

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
WESTERN DIVISION  
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AUG 10 2020

KATHLEEN A. FORD  
CLERK OF COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENN.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

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**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER CONCERNING HEARINGS**

**General Order No. 20-0001**

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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 **Monday, August 17, 2020**:

- I. All U.S. Trustee's staff, trustees and their staffs, attorneys, debtors, creditors, and other parties in interest are encouraged to conduct their business in writing or telephonically.

If requesting a telephonic appearance, the party shall notify the appropriate courtroom deputy no later than four days before the hearing.

2. The judges will freely grant continuances as requested and encourage the parties to reach consensual resolution of their dispute whenever possible.
3. All in-person hearings are suspended. The court will hear argument on contested motions and applications by telephone or videoconference. Persons requesting a hearing should contact the case trustee and Courtroom Deputy at least four days in advance to notify the court that a hearing is requested. The court reserves the right to require the attendance of parties or their lawyers at a scheduled telephone or videoconference hearing even when the parties do not specifically request to be heard. Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9003-1, “[a]ll motions for which a special or expedited setting is sought and all motions seeking emergency or ex parte relief should be filed with the Clerk who will promptly refer the motion to the Courtroom Deputy assigned to the case for setting.”
4. If an evidentiary hearing is required, the parties shall notify the chambers of the presiding judge to request a hearing. The individual presiding judge will determine whether and how to conduct requested hearings.

This order will remain in effect pending further order of the court. The court will amend this order as needed in response to recommendations of public health officials. The Clerk’s office remains open for the conduct of business. Electronic filings may continue to be made through the CM-ECF filing system. The court appreciates the cooperation of all affected persons as we strive to conduct the business of the court under these trying circumstances. The health and safety of the

U.S. Trustee and staff, trustees and their staffs, attorneys, debtors, creditors, and other parties in interest are our first concern.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.



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David S. Kennedy  
Chief Bankruptcy Judge