



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

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MARK A. NEAL
Clerk of Court

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August 29, 2025

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland (the “Court”) has approved for publication and public comment amendments to the Court’s Local Bankruptcy Rules (the “Rules”). Redline copies of the proposed amendments are attached and also available on the Court’s website at: www.mdb.uscourts.gov.

This summary was prepared by the Clerk’s Office as an overview of the proposed changes and is neither intended to serve as legal advice nor as a commentary on the proposed changes to the Rules, and nothing herein should be cited as legal authority. This summary does not include minor stylistic changes that may be incorporated into the Rules as part of this amendment process.

The following explain and highlight certain key changes:

- **Rule 1006-1** is amended to remove outdated payment information and relocate guidance on filing fee payment procedures to the Court’s public website (www.mdb.uscourts.gov).
- **Rule 3002-2** is new and provides clarity in joint cases on whether the claimed debt is asserted to be a joint or individual debt.
- **Rule 3015-2** is amended to provide that in Chapter 13 cases any party in interest, rather than just creditors, will have objections to prior versions of a plan preserved and considered at the final confirmation hearing.
- **Rule 9006-1** is amended to provide that motions to dismiss Chapter 13 cases must be served on the debtor, the debtor’s counsel, the Chapter 13 trustee, and all creditors who filed proofs of claim.
- **Rule 9011-1** is amended to track U.S. District Court Local Rule 102.1.
- **Rule 9011-4** is new and addresses pro se filings by parties represented by counsel. This new rule is similar to U.S. District Court Local Rule 102.6.

- **Rule 9011-5** is new and expressly acknowledges current standards to help guide lawyers regarding the increased use of generative AI in court documents as well as new Md. Rule 19-301.15 (ABA 1.15)) – Safekeeping Property.¹ Lawyers appearing in the bankruptcy court are governed not only by the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules, and Local Bankruptcy Rules, but also by the Maryland professional rules of conduct. The Court could identify no reason to deviate from that general principle for the use of generative AI or for attorney’s fees. The Court acknowledges that this approach may require some lawyers to change their practices but also believes lawyers can find general guidance in the applicable rules and case law. To the extent lawyers want additional guidance, the Court believes the state ethics committee is the appropriate body to address those issues or concerns.
- **Rule 9013-1** is amended to provide that the captions of motions filed in adversary proceedings must also include the name of the plaintiff and the defendant.
- **Rule 9013-3** is amended to require that when the Court publishes a form order for a particular type of relief, that party must submit a proposed order substantially similar to the Court’s form order. All published form orders are available on the Court’s website.
- **Rule 9013-4** is amended to note that in certain circumstances this rule may be modified by the Federal Bankruptcy Rules or by the Court.
- **Rule 9019-2** is amended to provide a cross-reference to the amended U.S. District Court rule on bankruptcy judges serving as neutrals in any ADR program.

Comments on the proposed amended Rules must be submitted on or before October 7, 2025, to Mark A. Neal, Clerk of Court, 101 West Lombard Street, Suite 8525, Baltimore, MD 21201 or emailed to LocalRules@mdb.uscourts.gov. If adopted, the amended Rules will take effect on December 1, 2025.

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¹ This rule, as of July 1, 2025, reads: “An attorney shall deposit into a client trust account legal fees and expenses that have been paid in advance, to be withdrawn by the attorney only as fees are earned or expenses incurred.”

RULE 1006-1**FILING FEES - INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS**

(a) Tender of Payment. ~~The debtor may pay the filing fee in cash or by cashier's check, certified check, or negotiable money order made payable to "Clerk, United States Bankruptcy Court" or by debit card via Pay.gov. Only an attorney may pay filing fees by credit card. Payment by an attorney's check will be accepted only if the check is drawn on the account of the attorney for the debtor or on the account of a law firm of which the attorney for the debtor is a member, partner, associate, or of counsel. The Clerk may maintain a list of attorneys and law firms whose checks have been dishonored and may refuse to accept the checks of such attorneys or firms.~~ Filing fee payment methods are set forth on the Court's public website at: www.mdb.uscourts.gov/forms/filing-fees.

(b) Payment of Fees in Installments. Upon a proper showing, the Court may approve an application by an individual to pay the filing and administrative fees in installments that proposes a payment plan with minimum payments in accordance with the following schedule:

	At Filing or as Otherwise Ordered	Within 30 Days After Filing	Within 60 Days After Filing	Within 90 Days After Filing
Chapter 7	25%	25%	25%	25%
Chapter 11	50%	50%	--	--
Chapter 12	25%	25%	25%	25%
Chapter 13	25%	25%	25%	25%

(c) Overpayment of Fees. Any overpayment of fees of \$25.00 or less will not be refunded.

