

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**

IN RE:
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19

GENERAL ORDER No. 3

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a national emergency, and the Governor of the State of Connecticut has declared a public health emergency throughout the State;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) outbreak, and has noted that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus, through, among other means, social distancing;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut (the “Court”) issued a General Order Regarding Court Operations Under The Exigent Circumstances Created By COVID-19, which ordered, among other things, that all scheduled hearings and conferences to be held by the Court would be held telephonically until further notice (“General Order”);

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Court issued General Order No. 2 Regarding Court Operations Under The Exigent Circumstances Created By COVID-19, which ordered, among other things, an extension of certain matters through April 10, 2020 (“General Order No. 2”);

AND

WHEREAS, the Court continues to review its operations to identify measures that will help slow the spread of the virus by minimizing contact between persons, while at the same time preserving its core mission of serving the public through the fair and impartial administration of justice;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, **effective immediately**, that:

1. Procedures for all Scheduled Hearings and Conferences. All matters scheduled for hearings and conferences will be conducted telephonically unless:

- a. A withdrawal of the matter, a stipulation resolving the matter, a request for continuance on consent of all parties is granted, or a motion for continuance is granted for cause shown; or
- b. The Court determines that it can rule on a matter and any response/objection to the matter without the need to require the party/parties to participate in the scheduled telephonic hearing or conference. The parties will be notified of such a determination at least three business days before the scheduled telephonic hearing or conference, the telephonic hearing or conference will not be held, and an appropriate order/ruling will be issued on the matter and any response/objection to the matter.

The procedures and instructions for appearing at a scheduled telephonic hearing or conference may be found at www.ctb.uscourts.gov. Instructions will be provided to the parties as to which Court approved Telephonic Hearing or Conference Vendor to use for the scheduled telephonic hearing or conference. Inquiries regarding a scheduled telephonic hearing or conference shall be made to the Courtroom Deputy in the division of the Court in which the matter is pending. The Courtroom Deputy contact information is:

Hartford Division: CourtroomDeputy_Hartford@ctb.uscourts.gov
Bridgeport Division: CourtroomDeputy_Bridgeport@ctb.uscourts.gov
New Haven Division: CourtroomDeputy_NewHaven@ctb.uscourts.gov

2. Procedures for Evidentiary Hearings and Trials. Evidentiary hearings and trials may proceed as scheduled at the discretion of the Court. The parties are again directed to contact the Courtroom Deputy in the division of the Court in which the matter scheduled for an evidentiary hearing or trial is pending to determine if the evidentiary hearing or trial will proceed as scheduled. The Courtroom Deputy contact information is:

Hartford Division: CourtroomDeputy_Hartford@ctb.uscourts.gov
Bridgeport Division: CourtroomDeputy_Bridgeport@ctb.uscourts.gov
New Haven Division: CourtroomDeputy_NewHaven@ctb.uscourts.gov

3. Contested Matter Procedures. For all motions seeking relief from the automatic stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(d) filed on or before March 27, 2020, the extension of the automatic stay to April 10, 2020 set forth in General Order No. 2 will be further extended only upon motion granted for cause shown. For all other Contested Matters filed on or before March 27, 2020, the extension of the response date to April 10, 2020 set forth in General Order No. 2 will be further extended only upon motion granted for cause shown.

4. Extensions of the Automatic Stay. For all motions seeking an extension of the automatic stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(c) filed on or before March 27, 2020, the extension of the automatic stay provided in 11 U.S.C. § 362(a) through April 10, 2020 set forth in General Order No. 2 will be further extended only upon motion granted for cause shown.

5. Chapter 13 Procedures. All Chapter 13 hearing dates scheduled to be held on or after March 27, 2020 will be held telephonically. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, or unless a continuance

of the telephonic hearing is granted upon motion by the debtor with the consent of all relevant parties, the matters that will be heard telephonically on the Chapter 13 hearing dates are: (1) The Chapter 13 Plans for which the Chapter 13 Trustee has filed a Notice of Intent to Confirm Chapter 13 Plan by 4:00 p.m. on the Monday before the Chapter 13 hearing date; and (2) Motions to Dismiss Case with prejudice. All other matters scheduled to be heard on Chapter 13 hearing dates will be continued to a date to be determined.

6. Deficiency Notices. For any case in which a Deficiency Notice was issued on or before March 27, 2020, the extension of time to April 10, 2020 to cure the deficiency will be further extended only upon motion granted for cause shown with the following exceptions: (1) each debtor must timely file a list of creditors compliant with all applicable rules; and (2) along with the petition, each debtor must timely pay the filing fee, file an application to pay the fee in installments, or file an application to waive the filing fee.

7. This Order does not affect any deadline not expressly addressed herein; and,

8. The Court will issue a further order concerning these matters in the coming weeks.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: March 27, 2020

/s/ Julie A. Manning

Julie A. Manning
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge