

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (June 26, 2020): Chief Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson today issued two General Orders, one that announces date on which the courthouses of the Southern District of Indiana will reopen to the public, and the second providing dates for the resumption of an array of in-person court proceedings, among other matters. To the extent these Orders differ from previous orders of the Court on this subject, these Orders supersede and replace those Orders.

Per the [first General Order](#), and pursuant to a meeting of and unanimous votes by the Facility Security Committees for the federal courthouses in the Southern District of Indiana, the courthouses in Indianapolis, Evansville, New Albany, and Terre Haute will reopen to the public effective **Monday, July 6, 2020**. Certain limitations and restrictions established in previous General Orders will remain in effect, such as the [mandatory wearing of face coverings in all public spaces](#) (except for individuals with medical exemptions, or those excused from wearing a face covering in a courtroom by the presiding judge).

The screening and other requirements set forth in General Order issued on [March 20, 2020](#), also remain in effect, with the understanding that the screening questions may change based upon guidance by public health officials and as the knowledge about the symptoms of COVID-19 develops.

The [second General Order](#) pertains to the the resumption of certain in-person court proceedings, with such proceedings commencing on the dates shown below:

- Resumption of in-person plea and sentencing hearings in all divisions: **July 6, 2020**.
- Resumption of single defendant criminal jury trials in all divisions: **July 20, 2020**. The public may attend trials by remote viewing inside the courthouse and/or in the courtroom galleries if available. The public is advised that due to space limitations and social distancing requirements, seating for the public may be

limited.

- Resumption of in-person civil proceedings, including civil jury trials, in all divisions: **August 17, 2020.**
- Resumption of court-officiated naturalization ceremonies: **August 13, 2020.** Before that date, individuals may be naturalized by a judicial officer when and under what circumstances the Court deems appropriate.

The Court also continues to hold certain proceedings, such as initial appearances and detention hearings, as well as civil conferences, via video conference and telephonically.

The District Court has 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.

Updates pertaining to the operations of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana are available on its [website](#).