



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: March 19, 2020

ACTIVATION OF CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN

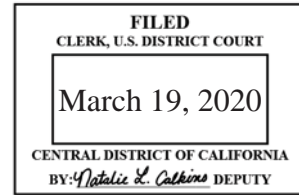
Chief Judge Virginia A. Phillips announces the United States District Court for the Central District of California has activated its Continuity of Operations Plan (“COOP”), effective March 23, 2020 through and including May 1, 2020.

The activation of the COOP Plan is necessary to ensure the continuous performance of essential functions and operations of the Court in light of the continuing emergency pandemic caused by the spread of COVID-19, also known as the “Coronavirus.”

The following are examples of actions that will be taken pursuant to the COOP Plan:

- All of the Courthouses of the Central District of California will be closed to the public except for hearings on criminal duty matters, as discussed below.
- In civil cases, no hearings will go forward except for emergency time-sensitive matters, such as requests for temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions, as ordered by the assigned judicial officer. Any hearings on emergency civil matters will proceed telephonically only.
- The court’s CM/ECF system is available 24/7 for electronic filing of documents. Pro se litigants who cannot electronically file their documents, and attorneys who are required to manually file documents pursuant to the local rules must mail their filings to the Clerk of Court at 255 E. Temple Street, Suite TS-134, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3332.
- In criminal cases, criminal duty matters will go forward in the Edward R. Roybal Building and United States Courthouse in Los Angeles only. All criminal document duty will be handled by each division in the normal course of business. Telephonic hearings on other criminal matters may proceed as directed by the assigned judicial officer.
- All matters before the Bankruptcy Court will proceed telephonically. Further guidance will be provided by the Bankruptcy Court to pro se petitioners.

KIRY K. GRAY
DISTRICT COURT EXECUTIVE / CLERK OF COURT



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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 IN RE:

ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
20-042

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12 CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC
13 EMERGENCY

14 ACTIVATION OF CONTINUITY OF
15 OPERATIONS PLAN

16 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a national
17 emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, also known as the
18 “Coronavirus;”

19 WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has declared a state of
20 emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19;

21 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended
22 that throughout the United States, for at least eight weeks, all gatherings should be
23 limited to no more than 10 people;

24 WHEREAS, local public health departments have recommended that large
25 gatherings be avoided, that elderly and other vulnerable populations avoid person-to-
26 person contact, and that employers allow employees to telework to the extent practical;

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1 WHEREAS, to date, several hundred people within the Central District of
2 California have been confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and the number of
3 those infected continues to rise, causing an emergency pandemic;

4 WHEREAS, the Court has issued General Order Nos. 20-02 and 20-03
5 regarding the Coronavirus public emergency, implementing temporary emergency
6 procedures;

7 WHEREAS, since the Court took action to implement those emergency
8 procedures, COVID-19 has continued to spread among the population of the Central
9 District of California;

10 With the consent of the Executive Committee, the Chief Judge orders as
11 follows:

12 The Continuity of Operations (“COOP”) Plan for the Central District of
13 California is hereby activated, effective March 23, 2020 through and including May 1,
14 2020. The COOP Plan may be extended or inactivated as necessary.

15 The activation of the COOP Plan is necessary to ensure the continuous
16 performance of essential functions and operations of the Court.

17 The following are examples of actions that will be taken pursuant to the COOP
18 Plan:

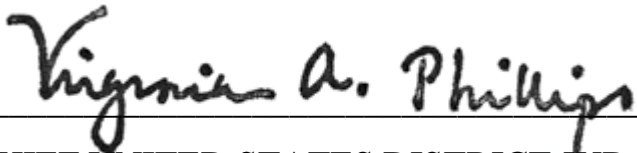
- 19 • All of the Courthouses of the Central District of California will be closed
20 to the public except for hearings on criminal duty matters, as discussed
21 below.
- 22 • In civil cases, no hearings will go forward except for emergency time-
23 sensitive matters, such as requests for temporary restraining orders and
24 preliminary injunctions, as ordered by the assigned judicial officer. Any
25 hearings on emergency civil matters will proceed telephonically only. Pro

1 se litigants must mail their filings to the Clerk of Court at 255 E. Temple
2 Street, Suite TS-134, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3332.

- 3 • In criminal cases, criminal duty matters will go forward in the Edward R.
4 Roybal Building and United States Courthouse in Los Angeles only. All
5 criminal document duty will be handled by each division in the normal
6 course of business. Telephonic hearings on other criminal matters may
7 proceed as directed by the assigned judicial officer.
- 8 • All matters before the Bankruptcy Court will proceed telephonically.
9 Further guidance will be provided by the Bankruptcy Court to pro se
10 petitioners.
- 11 • Chambers staff will be directed to telework except as otherwise directed
12 by their assigned judicial officer. The Clerk of Court will implement a
13 telework policy for the staff of the Clerk’s Office and the Probation and
14 Pretrial Services Office at her discretion.

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17 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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19 Date: March 19, 2020

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22 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE