

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DIVISION
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KATHLEEN A. FORD
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WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENN.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

GENERAL ORDER ORIGINAL SIGNATURES

General Order No. 20-0003

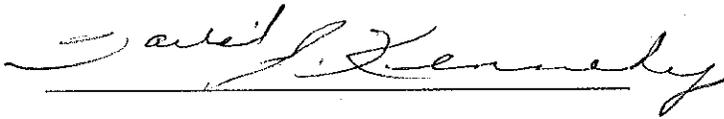
THIS GENERAL ORDER is being issued in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). President Donald J. Trump has declared a national emergency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have urged a halt to all gatherings of more than 10 people for the next eight weeks in addition to its previous guidance concerning social distancing and protection of vulnerable persons.

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases, the severity of risk to the general public, and the recommendations of public health officials, it is hereby **ORDERED** that effective **March 31, 2020** the Court will temporarily suspend the requirement regarding obtaining a debtor's original signature on documents filed electronically with the Court. Accordingly,

IT Is HEREBY ORDERED that ECF Procedures 5 and 6 in the Court's Administrative Procedures Manual ("ECF Guidelines") are temporarily suspended. Until further order of the Court, an attorney is not required to obtain a person's original physical signature prior to electronically filing a document that requires such person's signature, provided that prior to electronically filing the

document, the attorney must obtain either (i) the person's digital signature on such document via any commercially available digitally signed document; or (ii) express written permission via email or otherwise from the person to affix the person's signature to the document electronically filed with the Court. The attorney must retain the digital signature or express written permission in the Filer's or User's file for such cases.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 31st day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David S. Kennedy", written over a horizontal line.

David S. Kennedy
Chief Bankruptcy Judge