

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

**COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID-19**

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 35-1
(Effective March 13, 2020)**

This Court issues this General Order in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Ohio. There are multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19, in response to which the Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael DeWine, has declared a state of emergency¹ which, among other things, limits large indoor gatherings. The Governor's declaration follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") "Interim Guidance," recommending that all employers consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including the review of guidance from state and local health officials.²

Given the outbreak of cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and the severity of risk posed to the public, and given the CDC mandate and the Governor's declaration, it is hereby ORDERED that, **effective Friday, March 13, 2020:**

1) Until and including April 13, 2020, any trial, hearing, or conference (collectively, "Matter") scheduled in a courtroom that does not involve the presentation of evidence (documentary or testimonial) shall be conducted telephonically without further order of the Court. Each Chambers will address the logistics of any telephonic Matter. To the extent the parties intend to present evidence, each judge assigned a particular Matter will determine, by separate order, whether the Matter may proceed telephonically or will be continued. All parties are encouraged to raise with the Court and all parties the ability to conduct any hearing for a Matter telephonically. Parties are directed to the individual judge's webpage on the Court's internet site for

¹ Executive Order 2020-OID

² Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), February 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html> (last updated February 26, 2020).

further information.

2) To the extent not addressed in this general order, all orders entered in individual cases or adversary proceedings, and all response dates for filing answers, responses, motions, other filings, or taking any other action provided by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure or this Court's Local Bankruptcy Rules shall remain binding.

All courthouses shall remain open. Staff in the Clerk's Office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and intake desks remain open for filings. Electronic filing may still be made through the CM/ECF system. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than **APRIL 14, 2020**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 13, 2020

FOR THE COURT



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