

FILED

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

18 DEC 28 PM 3: 47

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

In re:

GENERAL ORDER #31-1

ORDER HOLDING IN ABEYANCE  
BANKRUPTCY MATTERS INVOLVING THE  
UNITED STATES AS A LITIGANT OR CREDITOR

This matter is before the Court due to the lapse of congressional appropriations funding the federal government, including the Department of Justice. Absent an appropriation, certain Department of Justice attorneys and employees of the federal government are prohibited from working, even on a voluntary basis, except in very limited circumstances, including "emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property." 31 U.S.C. § 1342. Therefore, the lapse in appropriations requires a reduction in the workforce of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio and other federal agencies, particularly with respect to participation in bankruptcy cases. The Court, in response, and with the intent to avoid any default or prejudice to the United States as a litigant or creditor occasioned by the lapse in funding, sua sponte enters this Order.

It is hereby ORDERED:

Effective immediately, the following matters are suspended, postponed and held in abeyance from the date of entry of this Order until appropriations are restored:

1. all hearings involving any claim, lien or other interest of the United States of America or any of its agencies;
2. all current deadlines (whether established by order, rule, or agreement) in matters involving a claim, lien or other interest of the United States of America or any of its agencies; and
3. all adversary proceedings to which the United States of America or any of its agencies is a party.

The Court warns litigants that this Order does not purport to affect rights to or deadlines concerning appeal from any decision of this Court, which will continue to operate and issue orders in the normal course.

Any litigant affected by this Order may seek relief from the order by motion. The Court may, in any particular case, vary the effect or operation of this Order by a separate ruling. Absent an order granting a motion seeking relief from this Order in a particular case, all case management deadlines in effect at the time this Order is entered shall be extended commensurate with the duration of the lapse in appropriations.

The Court shall distribute this Order by electronic service to all registered CM/ECF users and by posting the Order on the Court's public website.

If requested by motion filed by any party, the Court will clarify the status of case schedules upon

expiration of the stay.

Dated: December 28, 2018

For the Court:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeffery P. Hopkins", is written over a horizontal line.

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