

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING APPEARANCES FOR
CERTAIN CIVIL NON-EVIDENTIARY PROCEEDINGS
FOR MAGISTRATE JUDGE SCOTT T. VARHOLAK
(Effective March 12, 2020)**

As of March 11, 2020, the State of Colorado is reporting additional cases of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, signaling “limited community spread.” It appears that for the vast majority of people, consequences will be limited to flu-like symptoms. But for some, it can pose a serious risk including death. Though the business of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado and this judicial officer will continue as usual, in order to support public health efforts to cabin the spread of the coronavirus and to protect the health of the Parties and counsel by minimizing their need to travel, the following measures are adopted in an abundance of caution. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

- (1) All non-evidentiary hearings in **civil matters scheduled beginning March 12, 2020**, including but not limited to Scheduling Conferences, Final Pretrial Conferences, and status conferences, are **CONVERTED** to telephonic appearances (including for counsel locally) **unless otherwise ordered by the Court;**
- (2) The Parties and/or counsel should appear telephonically by initiating a call among all individuals participating before contacting chambers at (303) 335-2365 at the designated time;

- (3) To the extent that any Party and/or counsel has questions regarding whether an in-person appearance is required, such Party and/or counsel should contact the chambers of Magistrate Judge Varholak **at least one day prior to the scheduled proceeding;**
- (4) This Standing Order **DOES NOT APPLY** to Final Trial Preparation Conferences and trials where Magistrate Judge Varholak serves as the presiding judge by consent of the Parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), settlement conferences, and early neutral evaluations;
- (5) This Order **DOES NOT APPLY** to any criminal matters scheduled before Magistrate Judge Varholak unless specifically scheduled as a telephonic proceeding; and
- (6) This Standing Order **REMAINS IN EFFECT** until **April 10, 2020** or further Order of the court.

Parties and/or counsel are advised to check information for Magistrate Judge Varholak on the website of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado (www.cod.uscourts.gov) at least one week prior to their scheduled proceedings to determine whether this Order has been amended or vacated.

DATED: March 11, 2020

BY THE COURT:

s/Scott T. Varholak
United States Magistrate Judge