

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
AUGUSTA DIV.

2023 MAY -2 P 3: 21

IN RE: COVID-19 General and Administration Orders

CLERK 
SO. DIST. OF GA.

GENERAL ORDER MC 123

MC123-013

On April 10., 2023, following House and Senate passage, President Biden signed into law a Joint Resolution (H.J. Res. 7) that terminated the COVID-19 National Emergency Declaration President Trump made on March 13, 2020. At the same time, the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act is expected to end on May 11, 2023. Due to these developments, the Court has revisited its previously entered general and administrative orders relating to COVID-19 and hereby **ORDERS** as follows:

(1) **Standing Orders MC120-004 and MC121-016** which required entrance screenings and mask wearing, is hereby **VACATED** effective May 11, 2023. Individual judges, pursuant to their inherent authority, may require participants to wear masks or take other precautions in proceedings over which they preside.

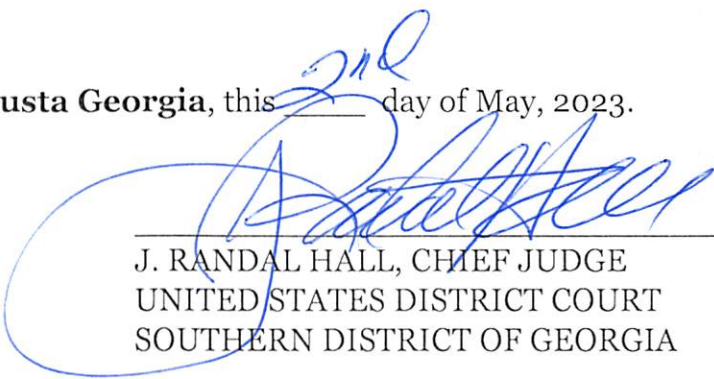
(2) **Standing Order 123-007** as amended, which authorizes video and telephone conferencing in certain criminal proceedings due to COVID-19 pursuant to the CARES Act, will terminate on May 10, 2023, the date that is 30 days after the termination of the COVID-19 National Emergency Declaration. After May 10, 2023, use of video or telephone conferencing technologies in criminal cases must comply with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and any relevant statutes independent of the CARES Act.

(3) **Standing Order 120-011** which authorizes designated grand jury spaces in each U.S. Courthouse using connected telecommunications facilities, is hereby **VACATED** effective May 11, 2023.

(4) **Standing Order 120-007** which authorizes the use of electronic signatures on any document; and authorizes either defense counsel or the presiding judge to sign on behalf of a defendant or juvenile, is hereby **VACATED** effective May 11, 2023.

This Order supercedes all other previous orders to the extent they are inconsistent with this Order. This Order will remain in effect until further notice.

SO ORDERED at Augusta Georgia, this 2nd day of May, 2023.



J. RANDAL HALL, CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA