

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FILED

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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN RE:

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

**OPERATING
ORDER 22-01¹**

Recent adverse events have impacted the in-person operations of courts, including the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina (“Bankruptcy Court” or “Court”). In response, and to better serve the public, the Court issues the following Operating Order regarding the continuity of operations and accessibility of the Court.

- (1) **Entry to Courthouses.** Any guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)² regarding any adverse event, including but not limited to a local or national emergency or other event impacting court operations or public safety, shall be followed for entry to any bankruptcy courthouse, except as otherwise ordered by this court, a presiding judge of this court, or another federal court with appropriate jurisdiction and authority. The Clerk of Court or General Services Administration will ensure that notice of such guidance is posted at courthouse public entry points. The United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to any visitor refusing to comply.

- (2) **Deadlines, Hearings and Trials.** All deadlines, whether set by statute, Court order, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the Local Rules of this Court, Chambers Guidelines, or Operating Order, and any applicable statutes of limitation, remain in full force and effect unless altered by further order of any presiding judge. Court hearings before a bankruptcy judge will be held in person unless otherwise indicated.³ Each presiding judge may take steps to avoid such appearances or proceedings as they deem appropriate.⁴

¹ This Order replaces Op. Order 20-14.

² The latest CDC guidance regarding COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>.

³ The United States Trustee conducts meetings of the creditors pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 341 and procedures for those meetings are not controlled by the Court or this Order.

⁴ Any person who expects to travel significant distances to attend a hearing in person may contact the courtroom deputy of the assigned judge to ensure there are no changes to the manner of the hearing.

(3) **Clerk's Office Operations.** The Clerk of Court may limit hours of public access to Court service counters and public intake areas or may close courthouse locations to the public on an emergency basis, for good cause, with approval of the judges of this Court, and with due notice. Clerk's Office staff is available by telephone (803)765-5436, email (contact information available at www.scb.uscourts.gov), and mail.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2022.

/s/ Helen E. Burris

Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge