

ENTERED

June 8 2020

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

By Deputy Clerk 

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

In re:

Temporary Authorization of In Person
Meeting Requirement by Alternative
Means.

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General Order 2020-16

**ORDER EXTENDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF
IN PERSON MEETINGS BY ALTERNATIVE MEANS**

General Order 2020-9 concerning the Authorization of In Person Meetings by Alternative Means is extended through December 31, 2020. For convenience, General Order 2020-9, as extended, reads as follows:

Pending the receipt of additional information on the status of the pending public health emergency and further Order, the Court's requirement that attorneys seeking approval of a fixed fee meet in person with their client(s) for a least one hour is modified as set forth below for cases that are filed between March 23, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

1. Paragraph 7 of the Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b) Disclosure and Application for Approval of Fixed Fee Agreement is amended as follows:

The Debtor(s) have met in person, by audio conference or by video conference with the undersigned attorney (or another attorney supervised by the undersigned and who is licensed to practice law) for not less than 1 hour. The Debtor(s) understand that time spent exclusively with a paralegal or other person not licensed to practice law may not be included in the 1 hour.

2. Paragraph 8.B. of the Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b) Disclosure and Application for Approval of Fixed Fee Agreement is amended as follows:

I (or another attorney supervised by me and who is licensed to practice law) met in person, audio conference or by video conference with the Debtor(s) for not less than 1 hour. I understand that time spent exclusively with a paralegal or other person not licensed to practice law may not be included in the 1 hour.

3. Preference should be given to a video conference alternative versus an audio conference alternative. If the required meeting is not conducted in person, Debtor's counsel shall file a certificate with the Clerk identifying the alternative method of meeting (including the software program utilized); the date and time the meeting was conducted; and if audio conferencing was used, the reason why a video conference was not conducted.

4. The Court may adjust the dates in this Order as circumstances warrant.

Dated: June 8, 2020.



David R. Jones
Chief Judge