

February 24, 2021

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

JULIA C. DUDLEY, CLERK  
BY: A. Seagle  
DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

SUSPENSION OF NATURALIZATION  
CEREMONIES IN THE WESTERN  
DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Seventh Amended  
Standing Order No. 2020-3

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began last spring, the court has suspended naturalization ceremonies in the Western District of Virginia to limit gatherings in the interest of public health. While the numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths substantially increased this winter, there are hopeful signs. Vaccinations are being administered every day, and the new case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths have started to come down. Nevertheless, to continue to protect the public health, the court concludes that the temporary suspension of naturalization ceremonies should be extended at this time.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the temporary suspension of naturalization ceremonies scheduled to be performed in this district be extended to May 31, 2021.

During this temporary period of suspension and until further Order of this Court, the Attorney General of the United States, acting through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), may administer the Oath of Allegiance to all applicants for naturalization residing in the Western District of Virginia. See 8 U.S.C. § 1421.

It is so **ORDERED**.

Entered this 23rd day of February, 2021.



Michael F. Urbanski  
Chief U.S. District Judge  
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Michael F. Urbanski  
Chief United States District Judge