

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**GENERAL ORDER 20-31
JULY 15, 2020**

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC EMERGENCY

**SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER CONCERNING CERTAIN
NON-JURY PROCEEDINGS**

SAYLOR, C.J.

This Order supplements and modifies General Order 20-2, issued March 12, 2020; General Order 20-13, issued March 30, 2020; and General Order 20-21, issued May 27, 2020, to the extent that those orders concern non-jury proceedings.

The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts previously suspended all in-person court proceedings to reduce the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus and slow the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

After consultation with public-health and epidemiological experts, the Court has concluded that it may begin to conduct a limited number of in-person, non-jury proceedings while providing reasonable protection to the health and safety of the participants. However, such proceedings shall only take place under limited circumstances: where (1) further delay may harm the interests of justice and (2) the law does not permit video proceedings or the requisite consents cannot be obtained. Proceedings should be conducted by video in all other instances.

All such proceedings shall be conducted in designated courtrooms that have been reconfigured for social distancing and physical separation, and in accordance with other

protective measures that have been adopted by the Court.

All participants in such proceedings shall wear masks, except a witness under oath who will testify behind a plexiglass barrier.

All such proceedings will be identified as such on the CM/ECF system. The proceedings will also be accessible to the public by electronic means.

All participants in such proceedings (including attorneys, witnesses, parties, or members of the general public) appearing in person must conduct a health self-assessment,

[Health Self-Assessment Link](#)

No one should come to the Courthouse if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing any of these symptoms. If you have a scheduled appearance and you have tested positive or are experiencing any such symptoms, you should contact the clerk of the appropriate session as soon as possible.

So Ordered.

Dated: July 15, 2020

/s/ F. Dennis Saylor IV
F. Dennis Saylor IV
Chief Judge, United States District Court