

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

AMENDED GENERAL ORDER NO. 20-03

Court Proceedings During COVID-19 Public Emergency

Because a state of emergency has been declared in response to the spread of COVID-19, and because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have urged reduced contact among people to slow the spread of the disease, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois issues this order, *effective March 23, 2020*, to protect public health.

1. Court hours. The Bankruptcy Court will remain open during normal business hours, pending further order of court. Because some deadlines under the Bankruptcy Code and Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure cannot be changed, the Bankruptcy Court will remain open as long as possible.

2. All court calls to be heard telephonically. All court calls will be held telephonically. No personal appearances in court will be necessary or permitted, unless the judge orders otherwise. Attorneys must direct their clients *not* to appear in person at the courthouse.

3. Motions. Local Rule 9013-1(E)(1) governing presentment of motions in court is suspended. Motions should be noticed for presentment as if they would be presented in court, but all motions will be heard telephonically, without personal appearances.

4. Telephonic participation using CourtSolutions. The Bankruptcy court will use CourtSolutions, LLC for telephonic appearances. Participants must set up an account and schedule their telephonic appearances by visiting www.Court-Solutions.com. All questions

about CourtSolutions should be directed to info@Court-Solutions.com. There is a fee to use CourtSolutions, but the service is free to pro se parties, pro bono and legal aid attorneys, the U.S. trustee, chapter 7 trustees, chapter 13 trustees, chapter 11 trustees (including trustees in SBRA cases), and chapter 12 trustees. These parties should create an account online, click “I am not an attorney” and “Certified Indigent,” and reply to the automatic email with the name of this court and their status (e.g., pro se, pro bono attorney, trustee, and so on). Parties without access to a computer should contact CourtSolutions by telephone at (917) 746-7476.

5. Changes to dates and times of individual judges’ court calls. To avoid simultaneous telephonic court calls, the judges will hear matters on the following schedule rather than as originally scheduled, noticed, or (unless otherwise indicated) shown on the court’s web site. Attorneys must check the court’s docket to ensure a matter has not been rescheduled.

a. Outlying county court calls (Joliet, Kane County, Lake County): All outlying county court calls will be held on the same dates and at the same times as previously scheduled but will be held telephonically.

b. Chicago Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 calls: Each judge’s chapter 7 and chapter 11 call will be held on a single day as follows.

- Chief Judge Goldgar: Monday, original motions at 9:30 a.m., set matters at 10 a.m.
- Judge Baer: Wednesday, original motions at 1:00 p.m., set matters at 1:30 p.m.
- Judge Barnes: Monday, original motions at 1:00 p.m., set matters at 1:30 p.m.
- Judge Cassling: Tuesday, original motions at 9:30 a.m., set matters at 10:00 a.m.
- Judge Cleary: Wednesday, original motions at 10 a.m., set matters at 10:30 a.m.
- Judge Cox: Tuesday, original motions at 1:00 p.m., set matters at 1:30 p.m.
- Judge Doyle: Thursday, original motions at 10 a.m., set matters at 10:30 a.m.

- Judge Hunt: Thursday, all matters at 11 a.m.
- Judge Lynch: Wednesday, all matters at 11 a.m.
- Judge Schmetterer: Tuesday, original motions at 10 a.m., set matters at 10:30 a.m.
- Judge Thorne: Thursday, original motions at 9 a.m., set matters at 9:30 a.m.

c. Chicago Chapter 13 calls:

- Chief Judge Goldgar: Tuesday afternoon

1:15 p.m. trustee motions
 1:30 p.m. original motions
 2:00 p.m. set matters
 2:30 p.m. confirmations

- Judge Barnes: Thursday afternoon

1:00 p.m. trustee motions
 1:30 p.m. original motions
 2:00 p.m. set matters
 2:30 p.m. confirmations

- Judge Cassling: Thursday morning, at times currently shown on the court's web site

- Judge Cleary: Monday afternoon

1:00 p.m. trustee motions
 1:30 p.m. original motions
 2:00 p.m. set matters
 2:30 p.m. confirmations

- Judge Cox: Monday morning, at times currently shown on the court's web site

- Judge Doyle: Tuesday morning, at times currently shown on the court's web site

- Judge Lynch: Thursday morning

8:45 a.m. trustee motions
 9:00 a.m. original motions
 10:00 a.m. confirmations
 11:00 a.m. chapter 12 matters

- Judge Schmetterer: Wednesday morning, at times currently shown on the court's web site

- Judge Thorne: Wednesday afternoon

1:00 p.m. trustee motions
1:30 p.m. original motions
2:00 p.m. set matters
2:30 p.m. confirmations

6. Motions; Objection procedure; Service. The following procedures apply to all motions noticed for presentment on or after March 30, 2020.

a. Every notice of motion must state that a party who objects to the motion and wants it called must file a Notice of Objection no later than two (2) business days before the presentment date.^{1/} If a motion noticed for presentment on or after March 30, 2020 has already been filed as of the date of this order, the movant must file and serve an amended notice of motion containing this information.

b. A Notice of Objection need only say that the respondent objects to the motion. No reasons need to be given for the objection.^{2/}

c. If a Notice of Objection is timely filed, the motion will be called on the presentment date.

d. If no Notice of Objection is timely filed, the court may grant the motion without a hearing before the date of presentment.

e. Local Rule 9013-1(D) governing service of motions is suspended in part. All motions must be served at least seven (7) days before the date of presentment, regardless of the

^{1/} This statement in a notice of motion is satisfactory: “A party who objects to this motion and wants it called must file a Notice of Objection no later than two (2) business days before the presentment date. If a Notice of Objection is timely filed, the motion will be called on the presentment date. If no Notice of Objection is timely filed, the court may grant the motion without a hearing before the date of presentment.”

^{2/} For example, a trustee’s objection to a chapter 13 debtor’s motion to modify the plan post-confirmation need only say: “The trustee objects to the motion to modify the plan.”

method of service.

f. Any matter not subject to a deadline in the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules may be continued to another date by agreement of the parties. To obtain a continuance, the parties should contact chambers.

7. Trials and evidentiary hearings. Currently scheduled trials and evidentiary hearings may be continued to new dates. If so, new dates will be set at the judge's discretion.

8. Original Non-Attorney Signatures. Section II.C.1 of the Administrative Procedures for the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System is suspended. Electronic signatures using a method like DocuSign will be accepted.

9. Deadlines in Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules unchanged. Nothing in this order alters in any respect deadlines under the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules.

10. Authority of judges to enter orders unaffected. This order does not affect the authority of judges to enter orders in any bankruptcy case or proceeding.

11. Local Rules remain in effect. Except as provided in this order, the Local Rules of the Bankruptcy Court and the court's Administrative Procedures for the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System remain in effect, including Local Rule 9013-2 concerning emergency motions.

12. Superseding effect of this order. This order supersedes all other orders and all notices from individual judges concerning court proceedings during the current emergency.

Dated: March 19, 2020

ENTERED FOR THE COURT:


A. Benjamin Goldgar
Chief Judge