

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF OREGON

IN RE: USE OF VIDEO AND
TELEPHONE CONFERENCING
FOR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS
DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Standing Order 2020-7

Congress has passed legislation authorizing the use of video and telephone conferencing, under certain circumstances and with the consent of the defendant, for various criminal proceedings during the COVID-19 emergency. *See* the CARES Act, H.R. 748 (the “Act”). The Judicial Conference of the United States has also found that emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President have affected and will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts generally.

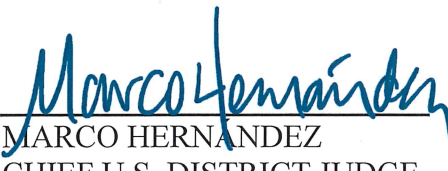
Therefore, pursuant to Sections 15002(b)(1) and 15002(b)(4) of the Act and on my own motion as the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, I authorize the use of video teleconferencing, or telephone conferencing if video teleconferencing is not reasonably available, for all events listed in Section 15002 of the Act with the consent of the defendant after consultation with counsel.

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(2) of the Act and on my own motion as the Chief Judge, I find that felony pleas under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and felony sentencings under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure cannot be conducted in person in this District without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety. If the judge in a particular case finds, for specific reasons, that the felony plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, the judge may conduct the felony plea or sentencing in that case by video teleconference, or by telephone conference if video teleconferencing is not reasonably available, with the consent of the defendant after consultation with counsel. Judges may also use this authority for equivalent events in juvenile cases as described in Section 15002(b)(2)(B).

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3) of the Act, this Standing Order will remain in effect for 90 days unless terminated earlier. If emergency conditions continue to exist 90 days from the entry of this order, the Court will review the authorization and determine whether to extend it.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 30 day of March, 2020.


MARCO HERNANDEZ
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE