

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

Miscellaneous Case No. 2:20-mc-00052



**IN RE: THIRD EXTENSION OF GENERAL ORDER #4
 VIDEOCONFERENCING in
 CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

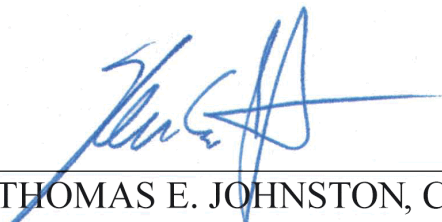
On March 30, 2020, the Court issued General Order #4 authorizing the expanded use of videoconferencing in criminal proceedings in light of the national emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 25, 2020, the Court entered an order extending that authorization for ninety days. On September 21, 2020, the Court entered an order further extending the authorization until December 20, 2020. The Court finds that the use of videoconferencing during the pandemic has been beneficial to the court, litigants, and others involved in criminal proceedings in this District.

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3) of the CARES Act, I am required to review the authorization set forth in General Order #4 every ninety days. The authorization is based upon the declaration of a national emergency by the President, and a determination by the Judicial Conference that the federal courts are materially affected by the national emergency. To date, I have no indication that the President or Congress is about to terminate the emergency or that the Judicial Conference is

considering a determination that the emergency no longer materially affects the federal courts. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the authorization to conduct videoconferencing in criminal cases as outlined in General Order #4 is hereby extended for a period of ninety days.

This Order will remain in effect ninety days from the date of its entry unless terminated earlier. If emergency conditions continue to exist ninety days from the date of this Order, or if the President's emergency declaration remains in effect, along with the Judicial Conference's finding that the emergency conditions will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts, the Chief Judge will review this Order and determine whether to extend it. Such review will occur not less frequently than once every ninety days, until the last day of the covered emergency period or until the Chief Judge determines that this authorization is no longer warranted.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of December, 2020.



THOMAS E. JOHNSTON, CHIEF JUDGE