

STANDING ORDER re:

Criminal and Civil hearings commencing in court as of June 21, 2021; Civil Jury and Non-Jury Trials commencing as of July 1, 2021

Beginning June 21, 2021, this session's criminal hearings will be held in Courtroom 21. The court will permit non-evidentiary hearings (Rule 11 proceedings and sentencings) to be conducted by video conference if a criminal defendant, with the advice of his or her counsel, is willing to waive personal presence in the courtroom.

For civil hearings, the parties may jointly elect to proceed in-person or by video conference. In the event of a dispute, the parties shall submit brief position statements (of no more than 1 page) to the court. The court shall consider, inter alia, the benefit of an in-person hearing and whether such a hearing poses an undue hardship for either party. The parties' election (or position statements) shall be filed on the docket no later than 5 days prior to the scheduled hearing.

In all civil trials until further notice, the court will permit witness testimony by Zoom (or other live video link): (1) by agreement of the parties; (2) on a showing by a party that travel to the court entails undue expense or poses personal hardship or health risks for the witness; or (3) if for reasons of convenience the court so orders.

/s/ Richard G. Stearns

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated: July 1, 2021