

FILED

MAR 18 2020

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

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

IN RE:

DEBTOR SIGNATURES ON ELECTRONIC FILINGS

GENERAL ORDER

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

This Order is issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and the State of North Carolina. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") advises that individuals should engage in "social distancing" to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

On March 17, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued several emergency proclamations and orders, including the closing of all bars and restaurants to "sit-down service" in order to lower the congregation of crowds and in an effort to reduce crowds below ten persons.

In addition, there are 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 suspend temporarily and conditionally the requirement that an attorney obtain a debtor's original, physical signature for an electronic filing; now therefore,

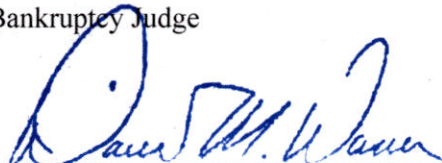
It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that for all documents requiring a debtor's signature, the Court suspends the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor's original, physical signature prior to electronically filing such documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has either (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 May 31, 2020 unless extended by further order of the court.

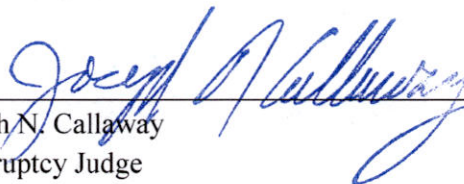
SO ORDERED, this 18TH day of March, 2020.



Stephani W. Humrickhouse
Chief Bankruptcy Judge



David M. Warren
Bankruptcy Judge



Joseph N. Callaway
Bankruptcy Judge