

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF ALASKA

In the Matter of the Amendment of General
Order 2020-6,

Misc. Proceeding No. 05-60001

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-7

ORDER AMENDING GENERAL ORDER 2020-6

On March 20, 2020, the Court issued General Order 2020-3 addressing temporary changes to court operations in response to the exigent circumstances created by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). On March 23, 2020, the Court issued supplemental General Order 2020-4 clarifying the application of General Order 2020-3 to the court's Fairbanks and Juneau offices. On April 27, 2020, the Court issued General Order 2020-6 amending General Orders 2020-3 and 2020-4 and provided that the Court would either amend or vacate the order no later than June 1, 2020.

Additionally, on March 30, 2020, the United States District Court for the District of Alaska (District Court) issued Miscellaneous General Order 20-11 concerning changes to court operations and deadlines during the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 7, 2020, the District Court issued Miscellaneous General Order 20-12 concerning expedited detention hearing procedures. Each of these orders were set to expire on May 1, 2020, unless otherwise ordered by the District Court. The District Court extended Miscellaneous General Orders 20-11 and 20-12 through June 1, 2020, by entry of Miscellaneous General Order 20-13. On May 21, 2020, the District Court issued Miscellaneous General Order 20-17 which further extended certain circumstances, operations, and procedures, including civil matters established in the prior orders until July 6, 2020. Finally, the District Court entered its Miscellaneous General Order 20-18 on May 27, 2020, requiring all persons entering the District Court wear face coverings absent appropriate documentation that a person cannot wear such a covering.

Even as the State of Alaska and local communities are gradually expanding operations, a "social distancing" advisory remains in effect. Therefore, in consideration of the factors outlined in Miscellaneous General Orders 20-3 through 20-6, and to continue to protect the public safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19, the court shall continue to limit access to the courthouse and require that all hearings be conducted telephonically through July 6, 2020. Moreover, in anticipation of the eventual reopening of the bankruptcy courthouse, the court shall also adopt the requirements recently placed upon persons entering the district courthouses by the District Court to wear a face covering or mask subject to the following conditions.

Therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, absent further order of the Court, the operations and procedures established in General Order 2020-6 shall remain in effect until **July 6, 2020, and all hearings shall**

continue to be conducted telephonically. Those matters currently scheduled for evidentiary hearing through July 6, 2020, using remote technology shall proceed telephonically consistent with previously entered scheduling orders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective immediately, all persons over two years of age seeking access to or operating within the courthouse are required to wear a face covering or mask at all times while occupying public spaces or common areas, unless otherwise directed by the Court or a courthouse official. The face covering need not be a medical-grade mask but must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth when worn. If a medical condition prevents a person from wearing a face covering, they must show proof of the medical condition in the form of a physician's order or other documentation. The Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to those individuals not wearing a face covering or mask.

All employees or contractors of the Court or Clerk's Office who work alone in a private office or workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons, may temporarily remove the face covering while in their designated office or workspace.

In addition, effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter the courthouse:

1. Persons currently diagnosed with or experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19;
2. Persons who have had close physical contact within the last 14 days with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
3. Persons who have been asked to self-observe, self-isolate, or self-quarantine by a doctor, hospital, or public health authority within the last 14 days.

Anyone attempting to enter or remain in the courthouse in violation of this Order will be escorted from the premises immediately.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order supersedes any inconsistent information or direction in any standing order or notice related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court will vacate or amend this Order no later than **July 6, 2020**.

DATED: May 29, 2020.

BY THE COURT

/s/ Gary Spraker
GARY SPRAKER
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Distribution: Janet Stafford, Clerk of Court
Honorable Timothy Burgess, Chief United States District Court Judge
Brian Karth, Clerk of the United States District Court
Anna Russell, Librarian
Rob Heun, United States Marshal