

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
GENERAL ORDER 20-0017**

April 13, 2020

**IN RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT MEETINGS AT THE METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL
CENTER**

In response to the rapidly spreading and deadly novel coronavirus, COVID-19, on March 20, 2020, Governor J.B. Pritzker issued an executive order directing the citizens of Illinois to shelter in place at their residences through April 7, 2020.¹ That order has since been extended through a date no earlier than April 30, 2020.²

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed, and the President signed, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). Pursuant to that Act, this court entered its Second Amended General Order which provides, inter alia, that certain criminal hearings that may take place by video or teleconference “so long as the defendant gives written or verbal consent after consultation with counsel.” In order to prepare for those hearings and move forward to prepare for pleas or trials, criminal defendants require and are entitled to the assistance of counsel. The current “shelter in place” order and BOP safety restrictions impose heavy burdens on defendants and their attorneys who seek to engage in privileged communications.

To address these constitutional concerns, the Court hereby directs staff at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, located in Chicago, Illinois, to implement as soon as practical, but no later than 48 hours from the issuance of this order, a system for video

1 III. Exec. Order No. 2020-10 (March 20, 2020), at <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-10.aspx>.

2 III. Exec. Order No. 2020-18 (April 1, 2020), at <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-18.aspx>.

conferencing between detainees at the facility and their attorneys. To facilitate such a system during this public health emergency, the Court will provide the necessary programming, iPads and internet services for this purpose at the court's expense, and at substantially reduced cost to the federal taxpayers, who otherwise will be required to reimburse criminal defense attorneys for their time in arranging for and traveling to detention facilities.

ENTER:

FOR THE COURT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca O'Connell", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 13th day of April, 2020