

**FILED**

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

DEC 01 2021

**IN RE:**

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

**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. That order was extended multiple times, with the last extension ending on September 1, 2021.

Since the entry of the Court's orders, 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,

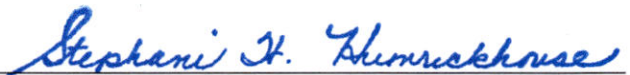
It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that for all documents requiring a debtor's signature, the Court continues to suspend the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor's original, physical signature prior to electronically filing such documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney 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 be construed to apply *nunc pro tunc* to documents filed between September 1, 2021 and the entry of this order. This order shall terminate and expire on December 31, 2021. The wet signature requirement will be reinstated on January 1, 2022.

SO ORDERED, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2021.



David M. Warren, Chief Bankruptcy Judge



Stephani W. Humrickhouse, Bankruptcy Judge



Joseph N. Callaway, Bankruptcy Judge