## **PRESS RELEASE**

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Roger A. G. Sharpe, Clerk 46 East Ohio Street Room 105 Indianapolis, IN 46204

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (November 23, 2020): Roger A. G. Sharpe, Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that the Clerk's Offices in the four divisions of the Southern District of Indiana are closed to the public, beginning today, November 23, 2020. The Clerk's Offices of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana are also closed to the public. These closures are in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, and specifically within the Southern District of Indiana. These limited closures will further protect the public and court staff while allowing all core functions of the Clerk's Office to continue.

**Per a previous** General Order, the Court will accept filings from pro se litigants via email, so long as such filings comply with specific requirements outlined in the General Order. Drop boxes for filings remain accessible at all courthouses. The Court will continue to receive and process the mail and other deliveries.

Clerk's Office staff are teleworking as much as is practicable, while still allowing for the continuation of all core functions. Due to the reduction in the number of staff onsite at the four courthouses of the Southern District of Indiana, telephone calls may not always be answered immediately; however, callers will be able to leave a message, which will be returned as promptly as possible.

In anticipation that scammers may attempt to take advantage of the confusion and fear caused by the pandemic, the Court reminds all residents of the Southern District of Indiana that a court official or other government employee will never contact someone and demand personal information or payment by phone or email. Individuals receiving such a call should hang up immediately and may report the incident to the Federal Communications Commission at <a href="https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1">https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1</a>.

Please note that this situation does not affect the supervision of defendants and offenders in the community. The U.S. Probation Office will continue its efforts to monitor and/or enforce court-ordered conditions of release throughout the Southern District of Indiana.

Please monitor the Court's website, www.insd.uscourts.gov for updates.