

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

IN THE MATTER OF
COVID-19 PROCEDURES FOR INITIAL
APPEARANCES, ARRAIGNMENTS,
DETENTION AND OTHER BOND
HEARINGS

AMENDED ORDER

Public Administrative Order

No. 20-AO-___ 4 ___-P

The Court is informed of the contagious nature of the COVID-19 virus. It is the Court's desire that the court remain open and that day-to-day criminal hearings be conducted, and be conducted as safely as possible.

Persons arrested for federal offenses and those detained pending further proceedings are primarily held in Muscatine County, Polk County, Pottawattamie County, and Scott County jails. Each of these facilities currently has or is in the process of finalizing capability to interact with the federal court by videoconference. Conducting hearings by videoconference will protect judicial officers and their staffs, the Marshals Service, prosecutors, defense lawyers, interpreters, probation officers, the defendants, jail populations and others. Videoconferencing has been used successfully in this court for initial appearances and arraignments conducted on short notice or at remote locations. The Court has enhanced the capability of videoconferencing by including a method for secure communication between the defense lawyer and the defendant during these conferences. Accordingly, the Court has taken every step reasonably possible to ensure that the defendant receives the same experience by videoconference that he or she would receive by attending in the courtroom.

Accordingly, effective immediately, all initial appearances, arraignments, detention and other bond hearings shall, to the greatest extent possible, be conducted with any in-custody defendant appearing by videoconference from the Muscatine, Polk, Pottawattamie, or Scott County jails. These hearings shall be held by videoconference, even

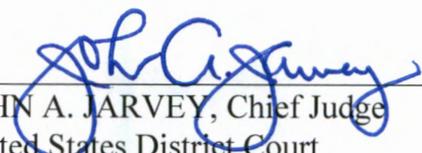


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over the objection of the defendant.

Judicial officers have the discretion to deviate from this order in the event of unrecoverable technology problems or other extraordinary circumstances. It is the intent of this order that deviations from the order will be exceedingly rare, if not nonexistent.

DATED this 24th day of March, 2020.



JOHN A. JARVEY, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of Iowa