

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN THE MATTER OF:)	No. 23-mc-00001
)	
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE)	GENERAL ORDER /
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY)	ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY
COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS)	2023-18
)	

GENERAL ORDER

On August 24, 2020, the Chief Judge of this Court issued a General Order relating to the administration of jury trials in the Southern District of Indiana during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the Order directed the Clerk of Court, through the Jury Administrators, to temporarily excuse potential jurors from jury service for any of five COVID-19 – related reasons, upon written request. On March 2, 2022, the Court issued General Order 2022-07, requiring persons summoned for jury service and court staff interacting with them to wear face coverings in certain areas of the courthouse.

Since that time, the dangers posed by COVID-19 have abated in large part, community spread is greatly reduced, and, importantly, on April 11, 2023 the President terminated the national emergency declaration related to COVID-19. H.J. Res. 7, 118th Cong. (2023).

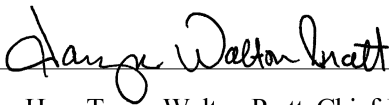
Accordingly, the undersigned Chief Judge finds it is no longer necessary to automatically temporarily excuse potential jurors for COVID-19 – related reasons as required by the August 24, 2020 Order. The August 24, 2020 Order is hereby RESCINDED, effective May 10, 2023. The Clerk retains authority to temporarily excuse potential jurors upon a showing of undue hardship or extreme inconvenience as provided in Section 15(a) of the Court’s Plan for the Random Selection of Grand and Petit Jurors and 28 U.S.C. § 1866(c)(1).

Additionally, the Court RESCINDS the requirement that potential jurors and court staff wear face coverings as described in Section 4 of General Order 2022-07, effective May 10, 2023. Individual judges and courthouse tenant agencies may require face coverings and physical distancing in their respective spaces.

SO ORDERED.

For the Court,

Date: 4/20/2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tanya Walton Pratt", is written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Tanya Walton Pratt, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of Indiana