

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN RE: Public Access to)
Magistrate Judge’s Courtroom)
Greenville Federal Courthouse)

6:20mc108

STANDING ORDER

As a general rule, court proceedings are open to the public. However, in light of the national emergency caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and to comply with guidelines issued by federal and state health agencies, you are strongly encouraged to minimize your time in the courtroom. The presiding judge has considered the various interests implicated by the COVID-19 outbreak and any court response to the outbreak, including: the health of witnesses, parties, attorneys, the public, court staff, Probation and Pretrial Services staff, chambers staff, and judges; the constitutional rights of criminal defendants and other parties; and the public’s interest in, and the court’s duty to ensure, the effective and expeditious administration of justice. In light of this public health emergency, the presiding judge has determined that limiting the number of spectators in the courtroom at one time is warranted and outweighs any affected rights of the public or litigants. See, e.g., *Press-Enterprise Co. v. Superior Court of Cal. for Riverside Cty.*, 478 U.S. 1 (1986) (discussing the First Amendment and considerations applicable to closure of courtrooms); *Waller v. Georgia*, 467 U.S. 39 (1984) (discussing the Sixth Amendment and considerations applicable to closure of courtrooms). The undersigned has authorized the Courtroom Security Officers and the U.S. Marshal to coordinate access to the courtroom, including denying entry should public health and safety so require. The scheduling of hearings has been staggered to limit the number of spectators in the courtroom at one time, so please do not enter the courtroom until the time for the hearing you are here to attend. You must comply with the directives of the Court Security Officers and US Marshals, who will space spectators approximately six feet apart in accordance with current guidelines, should entry be permitted. This order is subject to revision as developing circumstances warrant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

March 20, 2020
Greenville, South Carolina

s/ Kevin F. McDonald
United States Magistrate Judge