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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

JAN 1 5 2020

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

IN RE:

### ADOPTION OF INTERIM BANKRUPTCY RULES

**GENERAL ORDER** 

On August 23, 2019, the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019 ("the SBRA") was enacted into law. The SBRA makes many substantive and procedural changes to the Bankruptcy Code and requires changes to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure to implement those changes. However, the February 19, 2020 effective date of the SBRA occurs long before the Bankruptcy Rules can be amended under the three-year process required by the Rules Enabling Act. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules ("the Advisory Committee") drafted, published for comment, and subsequently approved interim bankruptcy rules ("the Interim Rules") for distribution to the courts. The Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure approved the Interim Rules, and the Judicial Conference authorized distribution of the Interim Rules to courts for adoption locally to facilitate uniform implementation of the changes mandated by the SBRA.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071, Rule 83 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 9029 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the attached Interim Rules are adopted in their entirety without change by the judges of this Court to be effective February 19, 2020. For cases and proceedings not governed by the SBRA, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court, other than the Interim Rules, shall apply.

The Interim Rules shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Stephani W. Humrickhouse Chief Bankruptcy Judge

David M. Warren Bankruptcy Judge

Joseph N. Caldaway Bankruptcy Judge

# INTERIM AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE<sup>1</sup>

Rule 1007. Lists, Schedules, Statements, and Other

| 2  | <b>Documents; Time Limits</b>                         |
|----|---|
| 3  | * * * *   |
| 4  | (b) SCHEDULES, STATEMENTS, AND OTHER                  |
| 5  | DOCUMENTS REQUIRED.                                   |
| 6  | * * * *   |
| 7  | (5) An individual debtor in a chapter 11 case         |
| 8  | (unless under subchapter V) shall file a statement of |
| 9  | current monthly income, prepared as prescribed by     |
| 10 | the appropriate Official Form.                        |
| 11 | ****  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These interim bankruptcy rules (the Interim Rules) have been prepared by the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States to be adopted as local rules by the Bankruptcy Courts to implement the procedural and substantive changes to the Bankruptcy Code made by the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019. The Interim Rules will be withdrawn after similar amendments can made to the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure under the normal Rules Enabling Act process.

| 12   | (h) INTERESTS ACQUIRED OR ARISING                               |
|------|---|
| 13   | AFTER PETITION. If, as provided by § 541(a)(5) of the           |
| 14 ( | Code, the debtor acquires or becomes entitled to acquire any    |
| 15 i | interest in property, the debtor shall within 14 days after the |
| 16 i | information comes to the debtor's knowledge or within such      |
| 17 ± | further time the court may allow, file a supplemental           |
| 18 : | schedule in the chapter 7 liquidation case, chapter 11          |
| 19 ı | reorganization case, chapter 12 family farmer's debt            |
| 20 a | adjustment case, or chapter 13 individual debt adjustment       |
| 21 ( | case. If any of the property required to be reported under      |
| 22 1 | this subdivision is claimed by the debtor as exempt, the        |
| 23   | debtor shall claim the exemptions in the supplemental           |
| 24   | schedule. This duty to file a supplemental schedule             |
| 25   | continues even after the case is closed, except for property    |
| 26 a | acquired after an order is entered:                             |
| 27   | (1) confirming a chapter 11 plan (other than one                |

confirmed under § 1191(b)); or

| 29 | (2) discharging the debtor in a chapter 12 case, a |
|----|--|
| 30 | chapter 13 case, or a case under subchapter V of   |
| 31 | chapter 11 in which the plan is confirmed under    |
| 32 | § 1191(b).   |
| 33 | * * * *  |

# 1 Rule 1020. Chapter 11 Reorganization Case for Small

## **2 Business Debtors**

| 3  | (a)              | SMALL               | BUSINESS          | DEBTOR          |
|----|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 4  | DESIGNATIO       | N. In a voluntary   | y chapter 11 cas  | se, the debtor  |
| 5  | shall state in   | the petition who    | ether the debto   | or is a small   |
| 6  | business debtor  | and, if so, whet    | her the debtor 6  | elects to have  |
| 7  | subchapter V or  | f chapter 11 appl   | y. In an involu   | ntary chapter   |
| 8  | 11 case, the deb | otor shall file wit | hin 14 days afte  | er entry of the |
| 9  | order for relief | a statement as to   | whether the del   | otor is a small |
| 10 | business debtor  | and, if so, whet    | her the debtor o  | elects to have  |
| 11 | subchapter V o   | f chapter 11 app    | ly. The status    | of the case as  |
| 12 | a small business | s case or a case u  | nder subchapter   | r V of chapter  |
| 13 | 11 shall be in a | ccordance with      | the debtor's sta  | tement under    |
| 14 | this subdivision | n, unless and un    | til the court en  | ters an order   |
| 15 | finding that the | debtor's stateme    | ent is incorrect. |                 |
|    |                  |                     |                   |                 |

16 (b) OBJECTING TO DESIGNATION. The United 17 States trustee or a party in interest may file an objection to 18 the debtor's statement under subdivision (a) no later than 30

- 19 days after the conclusion of the meeting of creditors held
- 20 under § 341(a) of the Code, or within 30 days after any
- amendment to the statement, whichever is later.
- 22 (c) PROCEDURE FOR OBJECTION OR
- 23 DETERMINATION. Any objection or request for a
- 24 determination under this rule shall be governed by Rule 9014
- and served on: the debtor; the debtor's attorney; the United
- 26 States trustee; the trustee; the creditors included on the list
- 27 filed under Rule 1007(d) or, if a committee has been
- appointed under § 1102(a)(3), the committee or its
- authorized agent and any other entity as the court directs.

for

**Estates** 

When

**Joint** 

2 Administration Ordered

2009.

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Rule

3 (a) ELECTION OF SINGLE TRUSTEE FOR

**Trustees** 

- 4 ESTATES BEING JOINTLY ADMINISTERED. If the
- 5 court orders a joint administration of two or more estates
- 6 under Rule 1015(b), creditors may elect a single trustee for
- 7 the estates being jointly administered, unless the case is
- 8 under subchapter V of chapter 7 or subchapter V of chapter
- 9 11 of the Code.
- 10 (b) RIGHT OF CREDITORS TO ELECT
- 11 SEPARATE TRUSTEE. Notwithstanding entry of an order
- 12 for joint administration under Rule 1015(b), the creditors of
- any debtor may elect a separate trustee for the estate of the
- debtor as provided in § 702 of the Code, unless the case is
- under subchapter V of chapter 7 or subchapter V of chapter
- 16 11.
- 17 (c) APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES FOR
- 18 ESTATES BEING JOINTLY ADMINISTERED.

| 19 | * * * * *   |
|----|---|
| 20 | (2) Chapter 11 Reorganization Cases. If the           |
| 21 | appointment of a trustee is ordered or is required by |
| 22 | the Code, the United States trustee may appoint one   |
| 23 | or more trustees for estates being jointly            |
| 24 | administered in chapter 11 cases.                     |
| 25 | * * * *   |

### Rule 2012. Substitution of Trustee or Successor

## 2 Trustee; Accounting

- 3 (a) TRUSTEE. If a trustee is appointed in a chapter
- 4 11 case (other than under subchapter V), or the debtor is
- 5 removed as debtor in possession in a chapter 12 case or in a
- 6 case under subchapter V of chapter 11, the trustee is
- 7 substituted automatically for the debtor in possession as a
- 8 party in any pending action, proceeding, or matter.
- 9 \*\*\*\*\*

| 1  | Rule 2015. Duty to Keep Records, Make Reports, and     |
|----|--|
| 2  | Give Notice of Case or Change of Status                |
| 3  | (a) TRUSTEE OR DEBTOR IN POSSESSION. A                 |
| 4  | trustee or debtor in possession shall:                 |
| 5  | (1) in a chapter 7 liquidation case and, if the        |
| 6  | court directs, in a chapter 11 reorganization case     |
| 7  | (other than under subchapter V), file and transmit to  |
| 8  | the United States trustee a complete inventory of the  |
| 9  | property of the debtor within 30 days after qualifying |
| 10 | as a trustee or debtor in possession, unless such an   |
| 11 | inventory has already been filed;                      |
| 12 | (2) keep a record of receipts and the                  |
| 13 | disposition of money and property received;            |
| 14 | (3) file the reports and summaries required by         |
| 15 | § 704(a)(8) of the Code, which shall include a         |
| 16 | statement, if payments are made to employees, of the   |
| 17 | amounts of deductions for all taxes required to be     |

| withhe  | eld or | paid   | for and | in be | ehalf of em | ployees | and |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-------------|---------|-----|
| the pla | ace wh | nere t | hese an | ount  | s are depos | ited;   |     |
|         | (4)    | as     | soon    | as    | possible    | after   | the |

commencement of the case, give notice of the case to every entity known to be holding money or property subject to withdrawal or order of the debtor, including every bank, savings or building and loan association, public utility company, and landlord with whom the debtor has a deposit, and to every insurance company which has issued a policy having a cash surrender value payable to the debtor, except that notice need not be given to any entity who has knowledge or has previously been notified of the case;

