

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

FILED

2020 MAY -4 A 11: 10

In re: COURT OPERATIONS DURING  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
N.D. OF ALABAMA

GENERAL ORDER  
No. 2020-07

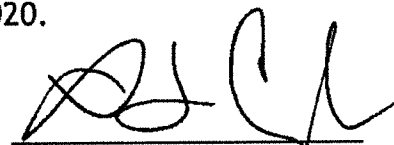
The Court originally entered a General Order on March 17, 2020 that, in part, provided that “[a]ll non-jury trials scheduled to commence before any district or magistrate judge are hereby continued pending further Court order.” That same order also mandated that “other civil proceedings scheduled to be conducted in court (e.g. motion hearings and status conferences) shall be conducted as scheduled by phone, video conferencing, or other electronic means. Hearings and conferences will not be held in the district courthouses pending further Court order.”

After carefully considering the developing circumstances in the Northern District of Alabama, it is appropriate for this Court to terminate the prohibition of conducting hearings and conferences in the courthouses of the Northern District of Alabama.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The prohibition of conducting hearings and conferences in the courthouses of the Northern District of Alabama originally entered on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, is terminated. The district and magistrate judges shall individually determine when it is appropriate to conduct such in-person hearings on a case by case basis. Each judge should be mindful of the health and safety of all participants in any such hearing. As long as the current National Emergency continues, unless it is necessary for a hearing to be in-person, such hearings should be conducted by teleconference or video teleconference. All other provisions of the March 17, 2020 General Order, unless previously modified, remain in full force and effect.

IT IS SO ORDERED on the 4th day of May, 2020.



L. Scott Coogler  
Chief U.S. District Judge  
Northern District of Alabama