

On June 29, 2020, I extended authorization for conducting video and telephone conference proceedings for all events listed in Section 15002(b)(1)(A)-(J) with the consent of the defendant or juvenile. *See* Standing Order 20-SO-9. I did not extend authorization for conducting video and telephone conference proceedings for felony pleas under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and sentencings under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

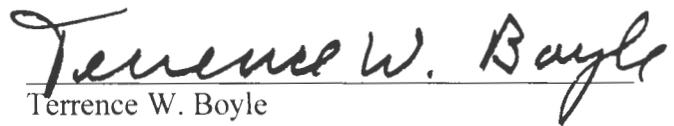
Circumstances in this district have changed such that entry of this revised order is warranted. There have been at least 87,528 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the State of North Carolina. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the court is now unable to utilize two of its locations and two district judges are at this time unable to conduct in-person court proceedings. Taking this into account, and in order to allow the judges on this court to continue to preside over their active criminal cases, I revise my June 29, 2020, Standing Order as follows.

In addition to finding that events listed in Section 15002(b)(1)(A)-(J) of the CARES Act may be conducted by video or telephone conference with the consent of the defendant or juvenile, I further find that, pursuant to Section 15002(b)(2) of the CARES Act, felony pleas under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and felony sentencings under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure cannot in some cases in this district be conducted in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety. Accordingly, if a judge in an individual case finds for specific reasons that a felony plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, the judge may, with the consent of the defendant after consultation with counsel, use video conferencing, or teleconferencing if video conferencing is not reasonably available, for the felony plea or sentencing in that case.

Judges may also use this authority for equivalent events in juvenile cases as described in Section 15002(b)(2)(B).

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3) of the CARES Act, this authorization will remain in effect for 90 days from June 29, 2020, the date of entry of Standing Order 20-SO-9, unless terminated earlier. If emergency conditions continue to exist 90 days from the entry of Standing Order 20-SO-9, I will review this authorization and determine whether to extend it.

SO ORDERED, this 13 day of July, 2020.


Terrence W. Boyle
Chief United States District Judge