

Practices for reducing the spread of  
COVID-19 when appearing before  
United States Magistrate Judges

ORDER

- 1) This ORDER applies to any person who enters this courtroom, including lawyers, witnesses, litigants, court employees, and visitors.
- 2) Do not enter this courtroom if any of the following apply to you:
  - You have cold or flu-like symptoms
  - You have been diagnosed with COVID-19
  - You have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
  - You have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital or health agency

If any of the above apply to you, contact the court's case manager. The court will work with you to reschedule.

- 3) Lawyers shall not request the presence of or knowingly bring into the courtroom any person to whom one of the above conditions applies.
- 4) Do not come into direct physical contact with court staff, including the case manager, court reporter, interpreter, and probation/pre-trial.

- 5) Stay at counsel table during argument. Do not approach the bench.
- 6) All documents and filings will be signed electronically. Do not hand any paper or object to court staff.
- 7) Lawyers should interview clients who are in custody on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor and prevent direct physical contact with clients, if possible. The court will make every possible accommodation to assist counsel in safely meeting with their clients.
- 8) Counsel are welcome to address specific concerns to the court.

It is so ordered.

Signed at Houston, Texas, on March 13, 2020.

  
Frances H. Stacy

  
Nancy K. Johnson

  
Dena Hanovice Palermo

  
Christina A. Bryan

  
Andrew M. Edison

  
Peter Bray

United States Magistrate Judges