

From: Chief Judge Sally Tarnowski
Date: May 14, 2020



Greetings!

As you know, Governor Walz has not extended the Stay-at-Home directive, so it will expire (with limitations) on Monday, May 18. This does not mean that we will be moving back to the courthouses or returning to in person hearings. As I have said in the past, we will begin to do so when the courthouses reopen, and we will do so slowly. We will continue to handle as many hearings remotely as we can and for as long as we can.

The Chief Justice will be issuing new orders today or tomorrow in line with decisions made by the Judicial Council today. I will forward those when I get them.

We are currently holding hearings via Zoom in all casetypes. We can handle court trials via Zoom. Judges will determine that on a case by case basis, and that can begin any time. We will not be doing any jury trials in our District before July 6, and when we begin to hold jury trials, those will be criminal trials. We will not hold any civil trials before September 1.

When we move back to holding hearings in the buildings, we will do so following CDC recommendations, Branch mandates, and county capabilities. The safety of our employees, justice partners, and the public will be paramount. We are currently working on a transition plan in our District, and I will keep you informed of that.

I hope you are staying well.

Sally Tarnowski