

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

IN RE:

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROCEDURES

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MISC. NO. 20-146

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, and has implemented a stay-at-home order of indefinite duration; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Court has issued its Standing Order 2020-07 postponing and continuing all non-emergency proceedings through June 5, 2020, the Court has nonetheless determined that certain discovery in civil cases may proceed as scheduled, provided it does not conflict with applicable stay-at-home orders and other public health guidance relating to COVID-19.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge, the suspension of filing deadlines set forth in Standing Order 2020-07 does not include the conduct of discovery in civil cases, provided that all parties agree to continue with discovery, and that the conduct of discovery does not involve conduct by counsel or the parties that would contravene public health orders or directives issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and it is further

ORDERED that, in the event that all parties do not agree as to whether discovery should be conducted, they shall meet and confer in an effort to resolve their disagreement. If unable to

do so, they shall jointly file a letter, not to exceed three (3) pages, single-spaced, setting forth the nature of the dispute and the position of each party with respect thereto; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be vacated or amended as circumstances warrant.

Date: April 10, 2020

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