

Apr 03, 2020

SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK

1
2
3
4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

5 In Re:

6 Enacting the Continuity of Operations
7 Plan (COOP) and Closing the Richland
8 United States Courthouse to Public
Access

**RICHLAND COURTHOUSE AND
FEDERAL BUILDING
ORDER NO. 20-01**

9 In response to the evolving public health crisis caused by the outbreak of
10 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), President Trump has declared a national
11 emergency and issued guidelines directing at-risk individuals, including those 60
12 and older, to remain home and away from other people, and encouraging everyone
13 to work from home whenever possible, avoid discretionary travel, and avoid social
14 gatherings in groups of more than ten people. Additionally, Washington State
15 Governor Jay Inslee has declared a state of emergency, and on March 23, 2020, he
16 issued a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order requiring Washington residents to remain
17 in their homes except to pursue an essential activity, banning all social, religious,
18 and recreational gatherings, and closing all businesses except essential businesses.

19 Therefore, the Court finds it necessary in the interests of justice and public
20 health and safety to take proactive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and

1 ensure the safety of litigants, counsel, court staff, grand and petit jurors, witnesses,
2 members of the public, and members of the community of this judicial district.

3 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, effective Monday, April 6,
4 2020:

5 1. The Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the United States
6 District Court for the Eastern District of Washington's Richland
7 Division is hereby **ENACTED**.

8 2. The United States Courthouse in Richland, Washington is **ORDERED**
9 closed to the public, effective **April 6, 2020** through **May 1, 2020**,
10 unless this Order is rescinded, amended, or extended. This Order does
11 not affect the Richland Federal Office Building.

12 3. To the extent possible, court staff will continue to process electronic
13 filings, generate notices and orders, respond to phone inquiries, and
14 otherwise carry out the essential functions of the Court remotely.

15 4. Physical access to court proceedings held within the Richland
16 Courthouse are limited to persons required to attend by the Judge
17 presiding over the proceedings, which may include parties, counsel,
18 witnesses, or victims.

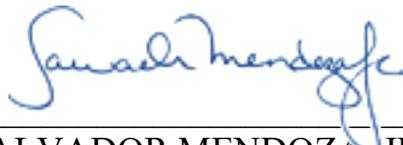
19 5. Remote access to audio content of court proceedings held within the
20 Richland Courthouse, in person or by video conference, will be

1 provided in real-time to members of the press and public through a
2 dedicated teleconference line. This access will be free of charge.
3 Information necessary to access the teleconference line will be
4 available on PACER via the docket for each scheduled case. Hearing
5 content provided in such manner may NOT be recorded or rebroadcast.

6 6. This Order does not impact the plans, procedures, or employees of the
7 General Services Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, or the
8 Federal Protective Service. Each of those agencies are encouraged to
9 develop plans, procedures, and schedules that support the enactment
10 of this COOP Plan. Additionally, this Order does not restrict the ability
11 of court staff to enter the Richland Courthouse as needed.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The District Court Executive is directed to post this
13 Order to the Court's website and to distribute a copy to each attorney registered in
14 the CM/ECF system.

15 **DATED** this 3rd of April 2020.

16 

17 SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR.

18 Resident Active Article III Judge and Designated Official
19 for the Richland Courthouse and Federal Building