

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

IN RE: *
VIDEO TELECONFERENCING *
REAUTHORIZATION FOR * MISC. NO. 00-308
CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS UNDER *
CARES ACT *
*

STANDING ORDER 2020-17

On March 29, 2020, this Court entered Standing Order 2020-06 authorizing the use of video and telephone conferencing, under certain circumstances and with the consent of the defendant, for various criminal case events during the course of the COVID-19 emergency pursuant to the CARES Act. On June 23, 2020, I reviewed this authorization and determined to extend it for an additional 90 days. As Chief Judge, and pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3)(A) of the legislation, I have again reviewed this authorization and have determined to extend it for an additional 90 days.

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 15002(b)(1) of the legislation, I hereby authorize the use of video conferencing, or telephone conferencing if video conferencing is not reasonably available, for all events listed in Section 15002(b) of the legislation, with the consent of the defendant after consultation with counsel.

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(2), I further specifically find that many felony pleas under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and many felony sentencings under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure still cannot be conducted in person in this district without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety, as well as the health and safety of certain judges and court participants at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19. As a result, if a judge in an individual case finds, for specific reasons, that a felony plea or sentencing in that case

cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, the judge may, with the consent of the defendant after consultation with counsel, use video conferencing, or teleconferencing if video conferencing is not reasonably available, for the felony plea or sentencing in that case. Judges may also use this authority for equivalent events in juvenile cases as described in Section 15002(b)(2)(B).

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3) of the legislation, this authorization will remain in effect for 90 days unless terminated earlier. If emergency conditions continue to exist 90 days from the entry of this order, I will review this authorization and determine whether to extend it.

Date: September 16, 2020

/s/ JAMES K. BREDAR
James K. Bredar, Chief Judge
United States District Court