

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

In re

**Suspension of requirement for debtor’s attorney to
obtain original signature on debtor-signed
document**

General Order No. 20-2

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 outbreak. The Centers for Disease Control advises people to engage in “social distancing” to prevent the spread of COVID-19. And some people may be in isolation because they are ill or have been exposed to someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19. There is good cause to suspend temporarily and conditionally the requirement that a debtor’s lawyer obtain a debtor’s ink signature on a document that the attorney will file electronically. Accordingly, the court

ORDERS as follows:

1. This order applies until the court rescinds or modifies it.

2. Notwithstanding LBR 1017-5(a) and 5005-4(e) or any other LBR, the debtor's attorney may file electronically a document that must be signed by the debtor without first obtaining the document with the debtor's ink signature, on the condition that the attorney first obtain any of the following:

a. Both—

i. An image of the document, such as a scan, photocopy, or fax of it,

and

ii. The debtor's confirmation of the signature, either in person or by telephone or other electronic means; or

b. The debtor's written authorization for the attorney to sign the document on behalf of the debtor; or

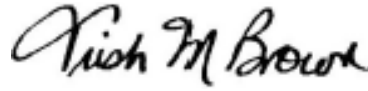
c. The document bearing a signature that is an electronic signature under ORS chapter 84 or similar law.

3. Without limitation, paragraph 2 above applies to the requirements of LBRs 1007-5(a), 5005-4(e), and 9011-4(c)(1) for a debtor's attorney to obtain a debtor's ink signature on a debtor-signed document before filing it electronically. Nonetheless, the debtor's attorney must still comply with LBR 1007-5(a)'s requirement to obtain an OF 121 signed by the debtor and LBR 5005-4(e)'s requirement to maintain certain document by obtaining and maintaining them, but in both cases the attorney may do so in a manner permitted by paragraph 2 above.

4. The court suspends the requirements of LBRs 1007-1(c)(5)(B) (requiring delivery to clerk of self-addressed, stamped envelope for tax information), 7056-1(a)(2) (requiring delivery to clerk of paper judge copies of summary-judgment documents), and 5078-1(a) and (b)

(requiring delivery to the clerk of self-addressed, stamped envelope for certified, exemplified, or conformed document copies).

Dated: March 19, 2020



Trish M. Brown
Chief Bankruptcy Judge