

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN RE: )  
 )  
CHAPTER 13 DISCHARGE ) GENERAL ORDER 26-0001  
FOLLOWING DEATH OF )  
ONE JOINT DEBTOR )  
 )

**ORDER**

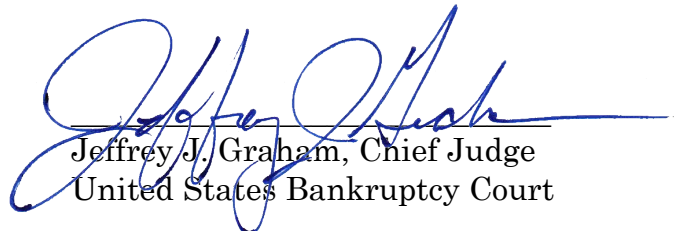
Each debtor seeking a Chapter 13 discharge is required, within 30 days of the trustee's filing of a Notice of Plan Completion, to file a Motion for Entry of Chapter 13 Discharge ("Motion") and in joint cases, a separate Certification of Eligibility for Chapter 13 Discharge ("Certification") for each debtor. A Certification is not required for a deceased debtor, provided that a Notice of Debtor's Death has been filed pursuant to Local Rule B-1016-1.

The Court is challenged by Motions filed in joint cases, after the death of one debtor, that do not clearly state whether the discharge is sought for one or both debtors and that include only the surviving debtor's Certification. **This General Order applies only in joint Chapter 13 cases in which there is a deceased debtor ("deceased debtor joint cases"); it does not apply in joint Chapter 13 cases in which both debtors are alive when the Motion is filed or in Chapter 13 cases filed by only one debtor.**

Effective immediately, the Court shall issue an Order of Discharge only for the debtor and/or joint debtor, when applicable, specifically identified by name within the body of the Motion filed in deceased debtor joint cases. The Clerk's Office shall issue a Notice of Deficient Filing ("NDF") for Motions filed in deceased debtor joint cases that do not comply with this directive. An Order of No Discharge as to both debtors shall be entered if the NDF is not resolved within the prescribed timeframe and as to any debtor for whom a discharge is not specifically sought as described herein.

A revised [Motion for Entry of Chapter 13 Discharge form](#) is available on the Court's website; counsel are encouraged to update their templates to conform to the language of the revised form.

May 27, 2026

  
Jeffrey J. Graham, Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court