

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

2020 APR 13 P 11:38

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

GENERAL ORDER
No. 2020-04

The Court continues to monitor the public health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 virus. To date, more than eight hundred persons within this district have tested positive for the virus. In line with the guidance provided by the President of United States and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Court entered a General Order on March 17, 2020, continuing proceedings, staying proceedings, and adopting rules designed to protect public health by reducing the number of persons who congregate within the district courthouses. With the public health emergency continuing, it is necessary for this Court to extend the previously entered order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That all provisions of the General Order entered on March 17, 2020, unless otherwise modified herein, are continued in effect pending further court order.
2. Discovery Deadlines and Depositions in Civil Cases: All currently unexpired deadlines and briefing schedules in civil cases are hereby stayed through April 30, 2020, as this Court understands that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency may impact attorneys' abilities to comply with certain deadlines, such as the production of documents, the filing of briefs, and depositions. Regardless, the district and magistrate judges are free to make exceptions to this stay in extraordinary circumstances. Further, all attorneys and parties are encouraged to continue discovery and briefing when appropriate (for example, when such can be conducted by telework).

3. Effect on Statutory and/or Rules-based Requirements: Unless otherwise noted above or in the General Order entered on March 17, 2020, this Order does not toll or otherwise affect the applicability of any statutory or rules-based requirements or deadlines, including but not limited to, statutes of limitation and deadlines for filing appeals.
4. Exigent Circumstances: The Court retains the ability to grant exceptions to this order upon the showing of exigent circumstances. Any requested exception must be electronically filed as a motion in the case in which the exception is requested.
5. Duration: Due to the uncertain length of the Public Health Emergency, this General Order will remain in effect until revoked by further order of the Court.
6. Counsel are reminded of the provision above where all attorneys and parties are encouraged to continue discovery and briefing when appropriate (for example, when such can be conducted by telework) and that they may file for exceptions to this order upon the showing of exigent circumstances.

IT IS SO ORDERED on the 13th day of April, 2020.



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