

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
AUGUSTA DIV.

2020 SEP 24 P 1:29

IN RE: Exclusion of Time Under)
Speedy Trial Act)

CLERK 
SO. DIST. OF GA.

STANDING ORDER MC- ~~ME120~~ - 020

The Court enters this standing order to address continued court operations in light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The Court observes that the March 13, 2020 declaration of National Emergency in response to the spread of the coronavirus remains effective and the Governor of the State of Georgia has extended a public health state of emergency through October 10, 2020. As of the date of this Order, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities continue to advise the taking of precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus and slow the spread of the disease, including social distancing for the foreseeable future. Further, the CDC has identified populations who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, including members of the public who form our jury pools, members of our Bar, Court staff, and Judges. These facts render the Court's current ability to safely conduct jury trials difficult, if not impossible.

Upon considering the current status of the pandemic and in order to protect public health, including the health of court employees, parties, and court participants, the Court finds that the ends of justice require the following action:

With regard to criminal cases now or hereafter pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, the Court finds that the right of defendants in criminal cases and the public to a speedier trial during the period of October 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020 is substantially outweighed by the public interest of protecting the health and safety of the defendants, case participants, court employees, jurors, and the public. Accordingly, the following time period, **October 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020**, shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. §3161(h)(7)(A). Although this order permits jury trials to be continued during this excluded period, any defendant in a criminal case shall have the right to file a motion for a speedier trial, which shall be considered and decided by the judge assigned to the defendant's case.

ORDER ENTERED, this 24th day of September, 2020.



J. RANDAL HALL, CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA