

MAR 18 2020

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

United States Bankruptcy Court
Columbia, South Carolina

In re:)
)
Debtor Signatures on Electronic Filings,) Operating Order No. 20-04
)
)

ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING REQUIREMENT
THAT ATTORNEYS OBTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURES FROM DEBTORS
FOR ELECTRONIC FILINGS

This Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and South Carolina. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") advises that individuals should engage in "social distancing" to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, there are individuals who may be in isolation because they are sick or have been exposed to someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19. Accordingly, to reduce the need for personal contact, the judges of this Court agree that there is good cause to suspend temporarily and conditionally the requirement that an attorney obtain a debtor's original, physical signature for an electronic filing.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED that effective March 18, 2020, and until further notice:

For all documents that require a debtor's signature, the Court suspends the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor's original, physical signature prior to electronically filing such documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has either (a) obtained the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software that provides signature authentication and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document(s) in the debtor's case file; or (b) obtains express written permission from the debtor to affix the debtor's signature to the document(s) and maintains a copy

of the writing in the debtor's case file. The filing of the document(s) with a debtor's digital signature constitutes a certification that the attorney either has obtained the debtor's original, physical signature or has complied with the foregoing conditions.

AGREED AND ORDERED THIS 18TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

/s/ Helen E. Burris

Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

/s/ John E. Waites

United States Bankruptcy Judge

/s/ David R. Duncan

United States Bankruptcy Judge