

interests of the public and each defendant's right to a speedy trial. In fact, the best interests of the public are served by these continuances.

3. Due to the extremely large criminal caseload in the Western District of Texas, the US Attorney's Office has expressed the need to continue conducting grand jury proceedings in ordinary course. Therefore, grand jury matters will proceed pending further order of the Court.

4. Individual judges may continue to hold in-person hearings, sentencing proceedings, and conferences, but counsel may seek relief from those matters by appropriate motions. The parties are encouraged to seek to participate in non-sentencing hearings and conferences by telephone or video. This Order does not impact any court's consideration of particular matters on the papers alone.

5. Magistrate Judges will continue to preside over criminal matters, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings and the issuance of warrants.

6. Any events involving the Court that are not case-specific, including, but not limited to, continuing legal education courses, public tours, administration of oaths to attorneys, and naturalization ceremonies conducted by the Court which are scheduled to occur between March 16 and May 1, 2020, are hereby cancelled and will be rescheduled as appropriate.

7. All of the courthouses of the Western District of Texas, including the Clerk's offices and offices of United States Pretrial and Probation, will remain open for business. However, many employees, including some of chambers staff, will be teleworking, but they will be accessible by phone. Electronic filings may continue to be made through the CM/ECF system.

8. Any delivery directed to chambers shall be delivered instead to the Clerk's offices in each courthouse.

9. Unless extended, this Order will remain in effect through May 1, 2020, and will then expire.

FOR THE COURT.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 13th day of March, 2020.



ORLANDO L. GARCIA
Chief Judge