now through May 1, 2020, are continued, to a date to be reset by each presiding judge. Those continuances do not continue any pending deadlines other than the trial dates. Attorneys should contact the presiding judges in their continued cases if they seek to modify such other deadlines.
2. Due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and due to the reduced availability of attorneys and Court staff to be present in courtrooms because of the public health considerations described above, the time period of the continuances implemented by this Order are excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The Court finds that the ends of justice served by ordering these continuances outweigh the best

interests of the public and each defendant's right to a speedy trial. In fact, the best interests of the public are served by these continuances.

3. Due to the extremely large criminal caseload in the Western District of Texas, the US Attorney's Office has expressed the need to continue conducting grand jury proceedings in ordinary course. Therefore, grand jury matters will proceed pending further order of the Court.

4. Individual judges may continue to hold in-person hearings, sentencing proceedings, and conferences, but counsel may seek relief from those matters by appropriate motions. The parties are encouraged to seek to participate in non-sentencing hearings and conferences by telephone or video. This Order does not impact any court's consideration of particular matters on the papers alone.

5. Magistrate Judges will continue to preside over criminal matters, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings and the issuance of warrants.

6. Any events involving the Court that are not case-specific, including, but not limited to, continuing legal education courses, public tours, administration of oaths to attorneys, and naturalization ceremonies conducted by the Court which are scheduled to occur between March 16 and May 1, 2020, are hereby cancelled and will be rescheduled as appropriate.

7. All of the courthouses of the Western District of Texas, including the Clerk's offices and offices of United States Pretrial and Probation, will remain open for business. However, many employees, including some of chambers staff, will be teleworking, but they will be accessible by phone. Electronic filings may continue to be made through the CM/ECF system.

8. Any delivery directed to chambers shall be delivered instead to the Clerk's offices in each courthouse.

9. Unless extended, this Order will remain in effect through May 1, 2020, and will then expire.

FOR THE COURT.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 13th day of March, 2020.



ORLANDO L. GARCIA
Chief Judge

FILED

MAR 16 2020

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT CLERK
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY MTJ DEPUTY

**ADDITIONAL ORDER REGARDING
GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

This additional Order is issued in response to the recent outbreak of novel coronavirus in the United States and the State of Texas and to specifically address grand jury proceedings. The World Health Organization has declared that COVID-19 qualifies as a global pandemic, having spread across more than 120 countries with more than 3,000 confirmed cases in the United States. The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas has been closely monitoring the outbreak of novel coronavirus (which causes the disease designated as COVID-19), including careful monitoring of the developing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The CDC has described the outbreak in the United States as a "rapidly evolving situation" and is providing continuously updated guidance as to the appropriate community response to COVID-19 as conditions worsen. The CDC's guidance includes multiple types of mitigation strategies generally aimed at reducing or avoiding exposure to infected individuals.

As of the date of this Order, there have been several confirmed cases of coronavirus within the Western District of Texas, specifically in the Austin, Del Rio, El Paso and San Antonio Divisions, with additional cases being reported daily. Six counties within the Western District of Texas have declared local states of disaster or emergency and the Governor of Texas declared a state wide disaster due to COVID-19. The President of the United States has also declared a national emergency due to COVID-19 and stated additional measures are needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States. In addition to social distancing, the CDC has recommended that all events consisting of 50 people or more be canceled to limit community spread of COVID-19. There have been hundreds of school closures throughout Texas and within each division of the district schools have been closed due to COVID-19. The Court is concerned with the health and safety of the public, Court employees, staff of other entities with whom Court personnel interact, litigants, counsel, interpreters, law enforcement officials, and jurors, who must work in close quarters to hear evidence and to deliberate.

Therefore, given the severity of the risk to the persons listed above by the spread of COVID-19 in the Western District of Texas, and taking into consideration matters of public health, while reducing the size of public gatherings and the need for travel, the Court orders as follows:

1. Effective immediately all grand jury proceedings between now and through May 1, 2020 are continued. All deadlines are suspended and tolled for all purposes, including the statute of limitations, from today through May 1, 2020. The U.S. Attorney may schedule grand jury for emergency or essential matters.
2. Due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and because of the public health considerations described above, the time period of the continuances implemented by this Order are excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The Court finds that the ends of justice served by ordering these continuances outweigh the best

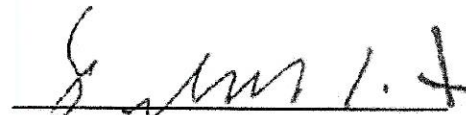
interests of the public and each defendant's right to a speedy trial. In fact, the best interests of the public are served by these continuances.

3. With this addition, all other terms of the Court's March 13, 2020 order remain in effect.

4. Unless extended or curtailed, this Order will remain in effect through May 1, 2020, and will then expire.

FOR THE COURT.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 16th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Orlando L. Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

ORLANDO L. GARCIA
Chief Judge

FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

2020 MAR 19 AM 8:21

IN RE:

CORONA VIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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§

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO DIVISION

BY 
STANDING ORDER NO. 002

THIS MATTER RELATES TO: Entry Into Courthouse

In order to protect public health, and in recognition of the national emergency that was declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, El Paso Division, hereby issues the following order:

The Albert Armendariz Sr. United States Courthouse, 525 Magoffin Avenue, El Paso, Texas, will remain open for business, but access to the building will be restricted. Security will only permit access to the following persons:


- Persons who have been ordered to appear by any judge of the Western District of Texas, El Paso Division;
- Persons who have been directed to appear by the Probation Office or by Pretrial Services;
- Persons who have Court business with the Office of the District Clerk (to file pleadings, make payments, etc.). Such persons will be allowed access only for the limited purpose and only on the first floor of the Courthouse;
- Government employees who work in the courthouse and are authorized to appear by their employer;
- Contractors who are authorized to appear;
- United States Postal Service mail carriers, private mail carriers and private delivery services;
- Law enforcement personnel;
- Credentialed courthouse press;


- Victims who are attending scheduled proceedings; and
- Persons designated by the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, or the Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas.

