

UNITED DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

FILED  
RICHARD W. NAGEL  
CLERK OF COURT

2021 MAY 12 PM 4:00

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DIST. OHIO  
EAST. DIV. COLUMBUS

In Re:

**ORDER OF PARTIAL SEQUESTRATION** :  
**FOR VENIRE PERSONS REQUIRED** : **GENERAL ORDER 21-13**  
**TO REMAIN AT THE COURTHOUSE** :  
**FOR VOIR DIRE IN THE SOUTHERN** :  
**DISTRICT OF OHIO** :

This Court issues this General Order as an additional Order in a series of General Orders that the Court has issued in response to the continuing spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in the Southern District of Ohio and elsewhere. There have been over one million confirmed cases in Ohio and over five hundred sixty-seven thousand confirmed cases throughout the Southern District of Ohio generally, with seats of Court in Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton. The Court continues to monitor developments relating to the spread of COVID-19 and to make operational adjustments that seek to preserve public access to the Court, and that enable the Court safely to perform its customary functions, while also protecting the health of the Court's staff and the constituencies the Court serves. The spread of COVID-19 has been so pernicious that the President of the United States has invoked the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S. C. § 1601, et seq., and the Governor of the State of Ohio, Mike DeWine, has declared a current COVID-19 advisory status of red (the second highest of the four levels) for the three cities in the Southern District of Ohio in which courthouses are located. In addition, a majority of citizens in the District live in counties classified as red.

By General Order 21-11, this Court declared, *inter alia*, that criminal and civil jury trials and other in-Court proceedings could resume effective May 3, 2021. In the event that either a

criminal or civil jury trial proceeds, then such trial must be held in one of eleven plexiglass-equipped courtrooms within the three federal courthouses in the Southern District of Ohio.<sup>1</sup>

In light of the fact that jury trials have resumed in the Southern District of Ohio, and that the Grand Jury has resumed its meetings under certain circumstances, and in light of the ongoing spread of COVID-19, this Court issued General Order 20-30, which makes provision for meals for petit jurors and grand jurors. That Order remains in full force and effect. This General Order 21-13 is enacted to address the necessity to make provision for venire persons' (i.e., persons summoned to be jurors) meals, including lunches for all venire persons required to remain at the courthouse for the voir dire process, to ensure the safety of said venire persons. Based on this Court's findings that there exists in the Southern District of Ohio indicators from health officials that the virus is not contained in the State of Ohio or the Southern District of Ohio, in my capacity as Chief Judge, I hereby enter this Order of Partial Sequestration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1871(e), instructing that all venire persons are to be "kept together and not to separate" for their safety and security during the time that they are at the courthouse for the voir dire process. With this Order, the Court may procure meals for said semi-sequestered venire persons and charge the costs of the venire persons' meals and the delivery fee to the juror fee appropriation fund.

This Order will remain in full force and effect until further notice.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**DATED: May 12, 2021**

  
**ALGENON L. MARBLEY**  
**CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

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<sup>1</sup> There are eleven courtrooms that are or will be equipped with plexiglass for civil jury trials, *i.e.*, that have jury boxes that can accommodate at least six jurors. Nine of those courtrooms will accommodate criminal jury trials, as the jury boxes can accommodate at least twelve jurors.