

MAR 30 2020

JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk
By: *James N. Hatten*
Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

**IN RE: AUTHORIZATION OF ELECTRONIC
FILING OF SEALED DOCUMENTS IN GENERAL ORDER 20-06
CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS DUE TO THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

ORDER

This General Order is being issued in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) within the Northern District of Georgia and the rapidly evolving threat to health and safety posed by that outbreak. The Court notes that the conditions that prompted the issuance of General Order 20-01 continue to persist within the district, as the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has increased exponentially. Federal and state health authorities continue to recommend social distancing to slow the spread of the virus. To facilitate social distancing in criminal cases, the Court **ORDERS** as follows:

(1) Attorneys, judges, and court staff may file sealed documents in unsealed criminal cases using the Court's CM/ECF system by following specific procedures developed by and available from the Clerk of Court. The filer must serve the document through means outside of CM/ECF.

(2) Attorneys, judges, and court staff may file sealed documents in sealed criminal cases by sending an encrypted, password protected PDF file to an email address designated by the Clerk of Court. The document will be deemed filed as of the date it is received in the inbox for the email address. The password must not be sent in an email. Rather, the

password must be provided separately through procedures developed by and available from the Clerk of Court. The filer must serve the document through means outside of CM/ECF.

(3) Electronic transmission of other non-public information to or from the Court in criminal matters is authorized only if the information is contained in an encrypted, password protected PDF file and the password is disclosed to the recipient through a secure means other than email.

(4) This Order is effective immediately and until further notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 30 day of March 2020.



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