

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**

IN RE: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF
REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN DEBTORS
ORIGINAL SIGNATURES

GENERAL ORDER

**ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING REQUIREMENT TO
OBTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURES FROM DEBTORS FOR ELECTRONIC FILINGS**

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 Governor of the State of Connecticut has issued Executive Order 7H, “Protection Of Public Health And Safety During COVID-19 Pandemic and Response - Restrictions On Workplaces For Non-Essential Businesses, Coordinated Response Effort,” dated March 20, 2020, (“Executive Order 7H”);

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of the documents and pleadings filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut are filed electronically under the Court’s Administrative Procedures for Electronic Case Filing, which are contained in Appendix A to the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure for the District of Connecticut (“Administrative Procedures”);

WHEREAS, section 9 of the Administrative Procedures provides in pertinent part that “[t]he transmission by a Filer or User of any document constitutes certification by the Filer or User that all persons indicated on such document have signed the document and have executed an original prior to electronic filing with the Court;” and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 7H may prevent attorneys from timely obtaining original signatures, thereby interfering with their ability to provide appropriate bankruptcy relief or measures; it is hereby

ORDERED: Effective upon the date of this Order and until further notice, the Court hereby suspends, subject to the conditions stated below, the Administrative Procedures’ requirement that a Filer or User possess the signatory’s original, physical signature before

electronically filing a pleading or document. This suspension is expressly conditioned on the requirement that before filing the document or pleading in question, the Filer or User has either:

a. obtained a digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software that provides signature authentication and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document or pleading in his or her case file;

b. obtains express written permission from the signatory to file the document or pleading in question; and it is further; or

c. obtained in his or her possession at the time of filing an image format or other facsimile of the entire signed document(s), including the signature page(s) received electronically (including by electronic mail or facsimile) from the signor, and will maintain a hard copy thereof in the file; and it is further

ORDERED: The filing of a document or pleading under this General Order constitutes a certification that the Filer or User either has obtained the signatory's original, physical signature or has complied with the foregoing conditions. The electronic signature or the written permission shall have the same force and effect as if the Filer or User possesses the paper original of such document or pleading; and it is further

ORDERED: This General Order does not waive, suspend, limit or alter any other Administrative Procedures requirement, Bankruptcy Code section, Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure or any Bankruptcy Local Rule.

Dated: March 23, 2020

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