

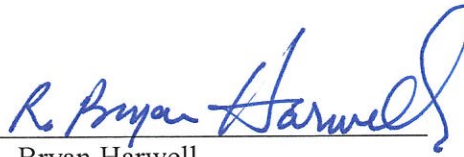
Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(2), I, as Chief Judge, on my own motion, further specifically find that felony pleas under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and felony sentencings under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure cannot be conducted in person in this district without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety. As a result, if a judge in an individual case finds, for specific reasons, that a felony plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, the judge may, with the consent of the defendant after consultation with counsel, use video teleconferencing, or telephone conferencing if video teleconferencing is not reasonably available, for the felony plea or sentencing in that case. Judges may also use this authority for equivalent events in juvenile cases as described in Section 15002(b)(2)(B).

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(4), video teleconferencing or telephone conferencing authorized under paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) may only take place with the consent of the defendant, or the juvenile, after consultation with counsel.

Pursuant to Section 15002(b)(3) of the legislation, this authorization will remain in effect for 90 days unless terminated earlier. If emergency conditions continue to exist 90 days from the entry of this order, I will review this authorization and determine whether to extend it.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

April 2, 2020
Florence, South Carolina


R. Bryan Harwell
Chief United States District Judge