

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FILED
MAR 19 2020
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
By *Molly Herald*
Deputy

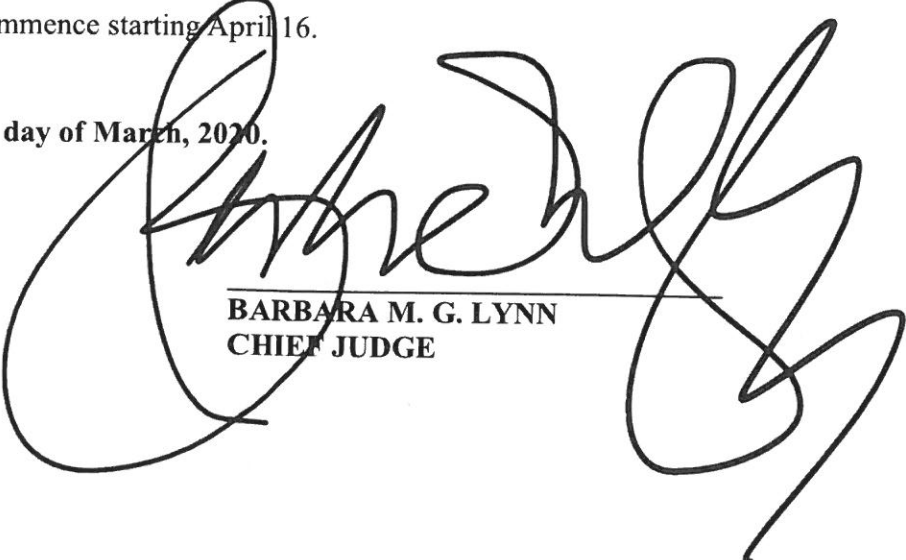
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

SPECIAL ORDER NO 13-7

**SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER RE: COURT OPERATIONS IN THE ABILENE,
AMARILLO, LUBBOCK, AND SAN ANGELO DIVISIONS UNDER
THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

This Order supplements and incorporates by reference Special Order Nos. 13-5 and 13-6, and it details procedures specific to the Northern District of Texas's Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, and San Angelo divisions. The COVID-19 pandemic and the concern for public safety have caused the Court to temporarily modify various criminal procedures. To aid in the efficient administration of justice, the Court notifies parties litigating criminal cases in the referenced divisions of the following procedures: (1) initial appearances, detention hearings, and arraignments will proceed, although with added social distancing, sanitization, and encouragement of waiving appearance for not-guilty pleas under Fed. R. Crim. P. 10(b); (2) from March 23 through May 4, the Court will not take guilty pleas unless a district judge determines that exigent circumstances warrant doing so; and (3) sentencing hearings have been postponed at least 30 days and, subject to further developments related to the pandemic, will recommence starting April 16.

SO ORDERED this 19th day of March, 2020.



BARBARA M. G. LYNN
CHIEF JUDGE