

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

IN RE:)
)
Order Temporarily Suspending) Administrative Order No. 2020-4
Requirement to Obtain Original)
Signatures from Debtors for Electronic)
Filings)

ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN
ORIGINAL SIGNATURES FROM DEBTORS FOR ELECTRONIC FILINGS

This order is issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and the State of Alabama. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.


On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") advises that individuals should engage in "social distancing" to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, there are individuals who may be in isolation because they are sick or have been exposed to someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19. Accordingly, to reduce the need for personal contact, there is good cause to suspend temporarily and conditionally the requirement that an attorney obtain a debtor's original, physical signature for an electronic filing; now therefore,


For all documents requiring a debtor's signature, the court temporarily suspends the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor's original, physical signature prior to electronically filing such documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has either (a) obtained the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signed software that provides signature authentication and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document(s) in the debtor's case file; or (b) obtains express written permission (including electronic mail) from the debtor to affix the debtor's signature to the document(s), and maintains a hard copy thereof in the file

This order shall terminate and expire on May 31, 2020 unless extended by further order of the court.

Dated: March 23, 2020



Henry A. Callaway
Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge



Jerry C. Oldshue
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge