

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:)
)
Order Temporarily Suspending)
Requirement to Obtain Original)
Signatures from Debtors for Electronic)
Filings)
)

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

WHEREAS, the Bankruptcy Court is monitoring the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, 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 advises that individuals should engage in “social distancing” to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, there are individuals who may be in isolation because they are ill or have been exposed to someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19. Accordingly, 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 HEREBY ORDERED, that for all documents requiring a debtor’s signature, the court temporarily suspends the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor’s original, physical signature prior to electronically filing such document on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has either (a) obtained the debtor’s digital signature via any commercially available digital signed software that 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.

Dated: March 26, 2020



Christopher S. Sontchi
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge