



Frank W. Volk
Frank W. Volk
United States District Judge

ENTERED: March 13, 2020

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

IN RE: BANKRUPTCY HEARINGS TO BE HELD ON AND AFTER MARCH 18, 2020, PENDING FURTHER ORDER OF THE COURT.	GENERAL ORDER NO. 20-02 FRANK W. VOLK, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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GENERAL ORDER 2020-02

On March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency. That same day, West Virginia Governor James C. Justice, II, closed all public schools indefinitely.

Having considered these recent actions to guard public health and safety, the Court **ORDERS**, effective March 18, 2020, and pending further Order thereafter, that all bankruptcy matters set for hearing shall be held telephonically. It is further **ORDERED** as follows:

1. That, absent extraordinary circumstances, and prior authorization received from the Court, no in-person hearing appearances will be permitted;
2. That instructions for monitoring proceedings and appearing telephonically may be found at <http://www.wvsb.uscourts.gov>;
3. That those individuals who are not represented by a lawyer, and who nevertheless physically appear in the courtroom for a scheduled hearing, will be informed of the contents of this General Order so that they may participate instead by telephone or make some other arrangement with the courtroom deputy, for which Court authorization will be sought;

4. That hearing participants must use the following call information, which is provided at no cost: (a) dial 1-888-273-3658; and, (b) when prompted, enter access code 1039652. Participants must mute their phones until their case is called by the Court, at which time they may be heard when recognized by the Court; and
5. That, absent a showing of good cause in writing, the Court will not conduct evidentiary hearings pending further Order. Counsel or unrepresented parties should move forthwith to seek rescheduling of such hearings **and** shall give advance notice of that intention to the courtroom deputy at the following email address: Lisa_Smolder@wvsb.uscourts.gov.