

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

IN RE:)
COURT OPERATIONS RESTRICTIONS)
DUE TO COVID-19 RESPONSE)

ORDER

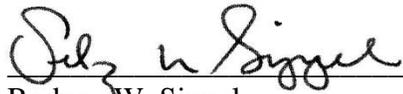
WHEREAS the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Missouri have declared a public health emergency in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised public and private entities to take precautions in order to reduce the spread of the virus, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri recognizes the need to take measures to effectuate these goals, while also continuing to fulfill its mission and keep both its civil and criminal court functions operating.

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby adopts the following measures to effectuate these goals, effective immediately and until May 31, 2020, or further Order of the Court:

1. The United States Courthouses located within the District shall remain open, but office hours for the Clerk of Court shall be reduced to 10am to 3pm;
2. All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 31, 2020, are continued and shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after May 31, 2020; and
3. All proceedings shall be conducted by means other than in-person meetings wherever possible by law and as directed by the presiding judge in the proceeding. Any proceeding not deemed essential by the presiding judge in the proceeding that does require in-person meeting will be continued until further notice by the presiding judge.

In criminal cases, the Court finds that the time period of any continuance entered from the date of this Order through May 31, 2020 as a result of this Order shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, [18 U.S.C. § 3161\(h\)\(7\)\(A\)](#), as the Court finds that the ends of justice served by taking that action outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial, given the need to protect the health and safety of defendants, their counsel, prosecutors, court staff, and the public by reducing the number of in-person hearings to the fullest extent possible, and due to the inability of the Court to ensure that a fair cross-section of jurors is available during the specified time.

SO ORDERED this 17th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney W. Sippel", written over a horizontal line.

Rodney W. Sippel
Chief United States District Judge