

JUN 28 2020

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk  
By: *J Metz* Deputy Clerk

**IN RE: EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION  
OF VIDEO TELECONFERENCING AND  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCING IN  
CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS DUE TO THE  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**GENERAL ORDER 20-04  
First Amendment**

**ORDER**

On March 30, 2020, in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) within the Northern District of Georgia and relying on the authority of the CARES Act, H.R. 748, the Court issued General Order 20-04 authorizing the use of video and telephone conferencing in certain criminal proceedings. Section 15002(b)(3)(A) of the CARES Act requires that I review the authorization contained in General Order 20-04 ninety days after its issuance and determine whether it should be extended.

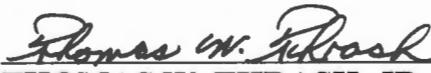
The data from the Georgia Department of Public Health reflects that the average number of new COVID-19 cases per day in the State of Georgia is higher than it was on March 30, 2020, when the Court entered its Order. The total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Georgia continues to rise, and no vaccine or cure is available to the general public. There has been no change to the President's declaration of a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.) due to COVID-19 or to the findings of the Judicial Conference of the United States that emergency conditions due to

this national emergency have materially affected and will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts generally.

Having reviewed the authorization contained in General Order 20-04 in light of the above facts, I find that General Order 20-04 should be extended to in order to facilitate the administration of justice while at the same time protecting the health and safety of parties, counsel, court staff, and others.

Therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that General Order 20-04 is extended and shall be in effect until the earliest of the following: (1) the date that is 30 days after the date on which the national emergency declaration terminates; (2) the date on which the Judicial Conference of the United States finds that emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.) with respect to COVID-19 no longer materially affect the functioning of either the federal courts generally or this district; or (3) the Order is terminated by this Court.

**SO ORDERED**, this 28th day of June 2020.

  
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**THOMAS W. THRASH, JR.**  
**CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**