

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

IN RE:
LIMITATIONS ON SPECTATORS
IN COURTROOM

*
*
*
*

MISC. NO. 00-308

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 2020-16

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, including maintaining at least six feet of physical distance between individuals; and

WHEREAS, space limitations inside courtrooms in this District require limiting the number of persons admitted in order to maintain appropriate social distance, it is hereby

ORDERED by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland that, effective immediately, a maximum of ten spectators may be physically present to observe any in-court proceeding in this District, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge. Each party shall be permitted to designate no more than four such persons to be physically present in the courtroom.¹ The two final seats shall be reserved for credentialed members of the press on a first-come, first-served basis, and if no members of the press are in attendance, to any member of the public on a first-come, first-served basis; and it is further

ORDERED that all persons not permitted into the courtroom will be able to listen to any public in-court proceeding, except as otherwise ordered, by dialing into a public telephone conference line available on the Court's website; and it is further

ORDERED that with respect to jury trials, because of severely limited space, no members of the public or press will be permitted into the courtroom but instead may observe the

¹ For a proceeding in which there are more than two parties, the presiding judge will set a procedure to allocate seats.

proceedings on closed-circuit television from a separate courtroom. In addition, members of the press or public may listen to civil jury trial proceedings by dialing into a public telephone conference line, unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge. Criminal jury trials may only be observed from the public access courtroom in the Courthouse, except that if the public access courtroom exceeds its capacity of ten spectators, a public telephone conference line may be made available at the discretion of the presiding judge. Neither the public access courtroom nor the public access telephone conference line will be made available during individual voir dire examination of prospective jurors in civil or criminal trials; and it is further

ORDERED that courtroom staff, the United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to rescind it.

Date: September 2, 2020

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