


SO ORDERED




THOMAS J. CATLIOTA
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

In re: *
COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROCEDURES * Miscellaneous Proceeding No.
* 20-90006
* * * * * * * * * * * * *

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-05
ADDRESSING SIGNATURES ON ELECTRONIC FILINGS

The Governor of Maryland has declared a state of emergency concerning the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus. Limiting in-person meetings or conferences for the purpose of obtaining signatures to documents is consistent with the objective of limiting public contact to essential matters.

Therefore, it is, by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland, hereby

ORDERED, the requirement that all petitions, lists, schedules, statements, and amendments thereto must be “verified” in Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 1008 are met, and the documents may be electronically filed, if the debtor’s attorney either:

- (1) obtains the original, physical signature prior to filing; or
- (2) chooses to file the document electronically without the original signature in his/her

possession, provided that such electronic filing constitutes a certification by the attorney that the debtor has signed it and that, at the time of filing, the filing attorney is in possession of an image format or other facsimile of the document, including the signature page received either electronically (including by email or text) or by facsimile machine from the debtor. If the document is filed electronically by the filing attorney without the original signature in his/her possession, it shall be filed by placing “/s/ *Debtor’s Name*” where the signature occurs (as currently allowed), but such filing constitutes a representation and certification that before filing the attorney transmitted the entire document to the debtor for review and signature, communicated with the debtor regarding the substance and purpose of the document, received the signature page back from the debtor electronically, and received express authorization to file the document; and it is further

ORDERED, the requirements in the Local Bankruptcy Rules of obtaining, maintaining or producing an “original signature,” and the requirement of a “signature” in 28 U.S.C. §1746, are met if the attorney complies with this Order; and it is further

ORDERED, a petition or Chapter 13 plan verified and filed in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) of this Order shall be deemed to be signed by the debtor for purpose of Local Bankruptcy Rules 1002-1(a)(1) and 3015-1(c); and it is further

ORDERED, this Order is effective upon entry and until further order of the Court.

END OF ORDER