

9/14/2021

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANAClerk, U.S. District Court  
District of Montana  
Missoula DivisionIN RE: RENEWAL OF  
AUTHORIZATIONS AND  
FINDINGS UNDER THE CARES  
ACT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-16

As the rate of COVID-19 infection has risen over the past eight weeks within the population of the District of Montana and in particular within the facilities used to house detained federal criminal defendants, the undersigned, acting pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3)(A) of the CARES Act, H.R. 748, hereby renews the authorizations and findings contained in Administrative Orders 20-18, 20-23, 20-34, 20-43, and 21-3.

Specifically, the undersigned Chief Judge hereby renews authorization for the use of video teleconferencing, or telephone conferencing if video teleconferencing is not reasonably available, for the ten types of criminal procedures enumerated in Section 15002(b)(1) of the CARES Act. The undersigned Chief Judge further renews the specific finding that felony pleas under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and felony sentencings under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure cannot be conducted in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety, as contemplated by Section 15002(b)(2) of the CARES Act. These findings will be reviewed after 90 days as

required by Section 15002(b)(3)(A) of the CARES Act.

Notwithstanding these findings, it shall remain within the discretion of the presiding judge to determine the manner in which criminal hearings will proceed.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.



Brian Morris, Chief Judge  
United States District Court