

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
NORFOLK DIVISION
NEWPORT NEWS DIVISION**

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| In re: |) | |
| |) | |
| |) | NORFOLK STANDING ORDER 18-1 |
| CONFIRMATION HEARINGS |) | |
| IN CHAPTER 13 CASES. |) | NEWPORT NEWS STANDING ORDER 18-1 |
| |) | |
| |) | |

The Undersigned Judges have determined that Confirmation Hearings will be held with regard to all Chapter 13 original and amended plans filed on or after October 29, 2018, in the Norfolk and Newport News Divisions of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

The Court will require the assigned Standing Trustee to file a recommendation as to whether a plan should be confirmed in cases where the trustee does not file an objection to confirmation. Such recommendation shall be filed no later than 7 business days prior to the Confirmation Hearing.

Debtors, and their counsel, if applicable, must appear at the Confirmation Hearing, or the Court will deny confirmation of the plan.

Confirmation Hearings **cannot** be removed from the docket if:

- (1) Confirmation is uncontested.
- (2) Confirmation is contested and the objection has not settled.
- (3) Confirmation was initially contested but the objection has settled by means other than the filing of an amended plan. (Example: the debtor will file amended schedules, which will resolve the objecting party's concerns.)

Confirmation Hearings can be removed from the docket **only** when:

- (1) an amended plan is filed prior to the scheduled Confirmation Hearing; or
- (2) a consent resolution to an objection to confirmation anticipates the filing of an amended plan and the objecting party removes the scheduled Confirmation Hearing from the docket prior to 3:00 p.m. on the last business day before the Confirmation Hearing.

The Court will continue to require orders memorializing the disposition of all objections to confirmation to be submitted, unless those objections are withdrawn, pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9022-1.

For Norfolk cases, Chief Judge Stephen C. St. John will continue to hold weekly dockets on Thursdays, and Judge Frank J. Santoro will continue to hold weekly dockets on Tuesdays. Each Undersigned Judge will, generally, hold Confirmation Hearings every other week, at 9:30 a.m. and

10:30 a.m., with each Standing Trustee's cases being assigned to one of those time segments. On those dates, the Court will also hear other motions and objections in Chapter 13 cases, which hearings will commence at 11:30 a.m.

In the alternating weeks, each Undersigned Judge will hold a weekly motions docket. For Chief Judge St. John, hearings on motions for relief from stay (all chapters) and pretrial conferences (all chapters) will be held at 9:30 a.m.; motions and objections in Chapter 7 cases will be held at 10:00 a.m.; and motions and objections in Chapter 11 cases will be held at 11:00 a.m. For Judge Santoro, hearings on motions for relief from stay (all chapters) will be held at 9:30 a.m.; pretrial conferences (all chapters), and motions and objections in Chapter 7 cases will be held at 10:00 a.m.; and motions and objections in Chapter 11 cases will be held at 11:00 a.m.

For Newport News cases, each Undersigned Judge will continue to hold one monthly docket, on Friday. Hearings on motions for relief from stay (all chapters), pretrial conferences, and motions and objections in Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 cases will commence at 9:30 a.m. Hearings on Chapter 13 matters, including Confirmation Hearings and hearings on other motions and objections in Chapter 13 cases, will commence at 10:30 a.m. for cases assigned to both Standing Trustees.

Date: October 9, 2018

/s/ Stephen C. St. John
STEPHEN C. ST. JOHN
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

/s/ Frank J. Santoro
FRANK J. SANTORO
United States Bankruptcy Judge