

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MCALLEN DIVISION

IN RE: TEMPORARY PUBLIC ACCESS
RESTRICTIONS TO THE
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
MCALLEN DIVISION
UNDER THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED
BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SPECIAL ORDER M-2020-3

SPECIAL ORDER

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to protect the health and safety of the public, staff, and judicial officers from exposure to or spread of the virus, it is hereby ORDERED:

The United States Courthouse in McAllen, Texas (Bentsen Tower) will be closed to the public effective Monday, April 6, 2020 until further notice.

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas remains open for official business. Filings will continue to be processed in bankruptcy, civil and criminal cases via the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (“CM/ECF”) system. For those without access to CM/ECF, documents may be submitted by mail, or in the event of emergency may be submitted by email to: McAllen_Operation@txs.uscourts.gov. All emergency filings must include an email address and phone number where the filer may be reached. Filings submitted by mail will be considered filed on the postmark date and will

be processed upon receipt. Payments by attorneys utilizing the CM/ECF system will be processed via credit card utilizing Pay.gov. Payments by check or money order will be accepted by mail and will be processed upon receipt.

A lock box will be established outside the front doors of the courthouse where physical documents or payments may be deposited. All documents or payments shall be accompanied by the name and phone number of the filer or depositor, and a case or reference number when available.

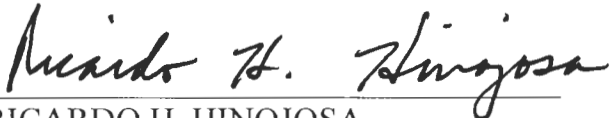
Any *pro se* litigant filing a case via mail should secure a check or money order and should submit it with his or her filing. Should the *pro se* litigant be unable to secure payment, the Clerk's Office will send a notice directing payment be submitted after the courthouse reopens.

Although the building is closed to the public, the court remains open for official business. Federal officers, federal employees, attorneys scheduled to appear in court, defendants who have court appearances, litigants and contractors who work in the building will not be restricted from entry. Others may be permitted to enter on specific order of a presiding judge.

Although court hearings will be significantly minimized during this time, victims, family members, the public and the press who desire to attend a court hearing will be permitted to do so telephonically by contacting the chambers of the presiding judge and obtaining call-in instructions on the morning of any such hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

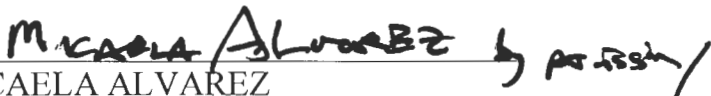
Signed this 3rd day of April, 2020.



RICARDO H. HINOJOSA
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE



RANDY CRANE
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE



MICAELA ALVAREZ
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

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Any questions for the McAllen Division may be directed to:

- if you are scheduled to meet with a Probation or Pretrial Services Officer, contact the Probation and Pretrial Services Office directly for guidance and instructions at (956) 618-8035;
- United States District Clerk's office at (956) 618-8065
- if you are a juror, contact the Jury Department at (956) 618-8479 or e-mail mcallen_jury@txs.uscourts.gov
- if you are represented by an attorney, contact your attorney;
- for case-specific matters, contact the case manager for that court; Telephone contact information for the District Court is available at www.txs.uscourts.gov
- For urgent matters with the U.S. District Clerk's Office contact 956-655-8377 or 956-342-4697.