

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA**

**Order Regarding COVID-19
Temporarily Suspending Original
Signature Requirements**

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER**

20-03

Due to the ongoing issues with the COVID-19 virus outbreak, national and state declaration of emergency issued by the President of the United States and the Governor of Iowa, and the Centers for Disease Controls advisory that all individuals should engage in social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Court is temporarily suspending until further notice the requirement that an attorney obtain original signatures of debtors, attorneys, affiants, and declarants (collectively "Signer") prior to electronically filing such documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has:

1. Transmitted the entire document(s) to the Signer for review and signature;
2. Verified with the Signer that they have received and reviewed the entire document(s) to be signed;
3. Communicated with the Signer regarding the substance and purpose of the signed document(s) and received express authorization from the debtor to file the document(s); AND, has either:
4. obtained the signer's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature technology that provides signature authentication and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document(s) in the case file; or
5. obtained the signer's express written permission (including by electronic mail) from the signer to affix the signer's signature to the document(s) and will maintain a hard copy thereof in the file.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the filing of documents with an electronic signature constitutes a certification by the attorney under Bankruptcy Rule 9011 and all other applicable rules and procedures that the attorney has either obtained the signer's original signature or complied with paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the suspension of the original signature requirement as outlined herein will remain in effect until further order of this Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated this 13th day of April 2020.



Thad J. Collins
Chief Bankruptcy Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Iowa