

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**

IN RE:
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY
COVID-19

GENERAL ORDER No. 2

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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) outbreak, and has noted that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus, through, among other means, social distancing;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut issued a Standing Order regarding Court Operations under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut (the "Court") continues to review its operations to identify measures that will help slow the spread of the virus by minimizing contact between persons, while at the same time preserving its core mission of serving the public through the fair and impartial administration of justice;

AND

WHEREAS, parties in matters pending in all three divisions of the Court regularly appear in person for scheduled hearings and conferences at which multiple matters are heard and numerous parties are present in the courtrooms;

THEREFORE,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, **effective immediately and through April 10, 2020**, that:

1. **Hearings Scheduled for the Week of March 16, 2020.** During the week of March 16, 2020, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, scheduled hearings and conferences will be conducted telephonically, or unless a party requests a continuance. The procedures and instructions for appearing telephonically at a scheduled hearing or conference may be found at www.ctb.uscourts.gov.
2. **Hearings Scheduled for the Period March 23, 2020 through April 10, 2020.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all hearings and conferences scheduled to be held in any courthouse in the District of Connecticut (Abraham Ribicoff Federal Building in Hartford, Brien McMahon Federal Building in Bridgeport, and the Connecticut Financial Center in New

Haven), during the period from March 23, 2020 through April 10, 2020 shall either:

- a. Proceed as a telephonic hearing; or
- b. Be continued to a date to be determined after April 10, 2020, pending further Order of the Court.

Any party who wishes to appear in person at a scheduled hearing or conference shall file an appropriate motion or request, which will be considered by the Court. Any party required to appear at a scheduled hearing or conference may request a continuance of the hearing or conference by filing an appropriate motion or request setting forth the basis for the requested continuance.

3. **Evidentiary Hearings and Trials.** Evidentiary hearings and trials may proceed as scheduled. The parties are again directed to contact the Courtroom Deputy in the division of the Court in which the matter scheduled for an evidentiary hearing or trial is pending to determine if the evidentiary hearing or trial will proceed as scheduled. The Courtroom Deputy contact information is:

Hartford Division:	CourtroomDeputy_Hartford@ctb.uscourts.gov
Bridgeport Division:	CourtroomDeputy_Bridgeport@ctb.uscourts.gov
New Haven Division:	CourtroomDeputy_NewHaven@ctb.uscourts.gov

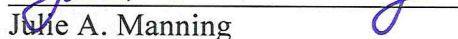
4. **Contested Matter Procedures.** For any motion that seeks relief from the automatic stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(d) filed on or after February 16, 2020, that remains pending as of March 16, 2020, the Court hereby finds cause to extend the deadlines set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 362(e) through April 10, 2020, pending further order of the Court. For all other Contested Matters pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1 that remain pending, the Court hereby finds cause to extend the Contested Matter Response Date to April 10, 2020, pending further order of the Court.
5. **Extensions of the Automatic Stay.** For any motion that seeks an extension of the automatic stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(c) filed on or after February 16, 2020, that remains pending as of March 16, 2020, the Court hereby finds cause to extend the automatic stay set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 362(a) through April 10, 2020, pending further order of the Court.
6. **Chapter 13 Procedures.** With regard to Chapter 13 hearing dates scheduled to be held prior to April 10, 2020, in any case in which the Chapter 13 Trustee has filed a Notice of Intent to Confirm Chapter 13 Plan, the hearing on the confirmation of the Chapter 13 Plan will be held telephonically unless the debtor with the consent of all relevant parties requests a continuance of the hearing until a date after April 10, 2020. All other matters scheduled for hearing on Chapter 13 hearing dates prior to April 10, 2020, will be continued by the Court. Any deadline to file an amended Chapter 13 Plan is hereby extended to April 10, 2020, pending further order of the Court.
7. **Deficiency Notices.** For any case in which a Deficiency Notice has issued and the time to cure the deficiency has not expired as of March 16, 2020, the time to cure is hereby extended to April 10, 2020, with the following exceptions: (1) each debtor must timely file a list of creditors compliant with all applicable rules; and, (2) along with the petition, each debtor must timely pay the filing fee, file an application to pay the fee in installments, or file an application to waive the filing fee.

8. This Order does not affect any deadline not expressly addressed herein; and,
9. The Court will issue a further order concerning these matters in the coming weeks.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: March 16, 2020

/s/ Julie A. Manning



Julie A. Manning
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

EXHIBIT A

DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

MAR 16 2020 PM 1:31
FILED - USDC - BPT - CT

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CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19

GENERAL ORDER

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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) outbreak, and has noted that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus, through, among other means, social distancing;

AND

WHEREAS, the Court continues to review its operations to identify measures that will help slow the spread of the virus by minimizing contact between persons, while at the same time preserving its core mission of serving the public through the fair and impartial administration of justice;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective immediately and through April 10, 2020, that:

- 1) All in-court (in-person) civil and criminal proceedings scheduled to commence on or before April 10, 2020, before any district or magistrate judge in any courthouse in the District of Connecticut shall be CONTINUED pending further Order of the Court, with the exceptions and under the procedures noted in paragraph 2 below;
- 2) During this period, the Court will handle, in court and without interruption, presentment of new arrests, detention hearings, grand jury returns, and civil matters requiring a prompt hearing under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65; in addition, each district or magistrate judge may, in his or her discretion, choose to handle other matters in court (as opposed to continuing the matter or handling it via video or teleconference) to the extent each judge deems it necessary to do so in the interests of justice, after giving due consideration to the public health risks presented by in-court appearances; each judge will notify the parties through the CM/ECF system as to whether a particular proceeding

assigned to that judge and scheduled to occur on or before April 10, 2020, will take place as scheduled and, if so, whether the proceeding will occur in court or through remote communication (i.e., video or telephone conference);

3) During this period, staff in the Clerk's Office will telework to the maximum extent possible consistent with serving the needs of the public, except that limited staff will be present at the Clerk's office at each seat of court to accept filings and answer questions from the public during normal business hours. Telework policies applicable to judges' chambers will be decided by each judge;

4) The Court will issue further orders concerning these matters in the coming weeks, including orders that relate specifically to the Bankruptcy Court.

The District of Connecticut courthouses (including the facilities at 157 Church Street, New Haven) remain open for all other business. Court staff not physically present at the courthouse are equipped to work remotely, and will work normal hours during each business day. Staff in the Clerk's Office are available by telephone, mail will be received, and intake desks remain open for filings. Electronic filings may still be made through the CM/ECF system. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: March 16, 2020
Bridgeport, CT

/s/ Stefan R. Underhill
Stefan R. Underhill
Chief United States District Judge