

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

In re:)
)
RECOVERY OPERATION OF)
THE U.S. BANKRUPTCY)
COURT FOR THE WESTERN)
DISTRICT OF NORTH)
CAROLINA AND RETURN TO)
IN-PERSON HEARINGS IN)
RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS)
DISEASE (COVID-19))
_____)

FILED
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, NC

FEB 17 2022

Steven T. Salata, Clerk
Charlotte Division

GENERAL ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Court upon its own motion.

The Governor of the State of North Carolina ("Governor Cooper") declared a public health emergency throughout the state in response to the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 10, 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and other public health authorities advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease. The United States Bankruptcy Court took appropriate and necessary steps to protect public health by adopting measures that continued the essential role of the Court by using various technologies to hold court remotely.

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of recent reductions in the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and bearing in mind the importance of the essential role of the Court, The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina hereby issues the following order regarding court operations and hearings:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that beginning **March 22, 2022** the Court will conduct all Charlotte hearings **IN-PERSON**;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that beginning **April 5, 2022** the Court will conduct all Asheville hearings **IN-PERSON**;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that beginning **April 8, 2022** the Court will conduct all Statesville hearings **IN-PERSON**;

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court will conduct all Shelby matters virtually until further notice by Court order;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorneys or parties with any concerns about appearing in person contact chambers to make the Court aware of those concerns and request accommodations. The presiding judge will make a determination about how to proceed on a case-by-case basis;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for all in-person hearings, masks are not required. Masks may be worn except when addressing the Court unless an accommodation is requested and approved by the Court;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that public intake counters in the Asheville and Charlotte divisions of the Clerk's Office remain open to the public and observe the regular hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.);

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Statesville division intake counter shall remain closed until further notice. Members of the public without an attorney may file bankruptcy petitions and other papers in Statesville by drop box or U.S. Mail addressed to the Charlotte office address listed below and in accordance with the following procedures or at the public intake counters in the Asheville and Charlotte divisions of the Clerk's Office:

1. All papers filed by drop box or U.S. Mail, should include a coversheet containing the telephone number and email address at which the filer may be reached. The coversheet will be a private entry on the Court's docket and will not be available on the public docket;
2. All bankruptcy petitions filed by drop box or U.S. Mail should be accompanied by a copy of a form of government issued identification for the debtor(s);
3. Drop boxes shall be available and accessible from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the lobby of the United States Courthouse in Statesville at the address listed below. Parties are directed to check the Court's website, www.ncwb.uscourts.gov, or call the Clerk's Office at 704-350-7500, for more information;
4. Filings made by drop box must be accompanied by either: (1) an email to filings@ncwb.uscourts.gov, indicating the filer's name, the case name and number (unless the filing is a bankruptcy petition), and the date and time at which the filing was placed into the drop box, or (2) a telephone

call to the Clerk's Office at 704-350-7500 to confirm the deposit; and

5. All required filing fees shall be mailed to the Charlotte office at the address listed below. The only acceptable forms of payment are cashier's checks and money orders. Should any party be unable to obtain a cashier's check or money order, that party may file a motion to request temporary relief from the judge assigned to the case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorneys shall continue to file bankruptcy petitions and other papers by electronic filings in CM/ECF;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that members of the public without an attorney ("Pro Se parties") may file bankruptcy petitions and other papers with the Court at the intake counters, in-person, at the Charlotte and Asheville divisions;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all deadlines in all cases continue to remain in effect, unless modified by further order;

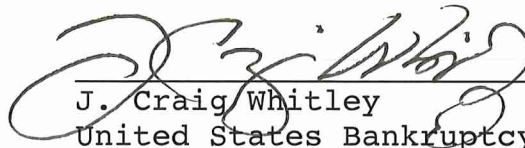
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all information regarding bankruptcy hearings may be found by checking the Court's website at www.ncwb.uscourts.gov. Parties should also consult the website for instructions on accessing hearings telephonically. Parties are encouraged to contact the Clerk's Office at 704-350-7500 for any necessary assistance; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this **SUPERSEDE** the General Order dated September 21, 2021.

This the 17 day of February, 2022.



Laura Turner Beyer
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge



J. Craig Whitley
United States Bankruptcy Judge

George R. Hodges

George R. Hodges
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Mailing Address for All Divisions:

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of North Carolina
401 West Trade Street, Room 2500
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Statesville Drop Box Address:

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of North Carolina
200 West Broad Street
Statesville, NC 28677