(5) in a chapter 11 reorganization case (other than under subchapter V), on or before the last day of the month after each calendar quarter during which there is a duty to pay fees under 28 U.S.C.

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§ 1930(a)(6), file and transmit to the United States

| 37 | trustee a statement of any disbursements made              |
|----|--|
| 38 | during that quarter and of any fees payable under 28       |
| 39 | U.S.C. § 1930(a)(6) for that quarter; and                  |
| 40 | (6) in a chapter 11 small business case, unless            |
| 41 | the court, for cause, sets another reporting interval,     |
| 42 | file and transmit to the United States trustee for each    |
| 43 | calendar month after the order for relief, on the          |
| 44 | appropriate Official Form, the report required by          |
| 45 | § 308. If the order for relief is within the first 15 days |
| 46 | of a calendar month, a report shall be filed for the       |
| 47 | portion of the month that follows the order for relief.    |
| 48 | If the order for relief is after the 15th day of a         |
| 49 | calendar month, the period for the remainder of the        |
| 50 | month shall be included in the report for the next         |
| 51 | calendar month. Each report shall be filed no later        |
| 52 | than 21 days after the last day of the calendar month      |

following the month covered by the report. The

| 54 | obligation to file reports under this subparagraph               |
|----|--|
| 55 | terminates on the effective date of the plan, or                 |
| 56 | conversion or dismissal of the case.                             |
| 57 | (b) TRUSTEE, DEBTOR IN POSSESSION, AND                           |
| 58 | DEBTOR IN A CASE UNDER SUBCHAPTER V OF                           |
| 59 | CHAPTER 11. In a case under subchapter V of chapter 11,          |
| 60 | the debtor in possession shall perform the duties prescribed     |
| 61 | in (a)(2)–(4) and, if the court directs, shall file and transmit |
| 62 | to the United States trustee a complete inventory of the         |
| 63 | debtor's property within the time fixed by the court. If the     |
| 64 | debtor is removed as debtor in possession, the trustee shall     |
| 65 | perform the duties of the debtor in possession prescribed in     |
| 66 | this subdivision (b). The debtor shall perform the duties        |
| 67 | prescribed in (a)(6).  |
| 68 | (c) CHAPTER 12 TRUSTEE AND DEBTOR IN                             |
| 69 | POSSESSION. In a chapter 12 family farmer's debt                 |
| 70 | adjustment case, the debtor in possession shall perform the      |
| 71 | duties prescribed in clauses (2)–(4) of subdivision (a) of this  |

| 72 | rule and, if the court directs, shall file and transmit to the  |
|----|---|
| 73 | United States trustee a complete inventory of the property of   |
| 74 | the debtor within the time fixed by the court. If the debtor is |
| 75 | removed as debtor in possession, the trustee shall perform      |
| 76 | the duties of the debtor in possession prescribed in this       |
| 77 | subdivision (c).  |
| 78 | (d) CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE AND                                      |
| 79 | DEBTOR.   |
| 80 | (1) Business Cases. In a chapter 13                             |
| 81 | individual's debt adjustment case, when the debtor is           |
| 82 | engaged in business, the debtor shall perform the               |
| 83 | duties prescribed by clauses (2)-(4) of subdivision             |
| 84 | (a) of this rule and, if the court directs, shall file and      |
| 85 | transmit to the United States trustee a complete                |
| 86 | inventory of the property of the debtor within the              |
| 87 | time fixed by the court.  |
| 88 | (2) Nonbusiness Cases. In a chapter 13                          |
| 89 | individual's debt adjustment case, when the debtor is           |

not engaged in business, the trustee shall perform the duties prescribed by clause (2) of subdivision (a) of this rule.

