ORDER

Suspension of Execution of Bench Warrants in Certain Misdemeanor Cases

(3/27/2020)

In light of the current public health and judicial emergencies declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognizing arresting a person wanted on most misdemeanor bench warrants during the public health emergency presents a health risk to the person, law enforcement, and others that outweigh the interest of the public in the speedy resolution of these cases; with the consent of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD),[1] the United States Attorney (USAO) and the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG), it is hereby:

1. ORDERED, that all misdemeanor bench warrants issued in cases with designations CMD (Criminal Misdemeanor), CTF (Criminal Traffic), and CDC (District of Columbia Criminal), except for bench warrants issued in misdemeanor sex offense (any age victim) and indecent exposure cases, are HEREBY SUSPENDED[2]; and it is
2. FURTHER ORDERED, that the temporary suspension of a bench warrant in a case shall not limit a party from filing a motion in that case or surrendering on the bench warrant; and it is

[1] The Metropolitan Police Department may advise its other partner law enforcement agencies of this order.

[2] By its terms, this Order does not apply to bench warrants issued in Domestic Violence (DVM) cases which shall remain in effect.

3. FURTHER ORDERED, that the temporary suspension of a bench warrant in a case shall not limit the government from charging a defendant with a violation of the Bail Reform Act (BRA) in the appropriate circumstances; and it is

4. FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall not cause a bench warrant to be quashed or removed from any case; and it is

5. FURTHER ORDERED, that a judge may, upon motion of a party or *sua sponte*, notwithstanding this Order, order that a specific bench warrant be executed and/or quashed.

6. This order will remain in effect until May 15, 2020 unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Robert E. Morin
Chief Judge
Superior Court for the District of Columbia