

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**GENERAL ORDER 20-18**  
**APRIL 22, 2020**

**IN RE: CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC EMERGENCY**

**SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER CONCERNING NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES**

**SAYLOR, C.J.**

In light of the March 13, 2020 declaration by the President of the United States of a National Emergency, and the advice of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus and slow the spread of the COVID-19 disease, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has taken the following actions:

1. To protect the public health by reducing public gatherings, all naturalization ceremonies scheduled for May and June 2020 are suspended.
2. Pursuant to the authority granted by 8 U. S. C. § 1448, the Court will nonetheless consider the requests of individuals in need of an expedited administration of a judicial oath of citizenship. Such requests will be granted upon a demonstration of sufficient cause, and will be administered as appropriate consistent with public health and safety. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may similarly conduct individual naturalization ceremonies in exigent circumstances upon request.
3. The temporary suspension of naturalization ceremonies will not divest the Court of its exclusive authority to administer the oath of allegiance to persons seeking to become citizens in this District. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1442(b)(3)(A).

**So Ordered.**

Dated: April 22, 2020

/s/ F. Dennis Saylor IV  
F. Dennis Saylor IV  
Chief Judge, United States District Court