

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. 37-2

This Order, effective March 25, 2020, supersedes all prior Orders of this Court on Debtor Signatures on Electronic Filings.

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 signature pages 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, the verified paper 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 signature

pages back from the debtor electronically, and received express authorization from the debtor to file the verified paper.

If the debtor has no means to transmit a signature electronically, the attorney should explain the circumstances with the filing, verify that permission was obtained from the debtor to sign the document on their behalf, and obtain the signature as soon as possible after the filing through another means.

The debtor's attorney must file a certification within 30 days of filing the verified paper as per section two above, that he/she has received the entire verified paper, including the debtor's original signature and will maintain it in accordance with ECF Procedure 7(a).

A redline version of the original order (General Order 37-1) is attached to illustrate the amendments reflected in this Order (General Order 37-2).

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**Dated: March 25, 2020**

**FOR THE COURT**



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

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

**IN RE**

**DEBTOR SIGNATURES ON  
ELECTRONIC FILINGS**

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 37-12**  
~~(Effective March 19, 2020)~~

This Order, effective March 25, 2020, supersedes all prior Orders of this Court on Debtor Signatures on Electronic Filings.

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 pages 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~~ the verified paper 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 pages, back from the debtor electronically,

~~including the signature page,~~ and received express authorization from the debtor to file the verified paper.

If the debtor has no means to transmit a signature electronically, the attorney should explain the circumstances with the filing, verify that permission was obtained from the debtor to sign the document on their behalf, and obtain the signature as soon as possible after the filing through another means.

The debtor's attorney must file a certification within 30 days of filing the verified paper **as per section two above**, that he/she has received the **entire verified paper, including the** debtor's original signature and will maintain it in accordance with ECF Procedure 7(a).

A redline version of the original order (General Order 37-1) is attached to illustrate the amendments reflected in this Order (General Order 37-2).

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**Dated: March 1925, 2020**

**FOR THE COURT**

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