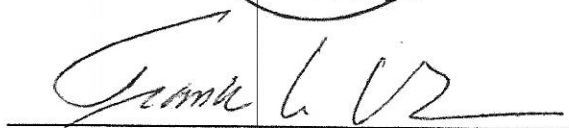
Persons otherwise authorized to enter must pass the screening protocol that can be found in the "Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic" and the "Additional Order Regarding Grand Jury Proceedings Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic" entered on March 13, 2020 and March 16, 2020, respectively, by Honorable Chief Judge Orlando L. Garcia, Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas. Orders can be found at <https://www.txwd.uscourts.gov>. No one will be permitted to enter in violation of that protocol.

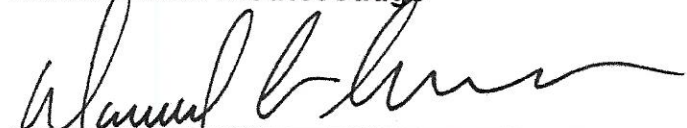
This Standing Order shall be effective immediately and until May 1, 2020, unless extended by supplemental order.

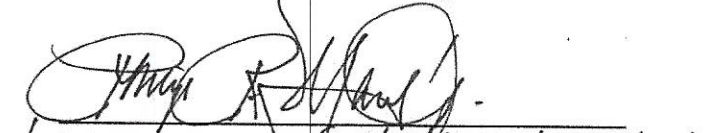
SO ORDERED this 19 day of March, 2020.


PHILIP R. MARTINEZ
 United States District Judge


KATHLEEN CARDONE
 United States District Judge


FRANK MONTALVO
 United States District Judge

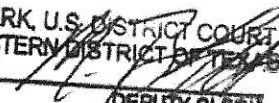

DAVID GUADERRAMA
 United States District Judge


 for **DAVID BRIONES** (with his authorization)
 Senior United States District Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
WACO DIVISION

FILED

MAR 19 2020

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

IN RE: §
CORONA VIRUS / COVID-19 PANDEMIC §
§

STANDING ORDER

THIS MATTER CONCERNS: Entry Into the U.S. District Courthouse

In order to protect public health, and in recognition of the national emergency that was declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Waco Division, hereby issues the following order:

The United States Courthouse, 800 Franklin Avenue, Waco, Texas, will remain open for business, but access to the building will be restricted. Court Security will only permit access to the following persons:

- Persons who have been ordered to appear by any judge of the Western District of Texas, Waco Division;
- Persons who have been directed to appear by the U.S. Probation Office or by the U.S. Pretrial Services Office;
- Persons who have court business with the Office of the District Clerk (to file pleadings, make payments, etc.). Such persons will be allowed access only for this limited purpose;
- Persons who have court business with the Office of the Bankruptcy Clerk (to file pleadings, make payments, etc.). Such persons will be allowed access only for this limited purpose;
- Persons attending Section 341 First Meeting of Creditors conducted by the United States Trustee's Office;
- Government employees who work in the courthouse and are authorized to appear by their employer;
- Contractors who are authorized to appear;

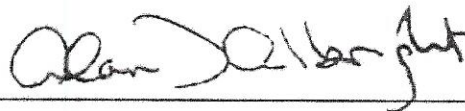
- United States Postal Service mail carriers, private mail carriers and private delivery services;
- Law enforcement personnel;
- Credentialed courthouse press;
- Victims who are attending scheduled proceedings;
- Immediate family members of a defendant who is appearing for sentencing in a criminal proceeding, but limited to no more than 15 family members per defendant; and
- Persons designated by the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, or the Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas.

For all criminal proceedings other than sentencings, no immediate family members of a defendant will be allowed access to the courthouse or courtroom.

Persons otherwise authorized to enter must pass the screening protocol that can be found in the "Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic" and the "Additional Order Regarding Grand Jury Proceedings Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic" entered on March 13, 2020 and March 16, 2020, respectively, by the Honorable Chief Judge Orlando L. Garcia, Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas. Orders may be found at <https://www.txwd.uscourts.gov> No one will be permitted to enter in violation of that protocol.

This Standing Order shall be effective immediately and until May 1, 2020, unless extended by supplemental order.

SO ORDERED this 19th day of March, 2020.



ALAN D ALBRIGHT
United States District Judge



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Western District of Texas

(<https://www.txwd.uscourts.gov/>)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Notice

The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas in conjunction with our partners at the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the General Services Administration (GSA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are taking the necessary steps to help ensure the safety of every person who has business in the courthouse.


We are actively monitoring the situation on the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncov>). This site is updated daily and provides CDC guidance to assist in protecting everyone.

Everyday preventative actions include but are not limited to:

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.

Flyers have been posted on each floor providing helpful information on preventing the spread of a virus.

If you are possibly sick or have recently traveled internationally and are concerned about appearing in person for a scheduled hearing, trial or jury service, please contact the Clerk's Office in your respective location for more information.

 Documents (<https://www.txwd.uscourts.gov/category/documents/>)

United States District Court

Western District of Texas

Executive Office of the Clerk

727 E. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd. Suite 500

San Antonio, Texas 78206

Tel: (210) 472-4955

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