

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN THE MATTER OF:

General Order No. 2020-07

CLOSING OF COURT FACILITIES
UNDER THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY
COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS

GENERAL ORDER

To the extent this Order differs from previous orders of the Court on this subject, this Order supersedes and replaces those orders.

On March 18, 2020, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana issued a General Order concerning the Closure of Court Facilities Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 and Related Coronavirus, No. 2020-06. In that Order, the Court noted the evolving situation presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing risks to the public, Court personnel, and the orderly administration of justice. The Court further noted that the gatherings of people which result from court operations present substantial health risks to the public, and therefore took action to reduce that risk. The Court again notes that the COVID-19 situation has continued to intensify, and risks to the public, Court personnel, and the orderly administration of justice are increasing. Court facilities, like many areas, have had at least one visitor who later tested positive for COVID-19. The closure ordered on March 18, 2020 is open ended and the Court must confront the need to engage in emergency operations in a manner that protects public health, the safety of any defendant, and the health of court personnel, while respecting the rights of individual criminal defendants.

In the Court's criminal matters, all initial appearances, arraignments, and other essential proceedings will continue to be held before the duty Magistrate Judges, unless the parties agree

to continue them; to the full extent possible, matters that are maintained on the calendar shall be conducted by telephone or video conference.

Any party seeking emergency relief from the restrictions put in place through General Order 2020-06 must file a motion for such relief in the case in which the emergency relief is being sought. The motion must be filed electronically via:

- (i) CM/ECF if possible; or
- (ii) email to:

FWClerks@innd.uscourts.gov (for matters in the Fort Wayne Division);

SBClerks@innd.uscourts.gov (for matters in the South Bend Division);

HMDCLerks@innd.uscourts.gov (for matters in the Hammond Division); and

LafClerks@innd.uscourts.gov (for matters in the Lafayette Division).

The motion will be considered in the first instance by the assigned Magistrate Judge in the Division of filing; if the assigned Magistrate Judge is unavailable, then by an active District Judge in the Division of filing; if there is no available District Judge in the Division of filing, then by the District's Chief Judge. The matter will be promptly considered.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2020.

s/ Theresa L. Springmann
Theresa L. Springmann, Chief Judge

s/ James T. Moody
James T. Moody, Judge

s/ Philip P. Simon
Philip P. Simon, Judge

s/ Jon E. DeGuilio
Jon E. DeGuilio, Judge

s/ Damon R. Leichty
Damon R. Leichty, Judge

s/ William C. Lee
William C. Lee, Judge

s/ Robert L. Miller, Jr.
Robert L. Miller, Jr., Judge

s/ Joseph S. Van Bokkelen
Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, Judge

s/ Holly A. Brady
Holly A. Brady, Judge