

## **PROTOCOL FOR CHAPTER 13 HEARINGS BEFORE JUDGE RICE**

Effective January 28, 2025

1. All Chapter 13 confirmation hearings will be in person at the Courthouse. These procedures apply to all matters scheduled for hearing on a regular Chapter 13 docket day.
2. Attorneys and their clients (and unrepresented debtors) are expected to work cooperatively with Chapter 13 Trustees to resolve issues by the end of the day before the scheduled hearing.
3. Up until 15 minutes before the scheduled hearing time, the Chapter 13 Trustees will continue to work with parties to resolve issues so that as many cases as possible can be dealt with on a consensual basis at the time of the podium call. If a consensual resolution is reached, the Chapter 13 Trustee will advise parties that they are excused from appearance at the hearing.
4. If the parties expect a confirmation hearing to involve lengthy testimony and the introduction of exhibits, they should contact the Courtroom Deputy and arrange for the hearing to be specially set.
5. Before the judge takes the bench and any cases are called, the Courtroom Deputy and Chapter 13 Trustee will identify the parties, make organizational announcements, and advise the parties of the order in which cases will be called.
6. If you have questions about these procedures, you may contact Judge Rice's chambers by email at [hearings\\_DER@mdb.uscourts.gov](mailto:hearings_DER@mdb.uscourts.gov).