

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

**Roger A. G. Sharpe, Clerk
46 East Ohio Street
Room 105
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (August 24, 2020): Chief Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson today issued a General Order that allows the resumption of jury trials in all divisions of the Southern District of Indiana on September 1, 2020. To the extent this Order differs from previous orders of the Court on this subject, this Order supersedes and replaces those Orders.

Please read the [General Order](#) for specific details. The Court is taking multiple steps to keep jurors as safe as possible, including requiring face coverings by everyone who enters the courthouse, practicing social distancing, installing plexiglass barriers where appropriate, employing enhanced cleaning procedures, requiring all visitors to answer health screening questions and self-screening of employees, and more. The Court has created [a Frequently Asked Questions page for jurors](#) on its website, which includes specific details about what jurors can expect when reporting for jury duty.

The Clerk may temporarily excuse any person summoned for jury service upon a showing of undue hardship or extreme inconvenience, but the potential juror will be summoned again for jury service at a later date or be reinserted into the jury wheel. Until the Court orders otherwise, upon a person's written request, the Clerk shall temporarily excuse for undue hardship or extreme inconvenience any potential juror who:

1. At the time of request has ongoing symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19;
2. Is in a category deemed at high risk of COVID-19 infection by the CDC or federal, state, or local public health authorities;
3. Is quarantined due to exposure to a person testing positive for COVID-19;

4. Is caring for a family member or other dependent with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has tested positive for COVID-19; or

5. Is a healthcare professional whose current employment is essential to the care and/or treatment of patients occasioned by the COVID19 pandemic.

The resumption of jury trials does not preclude a Judge from continuing a jury trial for reasons related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic nor, for criminal jury trials, making the necessary findings to exclude any such delay under the Speedy Trial Act.

The District Court has also created a [COVID-19 response page on its website](#) that contains all orders, press releases, and other information regarding Court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.