

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED
APR 07 2020

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

By Deputy Clerk 

IN RE: TEMPORARY DISCLOSURE §
OF PRETRIAL SERVICES BOND §
REPORTS BY ELECTRONIC MEANS §
TO PARTIES IN CRIMINAL CASES §


GENERAL ORDER 2020-6

ORDER

In the wake of the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Court has taken measures to reduce the number of hearings requiring the presence of defendants and to expedite and streamline hearings, even when the defendant and counsel appear remotely. Release of bond reports to counsel for a particular defendant and counsel for the United States will facilitate discussion between counsel in advance of detention hearings and lead to more agreements regarding bail in advance of the scheduled detention hearing. These advance agreements will facilitate fair and accurate bond determinations and are in the interest of justice. The United States Probation and Pretrial Office will adopt a procedure to allow counsel for a defendant and counsel for the United States electronic access to bond reports in advance of detention hearings. These bond reports remain confidential and, absent Court authorization, these reports remain only for the eyes of counsel for the United States, counsel for the defendant about whom the report is written, and the defendant himself or herself.

This Order will expire when the president's order finding a national emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic expires.

Signed this 7th day of April, 2020.



LEE H. ROSENTHAL
CHIEF JUDGE