

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF VERMONT**

In re: ORDER EXTENDING USE OF VIDEO AND  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCING UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY  
THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

**U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF VERMONT  
FILED  
JUNE 24, 2020**

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 92**

This order extends the authorization for the use of video and telephone conferencing technology in light of the continuing COVID-19 emergency.

By order dated March 30, 2020, the court authorized the use of video and telephone hearings in criminal cases. That order will expire on June 29, 2020. Pursuant to the authority granted in the CARES Act, H.R. 748, the court extends the authorization for an additional 90 days.

The court amends General Order No. 88 to reflect changed circumstances. Video access from detention facilities is now widely available and in use through the Zoom platform. Similarly, video access for defense counsel, prosecutors, and released defendants is available. Audio hearings continue to be authorized, but video is preferred. Defendants continue to have the right to appear in open court. A video or audio hearing in a criminal case requires the consent of the defendant.

Video attendance is also available to members of the media and members of the public upon request. Photography (including screen shots) or recording of court hearings and publication or broadcast of images or audio of these hearings remain contrary to court rules and will lead to a loss of access to the video or audio hearing. See F.R.Cr.P. 53; Local Civil Rule 83.2(b).

With the availability of Zoom hearings, there is no longer a need to schedule different judges on separate days.

The authorization to use video and audio includes civil motion hearings and hearings in bankruptcy cases.

Jury trials in criminal and civil cases will resume after September 1, 2020. The presiding judge exercises discretion as to the scheduling and conduct of a trial. The judge, court staff, and counsel will engage in advance planning for each trial in order to conduct the trial in the safest manner possible.

Dated at Burlington, in the District of Vermont, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.



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Geoffrey W. Crawford  
Chief Judge