


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON AND GALVESTON DIVISIONS

United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED
APR 30 2020

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

IN RE: §
TEMPORARY PUBLIC CLOSURES §
OF THE U.S. COURTHOUSES IN §
HOUSTON AND GALVESTON, TEXAS §

By Deputy Clerk 

SPECIAL ORDER H-2020-14

To protect the health and safety of the public, staff, and judicial officers in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Federal Judiciary's COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines; federal, state, and local orders and guidance; and public health guidance and information, it is ORDERED that the Bob Casey U.S. Courthouse in Houston, Texas will continue to be closed to the public until Monday, May 18, 2020, contingent on circumstances permitting reopening then as planned. The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in Galveston, Texas will continue to be closed to the public until further notice, subject to the same conditions on reopening as the Houston Division. In both, the court will continue to encourage remote or virtual proceedings when feasible and in the interests of justice.

During the closure to the public, employees and contractors who enter either the Houston or Galveston courthouses must wear masks or face coverings in public areas and in shared workspaces where safe social distancing is not possible. When the courthouses reopen to the public, it will be subject to conditions such as wearing face masks in the building and following safe social distancing guidelines.

Both before and after May 18, 2020, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas is open for, and is busy carrying out, its work. The court's Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system is not affected by the closure, and parties may continue to file electronically and email documents to the clerk's office following the standing orders and other instructions on the court's website. Consult the court's regularly updated website for further guidance: www.txs.uscourts.gov.

Signed this 30th day of April, 2020.



LEE H. ROSENTHAL
CHIEF JUDGE