



B. McKay Mignault
B. McKay Mignault, Chief Bankruptcy Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court

Dated: November 25th, 2020

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

In re

GENERAL ORDER 20-09

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING REQUIREMENT FOR ORIGINAL
SIGNATURES ON BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS AND SCHEDULES**

Due to the continuing active status of the COVID-19 coronavirus, it appeared to the Court that good cause exists to further extend the deadline set forth in this Court's General Order 20-04 temporarily extending the requirement for original signatures on Bankruptcy Petitions and Schedules. It is

GENERALLY ORDERED that the debtor's original, physical signature requirement may be satisfied in any of the following ways:

- a. Counsel secures and maintains the debtor's original, physical signature before filing the document, as presently required, or
- b. Counsel secures the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document in the case file, or
- c. Counsel obtains express written permission (including via text message or electronic mail) from the debtor to affix the debtor's /s/ signature to the document and maintains a copy thereof in the case file, or
- d. Counsel obtains an image of the specified signature page showing debtor's original signature thereon via email, text message or facsimile transmission and maintains a copy of the image and its transmission media in the case file.

Filing under any of the above methods constitutes counsel's certification to the Court that the debtor was given an opportunity to review the entire document before signing it, counsel

has received the express authorization from the debtor to file the complete document with the Court, and counsel believes in good faith that the signature method adopted establishes the identity of the debtor. The record retention requirements of the S.D.W.V. Local Bankruptcy Rule 5005-4 and the Bankruptcy Court's *Administrative Procedures for Electronic Filing* remain in place.

This Order will remain in effect, until terminated by a future General Order.