

Local Rule 1002-1. Commencement of Case.

- (a) Corporate or partnership parties must be represented by counsel at all times.
- (b) Cases ~~should~~must be filed in the division of the debtor's "principal location", as defined in subparagraphs (c) and (d). Nothing in this rule precludes a party-in-interest from filing a motion to transfer a case to another division under BLR 1014-1. Absent good cause, cases filed outside of the debtor's principal location will be transferred by the court sua sponte or on motion of a party.
- (c) For an individual debtor, the debtor's principal location is the county of the debtor's principal residence or domicile for the longest portion of the 180 days preceding the date of the petition. If an individual debtor did not have a principal residence or domicile within the Southern District of Texas for at least 91 days before the filing of the petition, the individual debtor's principal location is the county of the debtor's principal assets within the Southern District of Texas.
- (d) For a debtor that is not an individual, the debtor's principal location is the county of the debtor's principal executive offices or principal assets for the 180 days immediately preceding the filing of the petition, or for a longer portion of such 180-day period than the principal executive offices or principal assets were located in any other county in this District., if either has been located within the Southern District of Texas for at least 91 days prior to the filing of the petition.