

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

**ORDER ON DOCUMENTS SIGNED BY  
CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS IN MAGISTRATE  
JUDGE PROCEEDINGS DURING THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF COVID-19**

**ADM-1  
ORDER 20-34**

ORDER

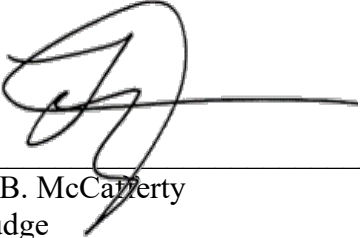
The logistical challenges presented by COVID-19, when combined with the time-sensitive nature of many criminal magistrate judge hearings, make it difficult for defense counsel to submit documents signed by the client prior to the commencement of a hearing. To address this logistical problem, the court adopts the following policy:

- 1) In any criminal proceeding before a magistrate judge, defense counsel may sign a document on behalf of a criminal defendant after personally reviewing the substance and meaning of the document with the client and obtaining the client's consent to sign it. The magistrate judge will conduct a colloquy to confirm the defendant's consent during the hearing.
- 2) Any documents signed by defense counsel on behalf of a client shall include a statement indicating that the document is signed by counsel with the permission of the defendant after review.
- 3) This signature authority shall extend to the following:
  - a) Requests to Appoint Counsel;
  - b) Financial Affidavits; and
  - c) Waivers, Consents and Stipulations to Detention and Other Stipulations.

This order shall remain in effect until further order of the court and supersedes any conflicting local rule.

SO ORDERED.

Date: December 8, 2020

  
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Landya B. McCafferty  
Chief Judge