

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 17-CR-124

MARCUS HUTCHINS,

Defendant.

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**MOTION TO REVOKE THE ORDER AMENDING CONDITIONS OF RELEASE,  
PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. § 3145**

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The United States of America by its attorneys, Gregory J. Haanstad, United States Attorney, and Michael Chmelar and Benjamin Proctor, Assistant United States Attorneys, file this motion to reconsider the modification of defendant Marcus Hutchins's conditions of release ordered by U.S. Magistrate Judge William E. Duffin on August 24, 2017 (Document 18). The August 24, 2017 order removed the condition of home confinement and placed Mr. Hutchins on a curfew, with no limitation on his travel in the United States. As explained below, Mr. Hutchins is a foreign national with no ties to the United States and his current conditions of bond increase the likelihood of his nonappearance in this matter.

**I. Background and Conditions of Bond**

On July 11, 2017, a federal grand jury returned a six-count indictment that charged Mr. Hutchins with one count of conspiracy to commit computer fraud and abuse, three counts of distributing and advertising an electronic communication interception device, one count of endeavoring to intercept electronic communications, and one count of attempting to access a computer without authorization.

Mr. Hutchins was arrested as he was preparing to board an out-bound flight from Las Vegas to the U.K. After his arrest on August 2, 2017, Mr. Hutchins had a removal hearing in the U.S. District Court for Nevada. The initial bond study in the U.S. District Court for Nevada recommended Mr. Hutchins be detained based on his lack of ties to the United States. (Document 7). Ultimately, Mr. Hutchins was placed on home confinement at a halfway house and required to surrender his passport, among satisfying other bond conditions. (Document 7).

Mr. Hutchins is a citizen and resident of the U.K. He has no family in the United States. Mr. Hutchins does not own any property in the United States. Mr. Hutchins is employed by a business located in Los Angeles, CA, but he apparently works remotely, as he did from the U.K. prior to his arrest. It is fair to say his conditions of bond are the only things securing his presence in the U.S.

On August 14, 2017, Mr. Hutchins was arraigned and pleaded not guilty to charges in this case. At that same hearing, the conditions of Mr. Hutchins's release were discussed and modified by the Court, with the agreement of the parties. Mr. Hutchins was left under home confinement, but he was allowed access to a computer, phone, and internet. It was also ordered that Mr. Hutchins's travel was limited to the continental U.S., as opposed the Los Angeles and the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

The next day, on August 15, 2017, the U.S. Probation Office asked the government if it would object to Mr. Hutchins being placed on a curfew instead of home confinement. This despite the fact that we had just completed a review his bond conditions with the court the day before and that fact that Mr. Hutchins was still in Milwaukee and had not yet identified a place to live in Los Angeles. In response, the government stated that it would not support such a request at that time.

On August 22, 2017, the Pretrial Office again asked the government to agree to have Mr. Hutchins placed on a curfew instead of home confinement. In response to our inquiry as to why the request to place Mr. Hutchins on a curfew was being made, the government was told that Mr. Hutchins is only being allowed out of his temporary residence for four hours a week, which the Pretrial Office thought was unfair. Specifically, the Pretrial Office stated, “because Mr. Hutchins is on [home] detention, works from home (when he works), has no family here, no doctors, no anything here . . . doesn’t really have any other business to take care of here . . . [he is] essentially [under] home incarceration rather than home detention.”

On August 24, 2017, without notice to the government, the Pretrial Office filed a petition with the U.S. Magistrate Judge William Duffin, in which it asked the Court to eliminate the bond condition of home confinement for Mr. Hutchins and place him a curfew. The difference being that on a curfew, Mr. Hutchins would no longer need to contact the seek approval before he left his residence. Instead, on a curfew, Mr. Hutchins could leave his residence without notice or justification, so long as he returned to his residence at the designated curfew time, in this case 9:00 p.m.

On August 24, 2017, the court granted the request to place Mr. Hutchins on curfew. (Document 18). The government filed a motion to stay that the court’s order so the totality of defendant’s bond conditions could be reviewed. (Document 19). The court granted the government’s motion to stay, but denied its motion for a bond hearing. (Document 20). Instead, the court allowed the government to file a written motion to return Mr. Hutchins to home confinement or otherwise amend his conditions of release. (Document 20).

The government filed its motion to revoke and amend the court’s order on August 25, 2017. (Document 21). Mr. Hutchins filed a response to the government’s motion that same day.

(Document 22). The government's motion to return defendant to home detention and in the alternative, amend his conditions of bond was denied by the court. (Document 23).

## **II. Standard of Review**

Because the court's order modifying bond was a decision under the Bail Reform Act (18 U.S.C. § 1341 *et seq.*), specifically 18 U.S.C. § 3142 (release pending trial), the United States believes the court's decision is reviewed *de novo* under 18 U.S.C. § 3145.

According to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3145,

(a) If a person is ordered released by a magistrate judge, or by a person other than a judge of a court having original jurisdiction over the offense and other than a Federal appellate court—

(1) the attorney for the Government may file, with the court having original jurisdiction over the offense, a motion for revocation of the order or amendment of the conditions of release . . . .

Under 18 U.S.C. § 3145, a district court reviews a magistrate judge's bail decision *de novo*. *United States v. Portes*, 786 F.2d 758, 761 (7th Cir. 1985); *United States v. Jones*, 804 F. Supp. 1081, 1086 (S.D. Ind. 1992). The district judge may “start from scratch” and hold a new hearing or review the proceedings before the magistrate judge. *United States v. Torres*, 929 F.2d 291, 292 (7th Cir. 1991).

## **III. Argument**

The conditions of release for Mr. Hutchins should not be amended because they have been successful in meeting the goals of 18 U.S.C. § 3142. According to his pre-trial service officer, Mr. Hutchins has not had “any violations and [is] in constant communication with . . . the Pretrial Office.” By all accounts, the current conditions of release are working and nothing justifies altering those conditions at this time.

According to the Pretrial Office, they “[do not] think placing him on a curfew status is going to make him become more of a flight risk . . . .” The combination of bond conditions set on

August 14th and 25th, certainly afford Mr. Hutchins a greater opportunity to leave the country. That is an undeniable fact, because those conditions greatly reduce the ability to identify any attempt to leave the U.S. For example, under home confinement, if Mr. Hutchins left his residence without approval or traveled to a location that was not approved, it would be an immediate signal to Pretrial Office that there was a potential problem. Under the combined conditions of release as order on August 14 and August 24, 2017, Mr. Hutchins could leave his residence at 6:00 a.m. travel anywhere in the U.S., including to the U.S./Mexican border without raising any concerns, until 9:00 p.m. when/if he failed to return to his temporary residence.

The Pretrial Office discounts the government's concerns about placing Mr. Hutchins on a curfew by relying on the fact that he surrendered his passport. While that may limit his ability to board a flight, people frequently cross U.S. borders without a passport.

In his response, his response to the government's motion to return Mr. Hutchins to home confinement (Document 22), Mr. Hutchins noted that the government stated it was "fine" with no travel restrictions within the U.S. as long as Pretrial Services had long as pretrial services had Mr. Hutchins's passport. Mr. Hutchins also noted that the government asked that Mr. Hutchins continue on "GPS" monitoring bure that after some period of compliance, if Pretrial Services determined GPS monitoring was no longer necessary, the government would likely support that recommendation.

First, as to the travel restriction, the government agreed to allow Mr. Hutchins to travel within the U.S. on the condition the pretrial office held his passport because Mr. Hutchins was under the condition of home confinement. Mr. Hutchins could not leave his temporary residence in Los Angeles without approval much less travel cross-country. The government agreed to travel in the U.S. believing any such travel would have to be approved by the Pretrial Office. However,

that would no longer be the case if Mr. Hutchins is subject to a curfew instead of home confinement.

Second, the government's reference to "GPS" was a poorly chosen substitute for home detention. The government was willing to consider a request to remove Mr. Hutchins from home confinement, which it did. The government would not agree to remove Mr. Hutchins from GPS monitoring as it is the only way, short of detention, to verify his location in the U.S.

Therefore, the United States respectfully asks this Court to revoke U.S. Magistrate Judge Duffin's August 25, 2017 order amending Mr. Hutchins's conditions of bond and order Mr. Hutchins to remain under home confinement. In the alternative, the government requests this Court revoke the court's August 14, 2017 order allowing Mr. Hutchins to travel throughout the U.S. The government respectfully submits that Mr. Hutchins's travel should be limited to a specific geographic area, like the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles. Finally, the government requests the Court require Mr. Hutchins be in his residence between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 25th day of August, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
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