



# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

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## **Current Operational Status of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland during COVID--19 Pandemic**

Updated March 23, 2020

The United States District Court for the District of Maryland, in conjunction with the United States Bankruptcy Court, has implemented additional significant procedural changes to maximize social distancing as recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Maryland Department of Health](#). All pertinent District Court and Bankruptcy Court orders are available by link on the [Bankruptcy Court's website](#).

### **Bankruptcy Filing Deadlines**

All filing deadlines set to fall between March 16, 2020, and April 24, 2020, have been extended by forty-two (42) days, unless the presiding judge in an individual case sets a different date by order.

### **Bankruptcy Hearings**

All bankruptcy hearings scheduled to occur from March 16, 2020 through April 24, 2020, have been continued except as determined by the presiding judge in a particular case. Parties will be notified by chambers of any matter that will go forward during this time.

The Bankruptcy Court remains available to hear and resolve emergency matters, including first day filings. Any emergency matters should be filed consistent with past practice and brought to the attention of the courtroom deputy for the presiding judge or the clerk of court. The Court prefers that such communications be made by email where possible.

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### **Clerk's Office Operations**

Until further notice, there will be no in person public access to the Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office will remain open to the public through telephone access and the drop boxes located in the lobby of each courthouse. The drop boxes will be available from 9:00 a.m. to midnight in Baltimore and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Greenbelt. CM/ECF will continue to be available for electronic filing.

### **Affidavits Encouraged to Increase Social Distancing**

At this time, it is not known for how long parties will be encouraged to maximize social distancing. Therefore, counsel continue to be strongly encouraged to file along with motions or objections affidavits and authenticated documentary evidence that may establish a prima facie case sufficient to enable to the court to rule on the matter without live testimony, as appropriate.

**Wet Signature  
Requirement Suspended**

The Court has entered [Administrative Order 20-05](#) which promotes social distancing by temporarily suspending the requirement for counsel to obtain original ink “wet” signatures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Courthouse Operations Under Exigent  
Circumstances Created by COVID-19**

The United States District Court for the District of Maryland issued two updated Orders concerning Court and courthouse operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Second Amended Standing Order 2020-02](#) addresses restrictions on visitors to U.S. Courthouses in this District. [Standing Order 2020-05](#) addresses court operations under the exigent circumstances created by COVID-19.