

Procedures in Response to COVID-19 Related Coronavirus Magistrate Judge Kolar

Effective November 1, 2020 (unless otherwise modified or enlarged), based on the General Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 and Related Coronavirus ([2020-08](#), [2023-09](#)), U.S. Magistrate Judge Joshua P. Kolar has adopted the following policies to mitigate the exposure, transmission, and spread of all versions of coronavirus:

- (1) Everyone is encouraged to conduct necessary court business through electronic or telephonic means.
- (2) Anyone entering the Courthouse is encouraged to follow the precautions outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which may be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.
- (3) Unless otherwise ordered, all civil court proceedings (including without limitation, hearings, pretrial conferences, and Rule 16(b) conferences) shall be conducted by telephone or teleconference.
- (4) Unless otherwise ordered, all settlement conferences shall be conducted remotely by Zoom, Cisco Jabber, Court Call, or a similar video-teleconference application.
- (5) With the consent of individual defendants, all initial appearances, arraignment, detention, and plea hearings in criminal cases shall be conducted by video-teleconference (VTC).
- (6) With respect to detention hearings, the parties are directed to confer and advise the Court if an in-person detention hearing will be waived by the defendant, or whether either party is seeking a continuance of the hearing. A defendant who does not object to detention should, before the date of the detention hearing, notify chambers either orally (through counsel) or in writing that the defendant has no objection to detention and is waiving the detention hearing. Any such waiver would be without prejudice to the court's reconsideration of the issue of pretrial release at a later date.

- (7) For any in-person hearings scheduled by the Court, everyone in the courtroom shall comply with the CDC recommendation of maintaining a social distance and wearing face coverings.
- (8) The Court strongly suggests that all parties check the Court's website (www.innd.uscourts.gov) for applicable general orders prior to any in-person hearings.
- (9) The United States Marshal Service is authorized to adopt any necessary procedures and/or protocols to implement these Court directives.
- (10) The Court Security Officers are authorized and directed to maintain appropriate social distancing, and compliance with these directives during in-person hearings.