RULE 3002-2 PROOFS OF CLAIM IN JOINT BANKRUPTCY CASES

Proof of claim forms filed in joint bankruptcy cases must include both debtors' names in the caption and clearly state whether the claim is against one or both debtors in the case. Including the case caption on the proof of claim form is a matter of procedure only and does not convert an otherwise individual claim against one debtor into a joint claim against both debtors.

RULE 3015-2 CHAPTER 13 - CONFIRMATION

(a) Hearing Attendance. The debtor and the debtor's attorney must attend all scheduled confirmation hearings, unless excused by the Chapter 13 trustee or the Court.

(b) Hearing Date. Confirmation hearings must be set not less than thirty-five (35) days after filing of a plan. Objections to the plan must be filed and copies served on the Chapter 13 trustee, the debtor, and the debtor's attorney no later than seven (7) days before the date set for hearing on confirmation of the plan.

(c) Pre-Confirmation Certificate. Within seven (7) days prior to the date of the initial confirmation hearing, the debtor must file a Pre-Confirmation Certificate substantially in the form of Local Bankruptcy Form O. If a confirmation hearing is continued, an updated Pre-Confirmation Certificate must be filed within seven (7) days prior to such hearing.

(d) Certain Objections. In the event a creditor objects to a provision in the plan seeking to avoid any lien or value any collateral through the plan and not by separate motion, the attorneys for the debtor and affected creditor must meet and confer in person, telephonically, or by videoconference in an attempt to resolve the dispute and identify and narrow any factual or legal issues. If the objection involves a disputed issue of valuation of collateral for which

testimony is required, the initially scheduled confirmation hearing may be treated as a preliminary hearing at which testimony will not be taken, and at which the Court will set a date and time for the valuation hearing.

(e) Consideration of Objections to Prior Versions of a Plan. If a ~~creditor~~[party in interest](#) files an objection to a plan, unless previously withdrawn by the ~~creditor~~[party in interest](#), that objection will remain on the docket and the Court will consider it at the final confirmation hearing.

RULE 9006-1 TIME FOR SERVICE AND FILING OF MOTIONS AND RESPONSIVE PAPERS

(a) In General. Except as otherwise ordered by the Court or required by the Federal Bankruptcy Rules or Local Bankruptcy Rules, all motions must be served at least twenty-one (21) days before the hearing date. The movant may establish any response deadline that is no earlier than fourteen (14) days after the date of service and no later than seven (7) days before the hearing date. If a response deadline is not otherwise established, any responsive pleading and memorandum in opposition must be filed within fourteen (14) days after the date of the service of the motion. Any response deadline may be extended by agreement of the parties.

(b) Chapter 13 Motions to Dismiss. A motion to dismiss a Chapter 13 case must be [\(i\) served on the debtor, the debtor's counsel, the Chapter 13 trustee, and all creditors who filed proofs of claim at the notice address in their proofs of claim; and \(ii\)](#) accompanied by a notice stating that any responsive pleading and memorandum in opposition must be filed within twenty-one (21) days after the date of service of the motion.

(c) Service via CM/ECF and Mail. When a party is served via CM/ECF, Federal Bankruptcy Rule 9006(f) (providing an additional three (3) days to respond) does not apply to that party.

RULE 9011-1 SIGNATURES, FEDERAL BAR NUMBER

(a) Parties Represented by Counsel. Subject to LBR 9011-4, when a party is represented by counsel, the Clerk will accept for filing only documents signed by a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for Maryland whose appearance is entered on behalf of that party. The attorney must include his or her federal bar number as listed on the Attorney Admission List.

(b) Parties Appearing Without Counsel. When a party is appearing without counsel, the Clerk will accept for filing only documents signed by that party. Attorneys who have prepared any documents that are submitted for filing by a self-represented litigant must be members of the Bar of this Court and must sign the document, state their name, address, telephone number, and their bar number assigned by this Court. Upon inquiry, all parties appearing without counsel must disclose the identity of any individual who has prepared, or assisted in preparing, any documents filed in this Court. Any attorney who prepares any document for filing in this Court by a person who is known by the attorney, or who is reasonably expected by the attorney, to be appearing without counsel shall be deemed thereby to have conferred disciplinary jurisdiction upon the Court for any alleged misconduct of that attorney.

