

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

IN RE: : **STANDING ORDER 2020-22**
RESUMPTION OF JURY TRIALS :
AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS :

AND NOW, this 6th day of August 2020, having consulted all applicable guidance, having promulgated a Plan for the Reinstitution of Jury Proceedings, and after conferring with all agencies including the Federal Public Defender's Office and the United States Attorney's Office, this Court will permit jury trials to recommence subject to the following ORDER:

1. Effective August 17, 2020, jury trials scheduled in the Middle District of Pennsylvania may resume, provided:
 - a.) criminal jury trials are prioritized;
 - b.) only one trial at a time will be conducted at each vicinage; and
 - c.) proceedings are conducted as closely as practicable in accord with the guidance set forth in the Plan for the Reinstitution of Jury Proceedings, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, as well as this Court's COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines, as adopted by Standing Order 20-17, entered on June 17, 2020 and as amended on July 9, 2020.
2. In a criminal matter, if the presiding officer concludes that exigent circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic prevents safely calling and retaining jurors, then the presiding officer, after consultation with counsel, may find that the need to continue a matter outweighs the best interests of the public and the defendant's speedy trial rights. This finding will provide the presiding officer discretion to exclude the continuance's delay under the Speedy Trial Act, 18, U.S.C. sec. 3161(h)(7)(A).
3. Non-jury proceedings, such as bench trials and hearings, may proceed as scheduled at the discretion of the presiding judge. In civil cases, the parties are encouraged to utilize video conferencing when available. Criminal hearings will proceed in accordance with Standing Order 20-19, entered on June 24, 2020.
4. All judicial officers are encouraged to carefully consider the limited resources of the United States Marshals Service and defer to that office's reasonable requests when scheduling matters.
5. In civil cases, deadlines set by the presiding judge remain in effect, but the presiding judge will liberally grant motions to enlarge deadlines based on COVID-19 pandemic complications. All parties are encouraged to conduct

discovery that avoids both unnecessary travel and personal contact via means including the use of all available technology, such as video and teleconferencing.

BY THE COURT:

s/ John E. Jones III

John E. Jones III, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Middle District of Pennsylvania