

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**ORDER EXTENDING CARES
ACT AUTHORIZATION**

**ADM-1
ORDER 21-21**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Since the first announced case in New Hampshire on March 2, 2020, the state has reported 98,428 confirmed cases of COVID-19. New Hampshire currently has 3,041 confirmed cases, 1,421 deaths have been attributed to the disease in this state, and community-based transmission has been long-confirmed. Nationally, the number of confirmed cases has grown to over 39,606,745 with 644,108 cases resulting in death.¹

On March 27, 2020, the President signed legislation authorizing the use of video and telephonic conferencing, for specified criminal case events and with the consent of the defendant, during the course of the COVID-19 emergency. See CARES Act, H.R. 748. The Judicial Conference of the United States has also found that emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President have affected and will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts generally.

On March 30, 2020, this court made the necessary findings to authorize the use of the CARES Act to conduct video and telephonic criminal hearings in Standing Order ADM-1, Order 20-12, which are incorporated by reference. The CARES Act requires that every 90 days the local court evaluate whether emergency conditions continue to support the authorization to conduct criminal hearings by video or telephonic conference. With respect to felony pleas and sentencings, the statute requires the court find it cannot conduct those proceedings in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety. In Standing Order 21-19, the court issued its fifth 90 day extension of the CARES Act authorization to September 11, 2021.

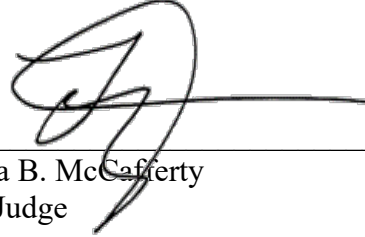
The court finds that the emergency conditions caused by COVID-19 continue to exist and that public health and safety would be seriously jeopardized were the court to order that all plea and sentencing hearings occur in person. Until the emergency conditions improve, the court will, therefore, continue to permit criminal hearings, including plea and sentencing hearings, to occur by video with the defendant's consent. Thus, the court extends this authorization for an additional 90 days to December 10, 2021. Prior to the expiration of this authorization, the court will determine whether emergency conditions continue to exist that justify a further extension of this authority.

¹ The New Hampshire statistics are taken from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 website (<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>). The national statistics are taken from the John Hopkins University of Medicine Coronavirus Resource Center website (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>).

This order supersedes paragraph 1 of ADM-1, 20-25, and prior orders authorizing the use of the CARES Act, effective September 11, 2021.

SO ORDERED.

Date: September 3, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'L' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Landya B. McCafferty
Chief Judge