(c) Required Information. All individuals signing pleadings or papers filed in a case, matter, or proceeding in the Court (whether an attorney or self-represented litigant) must include

the signer's printed name, mailing and business address, ~~telephone number, and, (if available, applicable), telephone number, and any~~ email address. ~~If the signer is an attorney admitted to practice before the District Court, the attorney must include his or her federal bar number as listed on the Attorney Admission List.~~

RULE 9011-4 FILING WHEN REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL

Except for issues concerning the relationship between attorney and client, or unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge, the Clerk shall not docket a document for filing by a party represented by counsel unless it is filed by counsel.

RULE 9011-5 RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

This Court applies the Rules of Professional Conduct as they have been adopted by the Supreme Court of Maryland. Attorneys practicing before the Court should be familiar with those Rules and shall comply in all respects.

RULE 9013-1 MOTIONS PRACTICE

(a) In General. All motions (or memoranda in support of motions) and responsive pleadings must (1) include a caption with the Court's name, the case name, the case number, the chapter of the case, and a descriptive title; (2) if the motion is filed in an adversary proceeding, include the name of the plaintiff and the defendant; (3) include the relevant facts, legal argument,

and reference to adequate evidence to support the party's position under applicable substantive law; and (iii)4 comply with the Court's Electronic Case Filing Procedures (Appendix H).

(b) Resolution of Motions on the Papers. Except as otherwise provided in the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, these Rules or by the Court, the Court may decide a motion on the papers filed.

(c) Consideration of Motion Prior to Response Deadline. Notwithstanding the establishment of a response deadline in the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, or the Local Bankruptcy Rules, in its discretion, the Court may grant or deny a motion prior to the response deadline if the Court determines responses would not aid in the decisional process and the circumstances of the case warrant expedient consideration of the motion.

(d) Consideration of Unopposed Motion. If no party in interest files a timely response to a motion, the Court may rule on the motion without further notice or a hearing.

RULE 9013-3 ORDERS - PROPOSED

(a) In General. All requests for relief, other than those described in paragraph (b) below must be accompanied by a proposed order. The proposed order must contain a specific title describing the nature and effect of the order, and the body of the order must specify the relief granted. The names and addresses of all attorneys, creditors, and other parties in interest who have a potential interest in, or whose rights might be affected by, the matter must be set forth in the lower left-hand corner of the final page of the proposed order or carried over to another page, provided, however, that only the name and "via CM/ECF" are required for any attorney who is

receiving notices through CM/ECF in that case. The caption of the order must be in the same form as the caption of the motion.

(b) Exceptions. Paragraph (a) does not apply to motions for relief from the automatic stay, motions to dismiss or convert, Chapter 13 plans, motions to modify Chapter 13 plans, and pleadings initiating adversary proceedings under Federal Bankruptcy Rule 7001.

(c) Motions for Relief from Stay. Proposed orders for motions for relief from the automatic stay must be submitted to the Court upon the earlier of:

- (1) A consent being reached by all parties; or
- (2) After the conclusion of the hearing on the motion.

(d) Form Orders. If the Court maintains a form order for the particular type of relief requested by a party, that party must ~~use~~ [submit a proposed order substantially similar to](#) the Court's form order. All forms are available on the Court's website.

RULE 9013-4 _____ CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

(a) In General. ~~A~~ [Unless otherwise provided by the Federal Bankruptcy Rules or required by the Court, a](#) certificate of service is required for every motion, objection, notice, or other pleading or paper filed with the Court. The certificate must be filed and served contemporaneously with the filing and service of the referenced pleading or paper.

(b) Placement. The certificate must be placed at the end of the item served and endorsed by an attorney of record, the attorney's authorized agent, or by a party if not represented by an attorney.

(c) Content. The certificate must state the date of service.

(1) For each recipient who is served through CM/ECF, the certificate must also identify the name of the person served with the statement that service is via CM/ECF. The attorney or person not represented by an attorney filing the pleading or document is responsible to ensure that all persons listed as being served via CM/ECF are registered to receive CM/ECF notice in that case or must effectuate service by other appropriate means.

(2) For all other recipients, the certificate must separately identify the name, title (if applicable), and address of each person served and state the method of service.

(d) Noticing Agents. Noticing agents authorized by the Court must make service in accordance with this Rule, except as otherwise provided in the order authorizing the employment of the noticing agent.

RULE 9019-2 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A Bankruptcy Dispute Resolution Program (“BDRP”) is maintained [in accordance with Local Rule 607 of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland](#), and available to facilitate the resolution of disputes, [as set forth](#) in Appendix G to these Rules.