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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

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US DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DIST. TENN.

In Re:

)
) SO-23-02
)

Twelfth 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, 22-11, and 22-15. The authorization extension provided for in Standing Order 22-15 is set to expire on March 14, 2023.

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 Accordingly, pursuant to 15002(b)(3)(A) of the CARES Act, the Chief Judge of this district hereby finds that a twelfth 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, Standing Order 22-11 and Standing Order 22-15 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) June 10, 2023. If this authorization has not been terminated before June 10, 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 (Mar. 6, 11:01 AM), https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Tennessee&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=CommunityLevelstype=CommunityLevels&null=CommunityLevels.