

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF ARKANSAS**

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective March 16, 2020, this court has operated pursuant to the terms of its Administrative Order that suspended all in-court proceedings until further notice. Since then, we have conducted hearings through both audio and audio/visual protocols. This would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Clerk's office, the United States Trustee, the Chapter 13 trustees, the Chapter 7 trustees, our respective IT departments, counsel, and litigants. For that, we are grateful.

For your planning purposes, we will continue operating on the basis of our Administrative Order up until at least June 1, 2020. Although some parts of the State of Arkansas are tentatively reopening, continuing to operate remotely and without in-court hearings will allow us a better opportunity to monitor the progress and efficacy of the state reopening, afford the litigants and counsel some certainty, promote health and safety, alleviate disparate but legitimate concerns about personal safety, and generally afford us a greater opportunity to decide when and on what basis we should commence partial or full in court proceedings.

We will be constantly assessing our circumstances and hope and intend by mid-May to update the public as to how we wish to proceed after June 1. Equally, we will be monitoring the District Courts in both the Eastern and Western Districts and will want to move forward with them as circumstances dictate. Please recognize this could involve different protocols in each District or Division. We will make every attempt to keep you informed in that regard. Please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk of Court or respective chambers concerning procedures generally or specific cases and proceedings. We thank you for your continued cooperation in these trying times and wish you the best of health.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2020