


JAN 23 2023

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

LAURA A. AUSTIN, CLERK
BY: 
DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

**SUSPENSION OF NATURALIZATION
CEREMONIES IN THE WESTERN
DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

**Thirteenth Amended
Standing Order No. 2020-3**

The United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia continues to closely monitor guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health authorities regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health concerns. Although recent transmission levels of COVID-19 are generally in the “low” or “medium” range within the district, spikes continue to occur periodically. Combined with other serious seasonal public health concerns, the CDC still recommends avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and masking in certain circumstances to prevent the spread of infectious disease and reduce hospitalization rates.

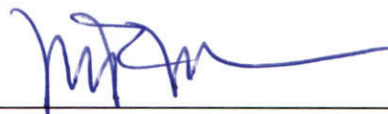
To balance the need to conduct naturalization ceremonies with public health issues, the court will limit routine scheduling of naturalization ceremonies for non-name-change applicants in the Western District of Virginia until further order of the court. Special events, such as the July 4th naturalization ceremony at Monticello, and other such events, may be held at the discretion of the court. During this period of limited scheduling of naturalization ceremonies, the Attorney General of the United States, acting through the USCIS, may administer the Oath of Allegiance to any non-name-change applicants for

naturalization residing in the Western District of Virginia that chose to do so. See 8 U.S.C. § 1421.

Candidates who elect to change their name via the naturalization process and require a judicial ceremony, or those who elect to be naturalized through judicial ceremony, will be scheduled to appear in person at the Western District court at or near their residence and be sworn in by the Judges of the Court.

It is so ORDERED.

Enter this 20th day of January 2023.



Michael F. Urbanski
Chief United States District Judge