

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: : **GENERAL ORDER NO. 20-01**
:
GENERAL CONTINUANCE :
OF HEARINGS AND :
PROCEEDINGS DUE TO PUBLIC :
HEALTH CONCERNS :

AND NOW, this 13th day of March, 2020, in light of the serious public health and epidemiological concerns regarding the transmission of contagious disease and illness, specifically relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19), and the recommendations of public health officials and authorities that in-person meetings and gatherings be temporarily limited to the extent feasible in order to limit the risk of transmission, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

1. All hearings and proceedings in all civil and criminal matters within sixty (60) days of this order that would involve the physical presence of counsel or any party or individual before the Court are **CONTINUED**.

2. A hearing or proceeding that would otherwise be continued under this order may be exempt from continuance if the Court finds that:

a. the proceeding is a trial in a criminal matter and the proceeding is one that cannot permissibly be delayed or continued under federal law; or

b. the proceeding is conducted by video or audio teleconference with approval of the Court; or

c. other exigent circumstances are found by the Court to exist.

3. Counsel for each party in any case involving a hearing or proceeding that may be exempt from continuance under this order shall consult with counsel for other parties in the case and shall as soon as practicable file with the Court (either jointly or individually) a notice stating:

a. why the proceeding is or may be not subject to continuance under this order, including in cases involving trial in a criminal matter whether a continuance is or is not justified under the Federal Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3161-3174; and

b. whether the proceeding may or may be not conducted by video or audio teleconference, and if so how counsel would propose the teleconference proceed (*e.g.*, whether through video or audio, the means of connection, from where counsel and the parties would appear, etc.).

4. This order shall be renewed, amended, or revoked on or before April 30, 2020.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Christopher C. Conner
Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Middle District of Pennsylvania