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- (e) FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE. In a case in which the court has granted recognition of a foreign proceeding under chapter 15, the foreign representative shall file any notice required under § 1518 of the Code within 14 days after the date when the representative becomes aware of the subsequent information.
- 99 (f) TRANSMISSION OF REPORTS. In a chapter 100 11 case the court may direct that copies or summaries of 101 annual reports and copies or summaries of other reports shall 102 be mailed to the creditors, equity security holders, and 103 indenture trustees. The court may also direct the publication 104 of summaries of any such reports. A copy of every report or 105 summary mailed or published pursuant to this subdivision 106 shall be transmitted to the United States trustee.

- 1 Rule 3010. Small Dividends and Payments in Cases
- 2 Under Chapter 7, Subchapter V of Chapter 11, Chapter
- 3 **12, and Chapter 13**
- 4 \*\*\*\*\*
- 5 (b) CASES UNDER SUBCHAPTER V OF
- 6 CHAPTER 11, CHAPTER 12, AND CHAPTER 13. In a
- 7 case under subchapter V of chapter 11, chapter 12, or chapter
- 8 13, no payment in an amount less than \$15 shall be
- 9 distributed by the trustee to any creditor unless authorized
- 10 by local rule or order of the court. Funds not distributed
- because of this subdivision shall accumulate and shall be
- paid whenever the accumulation aggregates \$15. Any funds
- remaining shall be distributed with the final payment.

- 1 Rule 3011. Unclaimed Funds in Cases Under Chapter 7,
- 2 Subchapter V of Chapter 11, Chapter 12, and Chapter
- 3 **13**
- 4 The trustee shall file a list of all known names and
- 5 addresses of the entities and the amounts which they are
- 6 entitled to be paid from remaining property of the estate that
- 7 is paid into court pursuant to § 347(a) of the Code.

- 1 Rule 3014. Election Under § 1111(b) by Secured
- 2 Creditor in Chapter 9 Municipality or Chapter 11
- **Reorganization Case**
- 4 An election of application of § 1111(b)(2) of the
- 5 Code by a class of secured creditors in a chapter 9 or 11 case
- 6 may be made at any time prior to the conclusion of the
- 7 hearing on the disclosure statement or within such later time
- 8 as the court may fix. If the disclosure statement is
- 9 conditionally approved pursuant to Rule 3017.1, and a final
- 10 hearing on the disclosure statement is not held, the election
- of application of § 1111(b)(2) may be made not later than the
- date fixed pursuant to Rule 3017.1(a)(2) or another date the
- court may fix. In a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 in
- which § 1125 of the Code does not apply, the election may
- be made not later than a date the court may fix. The election
- shall be in writing and signed unless made at the hearing on
- 17 the disclosure statement. The election, if made by the

# 18 INTERIM RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE

- majorities required by § 1111(b)(1)(A)(i), shall be binding
- on all members of the class with respect to the plan.

- 1 Rule 3016. Filing of Plan and Disclosure Statement in a
- 2 Chapter 9 Municipality or Chapter 11 Reorganization
- 3 Case
- 4 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF PLAN. Every proposed
- 5 plan and any modification thereof shall be dated and, in a
- 6 chapter 11 case, identified with the name of the entity or
- 7 entities submitting or filing it.
- 8 (b) DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. In a chapter 9 or
- 9 11 case, a disclosure statement, if required under § 1125 of
- the Code, or evidence showing compliance with § 1126(b)
- shall be filed with the plan or within a time fixed by the
- 12 court, unless the plan is intended to provide adequate
- information under  $\S 1125(f)(1)$ . If the plan is intended to
- provide adequate information under § 1125(f)(1), it shall be
- so designated, and Rule 3017.1 shall apply as if the plan is a
- 16 disclosure statement.

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| 18 | (d) STANDARD FORM SMALL BUSINESS                              |
|----|---|
| 19 | DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND PLAN. In a small                     |
| 20 | business case or a case under subchapter V of chapter 11, the |
| 21 | court may approve a disclosure statement and may confirm      |
| 22 | a plan that conform substantially to the appropriate Official |
| 23 | Forms or other standard forms approved by the court.          |

