

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

In re:)
)
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF)
PUBLIC AREAS OF THE CLERK’S) Standing Order 20-10
OFFICE IN ALL COURT DIVISIONS,)
DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK,)
)

ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC AREAS OF THE CLERK’S OFFICE IN ALL COURT DIVISIONS EFFECTIVE ON MARCH 30, 2020, AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

This Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. On March 12, 2020, the Governor declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia due to the continued spread of COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Public health officials urge all people to practice “social distancing” to combat the continued spread of COVID-19.¹ In light of the continued spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth and in the communities served by the Court, it is necessary to limit in-person contact between the public and Clerk’s Office employees. After careful deliberation, the Court has determined that the public areas of the Clerk’s Offices in all of the Divisions of the Court must be closed effective on March 30, 2020, and until further notice. The Court has developed procedures intended to assist unrepresented parties who are not able to utilize the CM/ECF system to file documents electronically. Those filing procedures are set forth in Standing Order 20-9 and include filing by mail, lock box, and email. Standing Order 20-9 may be viewed on the Court’s website (<https://www.vaeb.uscourts.gov/wordpress/>) under Court Resources > Standing Orders.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the public areas of the Clerk’s Office in the Alexandria, Newport News, Norfolk, and Richmond Divisions of the Court will be closed effective on March 30, 2020, and until further notice.

¹ See Va. Dep’t of Health, <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions/disease-prevention/> (last visited March 27, 2020).

Clerk's Office employees will continue to work remotely and on-site in non-public areas to process filings, respond to telephone inquiries, and otherwise assist the public. Persons who are proceeding without legal counsel are encouraged to review the information and resources available on the Court's website (<https://www.vaeb.uscourts.gov/wordpress/>) under the tab Filing Requirements > Filing Without An Attorney (Pro Se).

Because the public health emergency posed by COVID-19 continues to evolve, this Order may be modified should future developments so warrant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:



FRANK J. SANTORO
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Dated: March 27, 2020