

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

**OPERATIONAL CHANGES IN RESPONSE
TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Effective immediately, the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana has adopted the following procedural changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Clerk's office front counters remain open at all locations during normal business hours, but will be closed for one hour, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM, local time.
2. Starting the week of March 23rd, Chapter 13 hearings scheduled for omnibus Chapter 13 hearing days (Tuesdays in Indianapolis and New Albany, Wednesdays in Evansville, Thursdays in Terre Haute) will be conducted by telephone. Chapter 13 trustees or their representatives should appear at these hearings, unless a Judge directs otherwise.
3. Phone information for each Judge is found in the Communications section at the bottom of each Judge's page in the Judges' Info tab of the Court's website. Separate notices will not be issued in each case alerting to the change to a telephonic hearing. This change will continue until further notice. (Court staff will be alerting pro se parties to this change.)
4. Changes to the Court's noticing forms, particularly those generated in block scheduling, may take some time. Customers may continue to receive notices for dates after March 23rd that do not specify the hearing is telephonic. Presume a hearing in a Chapter 13 case set on the Court's omnibus 13 day is telephonic until the Court issues a new notice alerting to the return to in person hearings.
5. Each Judge may elect to change other hearings to telephonic. If a Judge issues general guidance on the change to telephonic, that guidance will be posted in the Communications section on the Judge's page of our website. If a Judge opts to change only some matters to telephonic, case-specific notices of the change, or a telephone call or email from the Court, will advise participants of such a change. Attorneys may ask to participate telephonically in any hearing not changed to telephonic.
6. For further information or to check the status of a particular hearing (not set on a Chapter 13 omnibus hearing date) feel free to contact the Courtroom Deputy for the Judge. Contact information appears on each Judge's page.
7. For telephonic hearings, attorneys should instruct their clients not to appear in person nor to participate in the teleconference unless the client is needed to give testimony.

8. Judges are relaxing normal restrictions on motions to continue a hearing. Guidance may be available in the Judge's Communications section.

9. Be advised that Court Security Officers will be screening all visitors and have been empowered to turn away those presenting symptoms of COVID-19 infection. Those turned away will be provided a list of telephone numbers that can be called to advise of the customer's inability to attend a matter. Bankruptcy Clerk's offices will receive those concerning bankruptcy hearings and will alert chambers. The United States Trustee will receive calls concerning meetings of creditors.

March 16, 2020

/s/ Kevin Dempsey
Bankruptcy Clerk