

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

<b>IN RE:</b>	:	
	:	
<b>CONDUCTING ARBITRATION</b>	:	<b>STANDING ORDER</b>
<b>HEARINGS BY</b>	:	
<b>VIDEOCONFERENCE</b>	:	

In light of the exigent circumstances created by the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and in the interest of public health and safety, as well as in keeping with the Court's Standing Orders issued on March 18, 2020, April 10, 2020, May 29, 2020, and June 30, 2020, which implemented and extended certain adjustments to Court operations, including the continuance of all arbitration hearings pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, the Court issues the following Standing Order, effective immediately:

1. The requirement set forth in Local Civil Rule 53.2, subsection 5A, stating that an arbitration trial shall take place in the United States Courthouse, is suspended in order to allow arbitration trials to be conducted remotely by videoconference. This suspension is necessary because conducting arbitration trials remotely by videoconference eliminates the need for in-person gatherings, which would normally include arbitrators, parties, counsel, witnesses, and Court staff, and minimizes the need for travel, especially by public conveyance, by any participant. Arbitration trials which would otherwise be continued for an unknown duration due to the reduced number of available courtrooms, which must be reserved for specific categories of trials and other hearings, may now proceed by videoconference and parties may obtain resolution in their cases.

2. Suspension of subsection 5A is only for the purpose of allowing arbitration trials to be conducted remotely by videoconference. Arbitration trials may not be physically held in any alternative locations. As would be the case if the arbitration trials were held in the United States Courthouse, no person who has not been hired by a party to perform transcription services may record the video or audio of the arbitration trial, and failure to comply with this prohibition may result in the imposition of sanctions.
3. Parties must either consent or decline to have the arbitration trial conducted remotely by videoconference by completing and electronically filing a Consent/Declination of Consent form that will be docketed in each case awaiting an arbitration trial. Arbitration trials for parties who consent to proceed by videoconference will be scheduled upon receipt of the completed form on a rolling basis. Parties who do not consent to the arbitration trial being conducted remotely by videoconference remain subject to the continuance of arbitration hearings set forth in the Court's June 30, 2020 Standing Order.
4. The requirement set forth in Local Rule 53.2, subsection 4D, that the arbitration clerk provide the arbitrators with a copy of all pleadings, the court order referring the case to arbitration and designating the arbitrators, and guidelines for the arbitrators at the time the court order is entered, is suspended. Instead, no later than the next business day following the entry of the court's order setting forth the date of the arbitration trial and the names of the arbitrators assigned to the arbitration panel, the parties must send the arbitration clerk an email with a copy of the docket sheet and all relevant pleadings, in the form in which they appear on CM/ECF, as attachments. The arbitration clerk will then forward the documents to the arbitrators by email, along with a copy of the court's

order, the Guidelines for Participating in Arbitration Trials Conducted by Videoconference, and the Standing Procedural Order for Arbitration Trials Conducted by Videoconference.

5. The requirement set forth in Local Rule 53.2, subsection 6, that the arbitration award be filed with the court, is suspended and the arbitration chair should instead email the arbitration award to [paed\\_arbitration@paed.uscourts.gov](mailto:paed_arbitration@paed.uscourts.gov) to facilitate entry of the award onto the docket.
6. Counsel, parties, and the members of the arbitration panel are required to review and comply with the Standing Procedural Order for Arbitration Trials Conducted by Videoconference as well as the Guidelines for Participating in Arbitration Trials Conducted by Videoconference. These documents are available on the court website at [www.paed.uscourts.gov/services/arbitration](http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/services/arbitration) and will be provided to the parties and the arbitrators as described above.
7. Except as modified herein with respect to arbitration hearings, the June 30, 2020 Standing Order remains in effect.

/s/ Juan R. Sánchez  
Juan R. Sánchez  
Chief Judge

Date: October 5, 2020