

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE:

TEMPORARY MODIFICATION OF
ARTICLE VII OF THE COURT'S
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
WITH RESPECT TO OBTAINING
"WET SIGNATURES" ON
ELECTRONICALLY FILED
DOCUMENTS

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GENERAL ORDER 2020-4

GENERAL ORDER TEMPORARILY MODIFYING ARTICLE VII OF
THIS COURT'S ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Effective immediately and until further Order of this Court, in conjunction with General Order 2020-3, and in light of the directives from the President of the United States and the Governor of Louisiana as well as the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and local health officials regarding social distancing in response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus/COVID 19, the Court temporarily modifies the requirement of Article VII of this Court's Administrative Procedures for Filing, Signing and Verifying Pleadings and Papers by Electronic Means as follows (modifications in bold):

VII. RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

The attorney of record or the party filing any document in a bankruptcy case or Adversary Proceeding shall maintain the original signed document(s) for at least five (5) years after the case is closed. Upon request, the original document must be provided to other parties or the Court for review. *See* FRBP 9011. **The electronic filing by an attorney of a document requiring the signature of the debtor(s) may be filed without the original signature in his or her possession. By filing without having possession of the original signed document, the debtor's attorney is certifying that he or she: (i) transmitted the entire document to the debtor(s) for review and signature, (ii) communicated with the debtor(s) regarding the substance and purpose of the document, (iii) received express authorization from the debtor(s) to file the document and (iv) has obtained a**

representation from the debtor(s) (either by text, email, facsimile or verbally) that the debtor(s) have in fact signed the document. Additionally, within thirty (30) days after the termination of this order, the debtor's attorney must file a document with the Court certifying that he or she has received the document bearing the debtor's original signature, and that such document will be maintained in accordance with this Article VII.

DATED: March 19, 2020.

FOR THE COURT:



JOHN W. KOLWE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE