

Response to COVID-19 and Related Coronavirus (Judge Martin)

Effective March 17, 2020, based on the General Orders 2020-08, 2020-29, 2021-24, 2021-31, 2022-05, 2022-11, 2022-17, 2022-17A, 2022-24, 2023-09 Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 and Related Coronavirus, U.S. Magistrate Judge John E. Martin 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) All settlement conferences are held by Zoom.
- (3) All civil court proceedings (including without limitation hearings, pretrial conferences, and Rule 16(b) conferences) shall be conducted by telephone or teleconference.
- (4) With the consent of individual defendants, all initial appearances and arraignment hearings in criminal cases shall be conducted by video-teleconference (VTC).
- (5) For detention hearings, the parties are directed to confer and advise the Court if an in-person detention will be waived by the defendant, or whether either party is seeking a continuance. 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.
- (6) The United States Marshal Service is authorized to adopt any necessary procedures and/or protocols to implement these Court directives.
- (7) The Court Security Officers are authorized and directed to maintain appropriate social distancing and compliance with these directives during in-person hearings.

(8) All persons to wear a mask in the courtroom and chambers unless they seek and receive specific permission from Judge Martin.