

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

IN RE:

CORONA VIRUS (COVID19) PUBLIC
EMERGENCY

Misc. No. 20-0088 (GAG)

ORDER CONTINUING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Given the extension of quarantine and social distancing measures taken by local and federal governmental authorities, considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and, in the interest of protecting the health and well-being of court employees, members of the bar and the public, the Court hereby issues the following directives effective immediately:

1. All civil and criminal proceedings in the District of Puerto Rico requiring a hearing are continued until Monday May 4, 2020.

2. Criminal matters before Magistrate Judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants, shall continue to be conducted following the existing COVID-19 administrative order directives.

3. The Court finds that in criminal cases the ends of justice served by the present continuance outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial, and, therefore shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

4. During the pendency of this Order, presiding district and magistrate judges may order counsel to provide via motion updates on status of cases before them. Likewise, judges may continue to issue all appropriate case management, dispositive and non-dispositive orders in their cases.

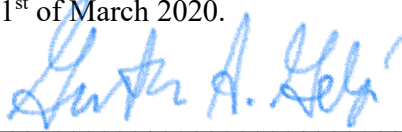
5. If a presiding judge in a criminal case finds, for specific reasons, that a felony plea or sentencing in a case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, said judge, with the consent of the defendant after consultation with counsel, may use Video Conferencing (“VTC”), or teleconferencing if VTC is not reasonably available, for the felony plea or sentencing in that case. *See Order CARES Act Authorization*, Misc. No. 20-088 (GAG) (Docket No. 13), March 31, 2020.

6. The present administrative order does not otherwise further extend the motion deadline extended by the Court to include up and until April 10, 2020. *See General Order Concerning Extension of Deadlines*, Misc. No. 20-088 (GAG) (Docket No. 4), March 16, 2020.

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 31st of March 2020.



Gustavo A. Gelpí
Chief, US District Judge