

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**

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

GENERAL ORDER No. 4

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”);

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Court issued General Order No. 3 Regarding Court Operations Under The Exigent Circumstances Created By COVID-19, which ordered, among other things, a modification to the Chapter 13 Procedures for matters scheduled for hearings to be held on or after March 27, 2020 (“General Order No. 3”);

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, including matters scheduled for hearing on Chapter 13 hearing dates.** All matters scheduled for hearings and conferences will proceed and 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:

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| 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.** As provided in General Order No. 3, 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 set forth above in Paragraph 1.
3. **Contested Matter Procedures.** Rule 9014-1 of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut applies to all Contested Matters filed after April 10, 2020. Any requests for an extension of time related to the relief sought in all Contested Matters filed after April 10, 2020, must be made by motion.
4. **Extensions of the Automatic Stay.** Any requests for an extension of the automatic stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(c) must be made by motion.
5. This Order does not affect any deadline not expressly addressed herein; and,

6. The Court may issue a further order concerning these matters in the coming weeks.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: April 24, 2020

/s/ Julie A. Manning
Julie A. Manning
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge