

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**IN RE:)
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT) STANDING ORDER
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19)**

The President of the United States has proclaimed that the worldwide pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that has reached the United States constitutes a national emergency, and the Governor has declared a state of emergency for the State of North Carolina. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease. In order to protect public health, and in order to reduce the size of public gatherings and reduce unnecessary travel, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina hereby issues the following order:

The Court remains open for official business and will continue operations to the greatest extent possible under the circumstances. All deadlines in all cases are not extended and remain in effect, unless addressed by separate order of the assigned Judge. Many Clerk's Office staff will be working remotely to reduce the number of employees in the courthouses, consistent with public health advisories. All parties are urged to utilize the Court's electronic filing (CM/ECF) system; members of the public without an attorney who do not meet the travel or health criteria enumerated in Standing Order 12 of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina should only hand deliver emergency bankruptcy filings. All other filings by a member of the public not represented by an attorney should be mailed to either the Greensboro office or the Winston-Salem office. Installment payments should also be made by mail or by an attorney via CM/ECF.

Effective immediately, ALL HEARINGS in the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina shall be held telephonically, pending further order of the Court. If an evidentiary hearing requires physical access to the Court, appropriate arrangements shall be made during the telephonic hearing. Continuances will be granted as necessary and appropriate. Parties are directed to check the Court's website for instructions on accessing hearings telephonically and other updates regarding 11 U.S.C. § 341 hearing dates.

This the 16th day of March 2020.



Lena M. James, Chief Judge
FOR THE COURT