

District of Maine



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[During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

General Order 2020-1 dated March 13, 2020: Continued all civil and criminal (grand and petit) jury selections and jury trials through April 30, 2020, subject to further extension. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL **[Superseded by General Order 2020-2]**

General Order 2020-2 dated March 18, 2020: Superseded and replaced the first General Order. General Order 2020-2 addressed the scope of in-court operations and related matters including jury (grand and petit) matters, scheduling and deadlines in criminal and civil cases, and the availability of telephone conference and video teleconference proceedings. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL **[Partially superseded. See General Order 2020-4]**

General Order 2020-3 dated March 25, 2020: Complemented the second General Order. It provided for the use of telephonic hearings in criminal cases, including changes of plea and sentencing hearings in certain cases. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL **[Superseded by General Order 2020-4]**

General Order 2020-4 dated March 31, 2020: Partially superseded the second General Order and fully superseded the third General Order. It authorizes video teleconferencing and telephone conferencing, under certain circumstances and with the consent of the defendant, for various criminal case events during the COVID-19 pandemic. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL. **[Expired.]**

General Order 2020-5 dated April 29, 2020: Addresses court operations between May 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL **[Expired]**

General Order 2020-6 dated May 11, 2020: Concerns emergency requests for compassionate release under Section 603 of the 2018 First Step Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c) and (d) (“pro se petitions”). To efficiently address these pro se petitions, the Court is adopting the following expedited procedures. Petitions that seek compassionate release, but not on an urgent basis related to the COVID-19 pandemic is not governed by this General Order. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL. **[ACTIVE]**

General Order 2020-7 dated June 1, 2020 requires the use of face coverings or masks in the District’s courthouses. Order expires on December 31, 2020. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL. **[ACTIVE]**

General Order 2020-8 dated June 3, 2020 continues grand jury proceedings in the month of June and continues jury impanelment and jury trials in July. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL. [Expired]

General Order 2020-9 dated June 10, 2020 establishes the Court Operations Advisory Committee, which shall provide comment and advice on issues related to the District of Maine’s ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and plans for the resumption of in-court events. Order expires on March 31, 2020. See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL. [ACTIVE]

General Order 2020-10 dated June 30, 2020 continuing criminal and civil jury empanelment and trials in August and September 2020, and reauthorizing the use of video teleconferencing, or telephone conferencing if videoconferencing is not reasonably available, in keeping with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020). See 2:20-mc-00080-JDL. Order expires on September 28, 2020. [Superseded by General Order 2020-14]

General Order 2020-11 dated July 30, 2020 establishes protocols expanding the availability of video teleconference case conferences and hearings in criminal and civil cases. [ACTIVE]

General Order 2020-12 dated July 30, 2020 addresses grand jury proceedings and continuances in criminal cases. Order in effect until October 30, 2020. [ACTIVE]

In Re Matter of Certain Administrative and Civil Forfeiture Proceedings, Misc. Case. No. 2:20-mc-00098-JDL: The Court extended certain statutory deadlines for administrative and civil judicial asset forfeiture proceedings and actions. See ECF No. 3. [ACTIVE]

General Order 2020-13 dated September 18, 2020 establishes courthouse entrance protocols. Order in effect until superseded by a future Order of the Court. *Note Regarding September 30, 2020, Amendment:* General Order 2020-13 was amended effective September 30, 2020, to clarify that the exemption addressed in Section 3.b. relates to all states identified in the most current listing of <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy/faqs>. [ACTIVE]

Amended General Order 2020-14 dated September 18, 2020 continues criminal and civil jury empanelment and trials in October, November and December 2020 in the Court’s Bangor division; continues criminal and civil jury empanelment and trials in October, November, December 2020 and January 2021 in the Court’s Portland division; extends Speedy Trial Act exclusions; and reauthorizes the use of video teleconferencing, or telephone conferencing if video teleconferencing is not reasonably available, in keeping with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020). In addition,

this General Order reauthorizes the admission of attorneys to the Court's bar without a hearing. Order in effect until superseded by a future Order of the Court. *Note Regarding October 6, 2020, Amendment:* General Order 2020-14, originally entered on September 18, 2020, was amended effective October 6, 2020, to clarify that the Court will resume a limited schedule of in-court hearings beginning in October 2020. **[ACTIVE]**