

March 10 2023

Clerk, U.S. District Court  
District of Montana  
Missoula Division

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

IN RE: RENEWAL OF  
AUTHORIZATIONS AND  
FINDINGS UNDER THE CARES  
ACT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 23-8

As the spread of COVID-19 continues within the population of the District of Montana and in particular within the facilities used to house detained federal criminal defendants, the undersigned Chief Judge, 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, 21-3, 21-16, 21-17, 22-4, 22-12, 22-14, and 22-17.

Specifically, the undersigned 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 shall take effect on March 13, 2023, upon the expiration of

Administrative Order 22-17, and 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 10th day of March, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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Brain Morris, Chief Judge  
United States District Court