

12/17/2020

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

STEPHANIE J. BUTLER, CLERK  
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NC

IN RE:

DEBTOR SIGNATURES ON ELECTRONIC FILINGS

GENERAL ORDER

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

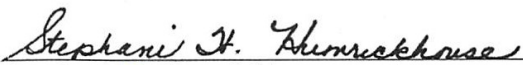
This Order is issued in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and the State of North Carolina. In response to actions taken by the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina, on March 18, 2020, the Court entered an order temporarily suspending the requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings. On May 29, 2020, the court extended that order through June 30, 2020; on June 24, 2020, the court extended the order again through August 31, 2020; and, on August 28, 2020, the order was extended through December 31, 2020.

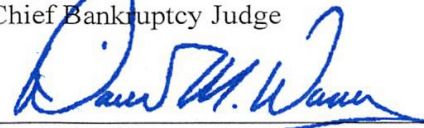
Since the entry of the Court's order on March 18, 2020 and its extension on May 29, 2020, June 24, 2020, and August 28, 2020, both the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina have relaxed the restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19. However, there are still individuals who may be in isolation because they are sick or have been exposed to someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19. Accordingly, to reduce the need for personal contact, there is good cause to continue to suspend temporarily and conditionally the requirement that an attorney obtain a debtor's original, physical signature for an electronic filing; now therefore,

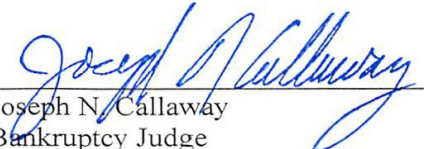
It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that for all documents requiring a debtor's signature, the Court continues to suspend the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor's original, physical signature prior to electronically filing such documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has either (a) obtained the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software that provides signature authentication and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document(s) in the debtor's case file; or (b) obtains express written permission (including electronic mail) from the debtor to affix the debtor's signature to the document(s), and maintains a hard copy thereof in the file.

This order shall terminate and expire on March 31, 2021.

SO ORDERED, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

  
Stephanie J. Humrickhouse  
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

  
David M. Warren  
Bankruptcy Judge

  
Joseph N. Callaway  
Bankruptcy Judge