

GENERAL ORDER 25-05

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING OPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, AND UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE DURING A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS

Pursuant to Volume 13, Chapter 2, § 230.50 of the *Guide to Judiciary Policy*, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas is constitutionally and statutorily required to continue to exercise judicial power regardless of the status of appropriations. The Court, however, is bound by the strictures of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. §§ 1341-1342, in the event of a lapse of appropriations. During a lapse in appropriations, after the judiciary has exhausted funds from fees and no-year appropriations, Judicial Branch activities that are excepted functions will continue during such period.

Recognizing that the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch of the United States are currently at an impasse regarding appropriations for the Judicial Branch of the United States, and recognizing the immediate need to address the natural consequences thereof, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. In light of the geographical diversity of this District and the distances between courthouses, all employees within the various divisions of this District, including but not limited to: the District Court and its personnel, the Bankruptcy Court and its personnel, the District Clerk's office, staff attorneys, court interpreters and coordinator, court reporters and the United States Probation Office, are **DEEMED EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES** to carry out and support the constitutionally required judicial functions hereof. In accordance with the Anti-Deficiency Act, the Court is required to limit its activities only to recognized exceptions to the Act. Employees will be directed further as to those limitations on an "as needed" basis.
2. All employees shall report to work for regular duties and hours unless otherwise instructed. Employees who are off work for any reason will be placed on furlough status for whatever period of time they are not working.
3. All non-case related travel shall cease, unless approved by the Chief Judge.
4. No new personnel hires shall occur, and no new expenditures of funds shall be made without the approval of the Chief Judge.

5. Considering the need to provide continuing judicial functioning within this Court's constitutional mandate, the General Services Administration, United States Marshals Service and all courthouse protective services and maintenance contractors shall maintain all functions necessary for the continued operation and safety of the courthouses and personnel within this District.

This Order shall be immediately suspended upon receipt of renewed funding for the Judicial Branch when provided by the other Branches. This Order may be otherwise superseded or amended by subsequent Orders of the Court.

Notwithstanding the date of execution, this General Order will be effective as of and from 5:00 PM CST on October 17, 2025.

FOR THE COURT.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 6th day of October, 2025.


AMOS L. MAZZANT, III
CHIEF JUDGE