

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

FILED

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RICHARD JONES
CLERK OF COURT
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
CINCINNATI, OHIO

IN RE

DEBTOR SIGNATURES ON
ELECTRONIC FILINGS

GENERAL ORDER NO. 37-1
(Effective March 19, 2020)

This Court issues this General Order in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Ohio and the state of emergency declared by the Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael DeWine.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the electronic filing of a verified paper under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1008, including the voluntary petition, is permitted if the debtor's attorney either:

- (1) secures the debtor's original, physical signature prior to filing; or
- (2) chooses to electronically file the verified paper without the original signature in his/her possession provided that such electronic filing constitutes a certification by the debtor's attorney that the debtor has signed it and that, at the time of filing, the debtor's attorney is in possession of an image format or other facsimile of the document, including the signature page received either electronically (including by email or text) or by facsimile machine from the debtor. If the verified paper is filed electronically without the original signature in his/her possession, it shall be filed with the signature in image format and such filing constitutes a representation and certification that the debtor's attorney transmitted the entire verified paper to the debtor for review and signature, communicated with the debtor regarding the substance and purpose of the verified paper, received the entire verified paper, including the signature page, back from the debtor electronically, including the signature page, and received express authorization from the debtor to file the verified paper. The debtor's attorney must file a certification within 30 days of filing

the verified paper that he/she has received the debtor's original signature and will maintain it in accordance with ECF Procedure 7(a).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 19, 2020

FOR THE COURT



Chief Judge Jeffery P. Hopkins
United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Ohio