

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

FILED CLERK'S OFFICE United States District Court Eastern District of Tennessee Date: <i>Dec 12, 2022, 9:43 am</i>

In Re:)	SO-22-15
)	
Eleventh Extension of Authorization for Video and Audio Teleconferencing During COVID-19 Pandemic Pursuant to CARES Act)	Chief District Judge Travis R. McDonough
)	

STANDING ORDER


Pursuant to the CARES Act, H.R. 748, the Court entered Standing Order 20-08 on March 30, 2020, authorizing the use of audio and video conferencing, under certain circumstances and with the consent of the defendant, for various criminal case events during the course of the COVID-19 emergency, to remain in effect for 90 days after entry of the order. The authorization of Standing Order 20-08 was extended in 90-day increments by Standing Orders 20-14, 20-17, 20-22, 21-07, 21-11, 21-13, 21-17, 22-05, 22-08, and 22-11. The authorization extension provided for in Standing Order 22-11 is set to expire on December 13, 2022.

On March 13, 2020, by Proclamation 9994, the President declared a national emergency concerning the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Because the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause significant risk to the public health and safety of the Nation, the President continued the national emergency pursuant to Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. § 1622(d)) beyond March 1, 2021. Continuation of the National Emergency Concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic, 86 FR 11599 (Feb. 24, 2021). The Judicial Conference of the United States (“JCUS”) continues to find that the emergency conditions created by COVID-19 have affected and will continue to materially

affect the functioning of the federal courts generally. Although conditions are improving in Tennessee, COVID-19 continues to spread,¹ and only 48.0% of individuals residing in Tennessee are fully vaccinated.² Accordingly, pursuant to 15002(b)(3)(A) of the CARES Act, the Chief Judge of this district hereby finds that an eleventh extension of the authorization on the use of audio and video conferencing, as fully detailed in Standing Order 20-08, is necessary.

Therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the authorization for video or audio teleconferencing as set forth in Standing Order 20-08, and as extended by Standing Order 20-14, Standing Order 20-17, Standing Order 20-22, Standing Order 21-07, Standing Order 21-11, Standing Order 21-13, Standing Order 21-17, Standing Order 22-05, Standing Order 22-08, and Standing Order 22-11 is extended until the earlier of: (1) the date the Chief Judge determines the authorization is no longer warranted, (2) the date on which the emergency authority granted by the JCUS is terminated, (3) the date authorization has been terminated pursuant to 15002(b)(5) of the CARES Act, or (4) March 14, 2023. If this authorization has not been terminated before March 14, 2023, this Court will review this authorization and determine whether to extend it for a period not to exceed 90 days.

SO ORDERED.



TRAVIS R. MCDONOUGH
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹ See CDC Community Levels, COVID-19 Integrated County View, Tennessee (Dec. 5, 2022, 11:05 AM), https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Tennessee&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=CommunityLevelstype=CommunityLevels&null=CommunityLevels.

² See CDC Tennessee COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting (Dec. 5, 2022, 11:00 AM), <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/covid-19-vaccine/>.