



United States District Court for the District of Columbia

James E. Boasberg
Chief Judge

Angela D. Caesar
Clerk of Court

PUBLIC AND MEDIA ADVISORY

Court Operations During Shutdown

Due to the lapse in appropriations, as of Monday, October 20, 2025, the federal judiciary is authorized only to engage in “excepted” activities -- that is, activities that (a) are necessary to the exercise of the judiciary’s constitutional functions; (b) address emergency circumstances; or (c) are otherwise authorized by law. This Court has determined that all activities related to the resolution of cases are “excepted.” Thus, during the shutdown, the Court will continue:

- conducting conferences, hearings, and criminal and civil jury and non-jury trials;
- reviewing and processing motions, orders, emergency applications, and other filings;
- accepting and docketing new cases;
- summoning jurors, providing administrative support for the petit- and grand-jury system, and processing payments to jurors; and
- appointing counsel under the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, and authorizing experts.

All staff necessary to support these and other excepted activities will be required to work during the shutdown. Staff members who are not needed for excepted functions will be furloughed. No staff will be paid until funding is restored to the federal judiciary.

Questions about court operations during the shutdown may be sent to:

DCDml_OperationalStatus@dcd.uscourts.gov.

The Court recognizes the significant hardship this shutdown imposes upon its staff and is grateful for their commitment to maintaining the Court’s core functions during this time.

Posted: October 17, 2025