

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

In re:)
)
REPEAL AND ARCHIVING OF) Standing Order 23-6
COVID-19 PANDEMIC-RELATED)
STANDING AND GENERAL ORDERS,)
)

ORDER

Following the onset of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Court entered numerous standing and general orders establishing procedures—both divisional and districtwide—to enable it to continue to carry out its core functions while protecting the health and safety of the public and Court staff. The Court’s procedures evolved over time in response to changing pandemic conditions. The following orders are either expired, superseded by subsequent orders, or have no ongoing effect:

District Standing Order 20-5/20-5A
District Standing Order 20-7
District Standing Order 20-9
District Standing Order 20-10
District Standing Order 20-11
District Standing Order 20-12
District Standing Order 20-13
District Standing Order 20-17
District Standing Order 20-19
District Standing Order 21-6
District Standing Order 21-10
District Standing Order 21-13
District Standing Order 21-14
District Standing Order 21-15
District Standing Order 21-16
District Standing Order 21-22
District Standing Order 22-2
District Standing Order 22-7
Norfolk/Newport News Standing Order 20-1
Norfolk/Newport News Standing Order 20-2
Norfolk/Newport News Standing Order 20-3

Norfolk/Newport News Standing Order 20-4
Richmond General Order 20-1
Richmond General Order 20-1-Addendum/Amended Protocol
Richmond General Order 20-2
Richmond General Order 20-3
Richmond General Order 20-4
Richmond General Order 20-5
Richmond General Order 22-1
Richmond General Order 22-2

The Court finds that the above-listed orders are obsolete and of no current force or effect. Therefore, the Court ORDERS that all of the above-listed orders shall be ARCHIVED immediately.

As the threat posed by COVID-19 is no longer acute, the Court has determined that continued implementation of the pandemic-related policies and procedures that remain in effect is no longer warranted. The Court therefore finds that the standing and general orders entered for the District and for the Court's four divisions should be repealed as set forth below.

Accordingly, the Court ORDERS that the following orders are hereby REPEALED upon entry of this Order and shall be ARCHIVED immediately:

District Standing Order 22-5¹
District Standing Order 22-7-A²

The Court further ORDERS that the following orders are hereby REPEALED effective **June 1, 2023**, and shall be ARCHIVED on that date:

¹ District Standing Order 22-5 is repealed in favor of the adoption of a permanent policy in the District that the Martin V.B. Bostetter, Jr. United States Courthouse's entrance requirements shall mirror the entrance requirements established by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia for the facilities where the District Court is resident. *See* District Standing Order 23-7.

² District Standing Order 22-7-A is repealed in favor of the adoption of a permanent policy in the District that the COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements for Bankruptcy Court employees and contractors and for admitted counsel and their employees and contractors shall mirror the COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements established by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia for its employees and contractors and for admitted counsel and their employees and contractors. *See* District Standing Order 23-8.

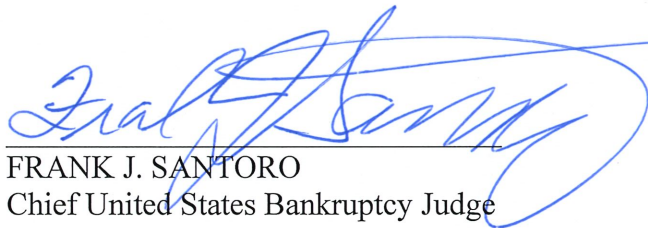
District Standing Order 20-6³
District Standing Order 20-14⁴
District Standing Order 20-18
District Standing Order 20-20
District Standing Order 20-24
District Standing Order 21-11
Alexandria March 16, 2020 Standing Order and all extensions
Norfolk/Newport News Standing Order 20-4-Amended
Richmond General Order 23-1
Richmond General Order 23-2
Richmond General Order 23-3

The Court further ORDERS that the following orders are hereby REPEALED for all hearings set on or after **August 1, 2023**, and shall be ARCHIVED on that date:

District Standing Order 20-21⁵
District Standing Order 21-12

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:



FRANK J. SANTORO
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Dated: April 21, 2023

³ The Court will amend its Local Bankruptcy Rules, effective June 1, 2023, to permit, for documents requiring original signatures, the use of imaged copies of documents containing wet ink signatures and digital signatures generated via a commercially available software product that uses encryption and/or multi-factor authentication to create a secure electronic signature that uniquely identifies the signer and ensures that the signature is authentic and has not been altered or repudiated. The Court will also make related amendments to the CM/ECF Policy Statement to facilitate the same.

⁴ The repeal of this District Standing Order does not affect the implementation of remote meetings of creditors by the Office of the United States Trustee or the content of notices for remote meetings of creditors. Should the practices of the Office of the United States Trustee evolve with respect to how it convenes meetings of creditors, the Court will conform its notices accordingly.

⁵ Standing Order 20-21 required the maintenance of divisional remote hearing protocols. The divisional standing or general orders implementing such protocols are repealed herein. For remote appearances from June 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, parties shall adhere to the instructions available on the Court's website at <https://www.vaeb.uscourts.gov/temporary-emergency-provisions-regarding-zoomgov-remote-proceeding-access-information>.