

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

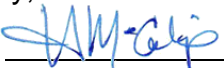
United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
**ENTERED
APR 27 2020**

In re:

Invocation of Emergency Protocol.

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Amended General Order 2020-11

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court
By Deputy Clerk 

**EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF ORDERS
INVOKING EMERGENCY PROTOCOL FOR
ALL DIVISIONS WITHIN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

1. The Court extends the use of the Protocol for Emergency Public Health or Safety Conditions (adopted by General Order 2020-4 and invoked by General Orders 2020-10 and 2020-10A) through May 31, 2020, subject to the modifications in this order.
2. Paragraph 2(b) of the Protocol is amended to read:

Notice of chapter 13 panel hearings will be done by a notice posted by the chapter 13 trustees on the trustee's website, which will be accessible by a link posted on the Court's website. The sentence in Bankruptcy Local Rule 1017-2(b) reading "Chapter 13 trustees must timely file motions to dismiss if the debtor is two monthly payments behind" is suspended during the Protocol Period.
3. Audio and video participation will be allowed at all hearings during the Protocol Period.
4. Personal attendance will be permitted at certain hearings, subject to the following:
 - a. Personal attendance will be determined on a division-by-division basis. This paragraph 4 applies only in divisions in which the divisional courthouse is open to the public.
 - b. Attorneys will be allowed to attend chapter 13 panel hearings. Others must attend only by audio/video.
 - c. The Court may issue a notice that personal attendance is permitted in other hearings.
 - d. In complex cases and proceedings, the Court may authorize personal attendance at certain hearings and regulate the number of attendees. The Court does not anticipate such an authorization if a large number of attendees are expected.

- e. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at no time may more than 12 individuals (excluding judges and staff) be permitted in a courtroom.
- f. No party may have more than 3 attendees (including attorneys, clients and witnesses) in the Courtroom at any time.
- g. Not more than 2 people may sit at each counsel's table.
- h. Persons will be required to maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from all other persons in the Courtroom.
- i. No paper exhibits will be permitted.

5. Effective May 4, 2020, the tolling period provision contained in the Protocol adopted by General Order 2020-4 will terminate. That provision read:

All Court imposed deadlines, all deadlines imposed by local rule, and all deadlines imposed by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure are tolled for the Protocol Period. The tolled deadline will be computed by adding the number of days in the Protocol Period to the original deadline. For example, if a deadline is June 22, 2020 and the Protocol Period runs from June 19, 2020 through June 24, 2020, the new deadline is June 29, 2020 (accounting for the fact that the new deadline would expire on a weekend, so the deadline is extended through the following Monday).

6. Based on the preceding paragraph of this Order, the tolling period will have been in effect for 41 days in the Houston, Galveston and Brownsville Divisions and in effect for 39 days in all other Divisions.

Signed: April 27, 2020.



DAVID R. JONES
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE