

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN RE: CLOSING OF COURT FACILITIES
UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID-19

General Order No. 2021-04

GENERAL ORDER

This Order SUPPLEMENTS General Order 2020-05, General Order 2020-06, General Order 2020-07, General Order 2020-08, General Order 2020-10, General Order 2020-14B, General Order 2020-18, General Order 2020-20, General Order 2020-29, General Order 2020-32, General Order 2020-35, General Order 2020-39 and General Order 2021-03. To the extent this Order differs from those Orders, this Order supersedes and replaces those Orders.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that based on information available to date, including the estimated number of persons infected currently with COVID-19, the significant increase the State of Indiana has experienced recently in COVID-19 cases, and the number of cases projected to occur in the immediate future, the Court REAFFIRMS the following findings made in General Order 2020-05:

1. The gatherings of people in close proximity to one another that occur during Court operations presents the potential for substantial health risks to the public;
2. Such risks may be significantly mitigated by temporarily modifying Court operations; and
3. Good cause exists to implement temporary changes to Court operations.

Therefore, the following is hereby ORDERED in all the Court's divisions:

Clerk's Office Operations

The Clerk's Office is open during normal business hours only by telephone and email and otherwise closed to the public. Filings may be: (a) electronically filed via CM/ECF; (b) deposited during business hours in drop-boxes in the lobbies of the Courthouses in each division (Fort Wayne Division, 1300 S. Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; Hammond Division, 5400 Federal Plaza, Hammond, IN 46320; Lafayette Division, 230 N. Fourth Street, Lafayette, IN

47901-1322; South Bend Division, 102 Federal Building, 204 S. Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601) ; or (c) mailed to the U.S. District Court Clerk’s Office in each division (Fort Wayne Division, 1300 S. Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; Hammond Division, 5400 Federal Plaza, Hammond, IN 46320; Lafayette Division, 230 N. Fourth Street, Lafayette, IN 47901-1322; South Bend Division, 102 Federal Building, 204 S. Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601). If a filing is mailed by a prisoner, the traditional “mail-box” rule shall govern its filing date. If a filing is mailed by a non-prisoner, the filing date shall be deemed to be the postmark date, subject to any party’s right to move that a different date be used. No in-person deliveries of any kind may be made to a judge’s chambers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order is in effect until **March 1, 2021**.

Dated this 15th day of January 2021.

/s/ Jon E. DeGuilio
Jon E. DeGuilio, Chief Judge

/s/ William C. Lee
William C. Lee, Judge

/s/ James T. Moody
James T. Moody, Judge

/s/ Robert L. Miller, Jr.
Robert L. Miller, Jr., Judge

/s/ Philip P. Simon
Philip P. Simon, Judge

/s/ Theresa L. Springmann
Theresa L. Springmann, Judge

/s/ Joseph S. Van Bokkelen
Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, Judge

/s/ Holly A. Brady
Holly A. Brady, Judge

/s/ Damon R. Leichty
Damon R. Leichty, Judge