

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

Chambers of  
John M. Gerrard  
Chief Judge



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**March 20, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Today, John M. Gerrard, Chief U.S. District Judge for the District of Nebraska, entered an order extending the continuances of all civil and criminal jury trials, and all grand jury proceedings, until further order of the Court, and in any event, no sooner than May 1, 2020. Other court hearings and court-ordered conferences are being conducted through videoconferencing to the greatest extent possible.

In announcing the order, Chief Judge Gerrard stated, “While a vast majority of the Court’s employees have appropriately been assigned to work remotely, the district’s courthouses and the bankruptcy court remain open, electronic filings are being processed, and the intake desks remain available for non-electronic filings. Staff in all judges’ chambers and the clerk’s offices, as well as staff in the bankruptcy court, remain available by telephone and email, and regular mail is being received. The public and the practicing bar are allowed and encouraged to continue using court services during the next several weeks, while following all applicable public health guidelines and screening procedures. The district’s judges and staff are continuing to make decisions, file orders, and churn out work as they do their part in obeying all public health guidelines in order to significantly reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 and other diseases.”

Judge John M. Gerrard, Chief Judge  
U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

IN RE: CONTINUANCES DUE TO  
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND COVID-  
19 DISEASE EXTENDED THROUGH  
MAY 1, 2020.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-06

Given the ongoing local and national emergency occasioned by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, and after consultation with the United States Attorney and the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nebraska,

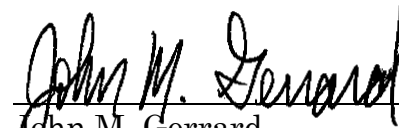
IT IS ORDERED:

1. The areas presenting an elevated risk of transmitting COVID-19 for purposes of [General Order 2020-03](#) shall now include any international travel and any domestic area subject to a lawfully issued quarantine order or functional equivalent.
2. The continuances implemented by [General Order 2020-04](#) and [General Order 2020-05](#) are extended to include all proceedings set to begin on or before May 1, 2020.
3. For the reasons stated in [General Order 2020-04](#) and [General Order 2020-05](#), the delays in progression of criminal cases occasioned by the continuances implemented by this General Order are excluded under the Speedy Trial Act pursuant to [18 U.S.C. § 3161\(h\)\(7\)\(A\) & \(B\)\(iii\)](#). The failure of any defendant to object to this General Order will be deemed a waiver of any right to later claim the time should not have been excluded under the Speedy Trial Act.

4. Due to the unavailability of a grand jury in this District, the 30-day time period for filing an indictment or information is tolled as to any defendant during the time period of the continuances occasioned by [General Order 2020-04](#) and this General Order pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b).
5. Case-by-case exceptions to the continuances extended by this General Order may be ordered for non-jury proceedings at the discretion of the Court, upon motion from the parties or on the Court's own motion after consultation with counsel. The provisions of [General Order 2020-03](#) shall remain in effect for such proceedings.
6. The Court will vacate, extend, or amend this General Order no later than May 1, 2020.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



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John M. Gerrard  
Chief United States District Judge