



CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

ENTERED

THE DATE OF ENTRY IS ON
THE COURT'S DOCKET

The following constitutes the ruling of the court and has the force and effect therein described.

Signed March 25, 2020

United States Bankruptcy Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE:

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING
“WET SIGNATURE” REQUIREMENT

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GENERAL ORDER
2020-07

In light of the recent outbreak of novel coronavirus, which causes the disease designated as COVID-19, and the disaster declarations issued by State officials requiring citizens in the Northern District of Texas to “shelter in place,” the Court hereby amends its signature requirements as follows:

Signature Requirements

The Court’s requirement that attorneys receive and maintain “wet signatures” on documents, such as Petitions, Schedules, Statements of Financial Affairs, Plans, and other similar documents filed, is suspended until May 1, 2020, unless further extended by the Court. Until May 1, 2020, documents requiring a client’s or other third party’s signature may either be: (a) received and maintained in “wet signature form” in accordance with prior practice; (b) received by facsimile, email, text, or photo transmission from the signer (with attorneys using reasonable

safeguards to ensure that the debtor has actually signed the applicable document); or (c) signed utilizing a commercially available electronic signing technology, such as DocuSign, that maintains an audit trail and other security features to ascertain the authentic identity of the signer.

Attorney Certifications

The electronic filing by an attorney of a document requiring the signature of a debtor, that is filed without the original “wet signature” in the attorney’s possession, constitutes a certification by the debtor’s attorney that: (i) the debtor’s attorney transmitted the entire document to the debtor for review and signature, communicated with the debtor regarding the substance and purpose of the document, and received express authorization from the debtor to file the document; and (ii) the debtor has signed the document and that, at the time of filing, the debtor’s attorney is in possession of an electronic image or other facsimile of the document, including the signature page received electronically from the debtor. Additionally, the debtor’s attorney must file a certification within thirty (30) days of filing an electronically signed document that he or she has now received the debtor’s original “wet signature” and will maintain it in accordance with Administrative Procedures for the Filing, Signing, and Verifying of Documents by Electronic Means in Texas Bankruptcy Courts.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

###END OF ORDER###