

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 20-06
ADDRESSING CERTAIN DEADLINES RELATED
TO MEETINGS OF CREDITORS UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 341

The United States District Court for the District of Maryland issued Standing Order 2020-05 *Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19*, Misc. No. 00-308, on March 20, 2020 (the "Standing Order"), postponing and continuing various hearings and extending filing deadlines. The Standing Order applies to bankruptcy cases. It was issued in response to the state of emergency declared by the Governor of the State of Maryland concerning the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. The Standing Order recognizes the need to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by limiting public contact to essential matters.

Further in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 16, 2020, the Office of the United States Trustee issued a notice (the " U.S. Trustee Notice") continuing in this District all in-person meetings required by § 341 of the Bankruptcy Code through April 10, 2020. These §

341 meetings are being rescheduled and notice of the rescheduled date beyond April 10, 2020, is being or will be provided to interested parties.

The continuance of the § 341 meetings, while a necessary and important response to the COVID-19 pandemic, may cause undue prejudice to the rights of parties in the absence of Court action. Certain statutory deadlines are triggered by the first date set for the meeting of creditors under § 341(a) or the date of the first meeting of creditors under § 341(a). With the postponement of § 341 meetings, deadlines may expire without parties having an adequate opportunity to review cases and case materials and exercise rights under the relevant statutes and rules. Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes the Court to take sua sponte action to prevent prejudice that could result from the necessary continuance of the meetings.

Therefore, it is, by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland, hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The “first date set for the meeting of creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341(a)” as used in the Bankruptcy Rules shall be the rescheduled date of all meetings of creditors continued by the U.S. Trustee Notice (the “Rescheduled First Meeting Date”);

2. The deadlines set under Bankruptcy Rules 1017(e) (1), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4004(a), 4007(c) and 4008(a) shall be calculated, as applicable by chapter, from the Rescheduled First Meeting Date in all cases with § 341 meetings continued by the U.S. Trustee Notice;

3. “[T]he date on which the meeting of creditors is first scheduled to be held” pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1308(a) shall be the Rescheduled First Meeting Date for all Chapter 13 § 341 meetings continued by the U.S. Trustee Notice; and

4. The deadlines under Bankruptcy Rule 2003(a) for holding § 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the § 341 meetings by the U.S. Trustee or order of this Court.

END OF ORDER