

SEP 26 2020

JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk
By: *ds. Hawk* Deputy Clerk

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

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

**GENERAL ORDER 20-04
Second 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. The CARES Act requires me to review this authorization every ninety days. On June 28, 2020, I entered the First Amendment to General Order 20-04 extending the authorization. As another ninety days have passed, I must again review this authorization and determine whether it should be extended.

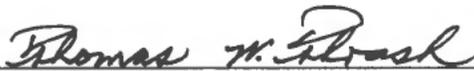
Data from the Georgia Department of Public Health reflects that while the average number of new COVID-19 cases per day in the State of Georgia has decreased from August highs, the number is similar to what it was on June 28th and remains much higher than it was on March 30, 2020, when the Court first entered General Order 20-04. 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 again be extended in order to facilitate the administration of justice while at the same time protecting the health and safety of parties, counsel, court staff, and the public.

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 26th day of September, 2020.



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