| 1  | Rule 3017.1. Court Consideration of Disclosure                |
|----|---|
| 2  | Statement in a Small Business Case or in a Case Under         |
| 3  | Subchapter V of Chapter 11                                    |
| 4  | (a) CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF                                   |
| 5  | DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. In a small business case or             |
| 6  | in a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 in which the court |
| 7  | has ordered that § 1125 applies, the court may, on            |
| 8  | application of the plan proponent or on its own initiative,   |
| 9  | conditionally approve a disclosure statement filed in         |
| 10 | accordance with Rule 3016. On or before conditional           |
| 11 | approval of the disclosure statement, the court shall:        |
| 12 | (1) fix a time within which the holders of claims and         |
| 13 | interests may accept or reject the plan;                      |
| 14 | (2) fix a time for filing objections to the disclosure        |
| 15 | statement;  |
| 16 | (3) fix a date for the hearing on final approval of the       |
| 17 | disclosure statement to be held if a timely objection         |
| 18 | is filed; and   |

# 22 INTERIM RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE

19 (4) fix a date for the hearing on confirmation.

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| 1  | Rule 3017.2. Fixing of Dates by the Court in Subchapter |
|----|---|
| 2  | V Cases in Which There Is No Disclosure Statement       |
| 3  | In a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 in which     |
| 4  | § 1125 does not apply, the court shall:                 |
| 5  | (a) fix a time within which the holders of claims       |
| 6  | and interests may accept or reject the plan;            |
| 7  | (b) fix a date on which an equity security holder       |
| 8  | or creditor whose claim is based on a security must     |
| 9  | be the holder of record of the security in order to be  |
| 10 | eligible to accept or reject the plan;                  |
| 11 | (c) fix a date for the hearing on confirmation; and     |
| 12 | (d) fix a date for transmission of the plan, notice     |
| 13 | of the time within which the holders of claims and      |
| 14 | interests may accept or reject the plan, and notice of  |

the date for the hearing on confirmation.

### 1 Rule 3018. Acceptance or Rejection of Plan in a Chapter

## 2 9 Municipality or a Chapter 11 Reorganization Case

3 ENTITIES ENTITLED TO ACCEPT OR (a) 4 REJECT PLAN; TIME FOR ACCEPTANCE OR 5 REJECTION. A plan may be accepted or rejected in 6 accordance with § 1126 of the Code within the time fixed by 7 the court pursuant to Rule 3017, 3017.1, or 3017.2. Subject 8 to subdivision (b) of this rule, an equity security holder or 9 creditor whose claim is based on a security of record shall 10 not be entitled to accept or reject a plan unless the equity 11 security holder or creditor is the holder of record of the 12 security on the date the order approving the disclosure 13 statement is entered or on another date fixed by the court 14 under Rule 3017.2, or fixed for cause after notice and a 15 hearing. For cause shown, the court after notice and hearing 16 may permit a creditor or equity security holder to change or 17 withdraw an acceptance or rejection. Notwithstanding 18 objection to a claim or interest, the court after notice and

- 19 hearing may temporarily allow the claim or interest in an
- amount which the court deems proper for the purpose of
- 21 accepting or rejecting a plan.

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- Rule 3019. Modification of Accepted Plan in a Chapter
- 2 9 Municipality or a Chapter 11 Reorganization Case

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4 (b) MODIFICATION OF **PLAN AFTER** 5 CONFIRMATION IN INDIVIDUAL DEBTOR CASE. If 6 the debtor is an individual, a request to modify the plan under 7 § 1127(e) of the Code is governed by Rule 9014. The request 8 shall identify the proponent and shall be filed together with 9 the proposed modification. The clerk, or some other person 10 as the court may direct, shall give the debtor, the trustee, and 11 all creditors not less than 21 days' notice by mail of the time 12 fixed to file objections and, if an objection is filed, the 13 hearing to consider the proposed modification, unless the 14 court orders otherwise with respect to creditors who are not 15 affected by the proposed modification. A copy of the notice 16 shall be transmitted to the United States trustee, together 17 with a copy of the proposed modification. Any objection to 18 the proposed modification shall be filed and served on the

- 19 debtor, the proponent of the modification, the trustee, and
- any other entity designated by the court, and shall be
- 21 transmitted to the United States trustee.
- 22 (c) MODIFICATION OF PLAN AFTER
- 23 CONFIRMATION IN A SUBCHAPTER V CASE. In a
- 24 case under subchapter V of chapter 11, a request to modify
- 25 the plan under § 1193(b) or (c) of the Code is governed by
- Rule 9014, and the provisions of this Rule 3019(b) apply.