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JUNE 17, 2021  
  
CLERK US DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA  
  
BY s/M. Everette DEPUTY

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

In the matter of  
  
THE EXTENSION OF  
THE CARES ACT AUTHORIZATION AND  
MISCELLANEOUS COURT OPERATIONS  
IN THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA UNDER  
THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES  
CREATED BY CORONAVIRUS DISEASE  
(COVID-19)  
  
**SUPERSEDES GENERAL ORDER 21-05**

GENERAL ORDER 21-11

WHEREAS (1) The Chief Judge of this Court is required by the CARES Act to “review the authorization [to conduct various proceedings by video and audio conferencing] and determine whether to extend the authorization,” CARES Act § 15002(b)(3)(A); (2) This Court has promulgated and followed certain procedures, including but not limited to mandatory masking, social distancing, limiting the number of procedures on any given day, and promoting air circulation and renewal, so as to permit a variety of court functions to proceed during the pandemic; and (3) Nevertheless, the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak remains both a global and a national public health emergency.

In light of the above, the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona has concluded the following temporary steps to continue protecting the health and the safety of the public are necessary to maintain and enable the resumption of all Court operations.

NOW THEREFORE it is ordered extending the authorization to conduct various proceedings by video and audio conferencing authorized by the CARES Act through

1 September 17, 2021. It is further ordered as follows:

2 **Flagstaff Courthouse**

3 1. Civil jury trials and criminal bench trials may resume in compliance with  
4 CDC guidelines.

5 2. VTC and telephonic proceedings are authorized to occur in the Flagstaff  
6 Courthouse to the full extent authorized by the CARES Act upon the required findings of  
7 the designated district judge or the Chief Judge or his designee.

8 3. The number of individuals admitted to the courtroom for such proceedings  
9 must comply with CDC guidelines. Family members and friends of those involved in  
10 necessary proceedings are encouraged to convey support by sending e-mails to counsel  
11 which will be communicated to the Court.

12 4. Central Violations Bureau cases in Flagstaff, Kingman, Page, and the Grand  
13 Canyon may proceed if the number of persons involved in such matters is reduced to  
14 comply with CDC guidelines.

15 **Yuma Courthouse**

16 1. Operation Streamline remains canceled until further notice. Other Court  
17 proceedings in Yuma may resume in compliance with CDC guidelines.

18 2. VTC and telephonic proceedings are authorized to occur in the Yuma  
19 Courthouse to the full extent authorized by the CARES Act upon the required findings of  
20 the designated district judge or the Chief Judge or his designee.

21 3. Central Violations Bureau cases may proceed if the number of persons  
22 involved in such matters is reduced to comply with CDC guidelines.

23 **Tucson and Phoenix Courthouses**

24 1. Initial Appearances, preliminary hearings, detention hearings, changes of  
25 plea and sentencings and all other matters involving detained persons shall continue to  
26 occur from CoreCivic by video-teleconference or teleconference, to the extent possible, as  
27 authorized by the CARES Act.

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1           2.     VTC proceedings in criminal cases will be given priority over requests for  
2 VTC access in civil cases should capacity limits be approached.

3           3.     Multi-defendant proceedings such as operation streamline and the Court's  
4 flip-flop calendar remain canceled until further notice.

5           4.     Central Violations Bureau cases may proceed if the number of persons  
6 involved in such matters is reduced to comply with CDC guidelines.

7           5.     Evidentiary hearings and change of plea hearings for out-of-custody  
8 defendants may proceed if the hearings can be held in compliance with CDC guidelines.

9           **Requirements for Occupants of Courthouses Within the District of Arizona**

10          1.     The District Court is authorized to conduct limited naturalization ceremonies  
11 to the extent required for those candidates seeking name changes or for other necessary  
12 reasons. Naturalization ceremonies that are conducted in a courthouse must be conducted  
13 using appropriate social distancing and in accord with CDC guidelines and the other  
14 requirements for courthouse entry set forth in this General Order. Aside from necessary  
15 court staff and USCIS officers which shall be limited to the greatest extent possible, the  
16 candidates for citizenship, and interpreters if required, shall be the only persons attending  
17 such ceremonies. The numbers of such participants per ceremony shall be limited to  
18 comply with the above guidelines.

19          2.     Small attorney admission ceremonies held in compliance with CDC  
20 guidelines may be scheduled with the Court.

21          3.     All non-case related activities scheduled in the Sandra Day O'Connor U.S.  
22 Courthouse in Phoenix, Evo A. DeConcini Courthouse in Tucson, and the John M. Roll  
23 Courthouse in Yuma, remain canceled until further notice. This includes mock trials, CLE  
24 events, school tours, and all other non-case related gatherings.

25          4.     No person who is subject to isolation or quarantine is authorized to enter the  
26 courthouse.

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1           5.     No person who has a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, unusual  
2 muscle pain, recent loss of taste or smell, nasal congestion or a runny nose (unless due to  
3 known allergies) is authorized to enter the courthouse.

4           6.     No person shall be admitted to or remain within the courthouse without a  
5 mask, which shall entirely cover the mouth and nose, and be worn at all times while in the  
6 public areas of the courthouse. Cloth masks are acceptable. Repeat visitors to the Court,  
7 including attorneys, will be expected to provide their own masks. Masks shall be provided  
8 to potential jurors and other one-time visitors to the Court who have not brought their own  
9 masks. Other tenants of the courthouse or those coming to interact with such tenants shall  
10 provide their own masks.

11          7.     All persons shall maintain a distance of at least six feet between themselves  
12 and other persons.

13          8.     No more than four persons shall be on an elevator at any one time.

14           **Protocols for Hearings and Jury Trials**

15           The following protocols apply to all hearings and trials unless otherwise addressed  
16 in this General Order.

17          1.     All persons attending hearings or trials shall wear masks. During in-court  
18 proceedings, a judge may authorize removal of masks or face coverings for purposes of  
19 witness testimony, defendant identification, making an appropriate record or other reasons  
20 as deemed necessary by the judge provided that appropriate social distancing or other  
21 protective measures are followed.

22          2.     Except in multi-defendant cases, no more than one attorney and one client or  
23 client representative shall sit at counsel table at any one time. They shall be appropriately  
24 socially distanced.

25          3.     Public seating areas in courtrooms will be marked with a blue dot on the  
26 bench to designate places in which persons may sit. Persons may not sit closer than such  
27 designations.

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