

Virtual Hearing Policy
United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Maryland January 5, 2023

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland conducted hearings virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency on the ZoomGov platform. In addition to providing a necessary platform for hearings during the pandemic, it has proven to be an economical and efficient method for conducting some non-evidentiary hearings and proceedings.

On January 3, 2023, the Court entered Phase Four of its recovery plan and returned to nearly full and unrestricted operations. Effective February 1, 2023, the following matters will be conducted in person, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge:

- All evidentiary hearings in bankruptcy contested matters
- Trials in adversary proceedings
- Lift stay hearings

Virtual proceedings can efficiently and economically resolve some matters, while complying with applicable rules and practice. Accordingly, unless ordered otherwise by the presiding judge, the following matters will continue to be held virtually by ZoomGov in Phase Four:

- Chapter 13 dockets
- Reaffirmation hearings
- Motions to extend and impose the automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. §§362(c)(3) and (c)(4), respectively
- Pre-trial conferences in adversary proceedings
- Status and scheduling conferences

Judges may also continue to set other matters for virtual hearings via ZoomGov, either as a preliminary or final matter.

This Policy does not impede the discretion of each judge to manage her or his docket as appropriate under the circumstances, or to hold any hearing in person, by ZoomGov or similar platform, or by telephone. Additionally, this Policy does not apply to the Salisbury Docket, which will be handled separately.