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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

IN RE:  
HEARINGS BY VIDEO OR  
TELEPHONE AS AUTHORIZED BY  
THE CARES ACT

GENERAL ORDER 14-21

This General Order is being issued with regard to this Court’s prior response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES Act”) on March 27, 2020. Pursuant to Sections 15002(b)(1) and 15002(b)(2)(A) of the Act, on March 29, 2020, the Judicial Conference of the United States found that emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. § 1601 *et seq.*) with respect to COVID–19 will materially affect the Federal courts generally.

On March 30, 2020, this Court issued General Order No. 04-20 finding that, pursuant to § 15002(b)(2)(A) of the CARES Act, certain criminal proceedings could not

1 be conducted in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety. The Court  
2 therefore authorized the use of video conferences or telephone conferences for those  
3 proceedings. This authorization was renewed on June 25, 2020, in General Order No. 09-  
4 20, on September 24, 2020, in General Order No. 14-20, on December 23, 2020, in General  
5 Order No. 17-20, on March 23, 2021, in General Order No. 06-21, on June 21, 2021, in  
6 General Order No. 09-21, and on September 23, 2021 in General Order 13-21.

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9         Ninety days after such an order, the chief judge must “review the authorization and  
10 determine whether to extend the authorization.” § 15002(b)(3)(A). I have reviewed the  
11 current procedures of the Court and the daily COVID-19 data from the counties in the  
12 Western District of Washington and conclude that, in the interest of public health and  
13 safety, the procedures set forth in General Order 04-20 must be extended another 90 days  
14 from today’s date.

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17         IT IS SO ORDERED.

18         Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2021.

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22         RICARDO S. MARTINEZ  
23         CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE