

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING BANKRUPTCY COURT VISITATION
AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

GENERAL ORDER 20-012

In the interest of public health and safety, and after consideration of public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of Rhode Island, and other public health authorities, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island hereby orders that, effective immediately and until this order is rescinded, the following persons may not enter U.S. Bankruptcy Court space located on the 6th Floor of The Federal Center, 380 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island:

- Persons who have been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have had contact in the last 14 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional, unless the diagnosis was more than 14 days ago and the person diagnosed has been symptom-free for the past 72 hours;
- Persons who have had cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or extreme fatigue within the last 14 days, unless the symptoms are attributable to another known condition;
- Persons who reside with someone who has had cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or extreme fatigue within the last 14 days, unless the symptoms are attributable to another known condition;
- Persons who have returned from international travel, a cruise ship, river voyage or returned from travel to a state that has a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19 within the past 14 days, as detailed in the [State of Rhode Island's Executive Order 20-95 dated November 5, 2020](#), and in accordance with the [travel requirements of the RIDOH](#) and the [state travel restriction list](#), and as any of these authorities or requirements may be amended from time to time.

Anyone attempting to enter Bankruptcy Court space in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer or the U.S. Marshals Service.

Anyone who has business in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court but who cannot enter the Bankruptcy Court space because of this order, should do the following:

- Persons who are represented by an attorney should contact their attorney;
- Attorneys or pro se litigants who are scheduled to appear in court before Bankruptcy Judge Diane Finkle should contact her courtroom deputy, Pamela Ricciarelli, at **401-626-3136** or via e-mail at Pamela_Ricciarelli@rib.uscourts.gov;
- Employees reporting to work should contact their supervisor;
- For all other matters, please contact the Clerk's Office at (401) 626-3100.

It is further ordered that every visitor and court employee who comes to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for any reason must pass through the following entry screening process. Employees who fall into a category of persons excludable from Bankruptcy Court space must not report to work and should contact their supervisor:

- Have their temperature taken, using a contactless thermometer. A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, will not be permitted to enter Bankruptcy Court space;
- Answer screening questions about COVID-19 status and possible recent COVID-19 exposure. A person whose answers indicate that they fall into one of the above-listed categories of persons prohibited from entering the Bankruptcy Court space, will not be permitted to enter Bankruptcy Court space;
- Wear a mask that covers the person's nose and mouth. If a person does not have a mask, one will be provided;
- Apply hand sanitizer, which will be available at the screening entrance.

It is further ordered that while in the Bankruptcy Court space, all persons must comply with court and security personnel instructions and the following rules:

- **Face Coverings:** You must wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth in all public areas of the Bankruptcy Court space (including hallways, public counters, shared spaces, courtroom and elevators), unless you are permitted to remove your mask by an authorized court staff member;
- **Social Distancing:** You must adhere to safe social distancing rules, by standing or sitting at least six feet away from other individuals. You must abide by any markings on floors and benches indicating where you may stand or sit. If you are standing in line, you must keep six feet away from the person in front of you and behind you, unless you are taking care of a small child or assisting someone with special needs.
- **Instructional Signage:** You must abide by all health and hygiene signage throughout

the Bankruptcy Court space, including signage regarding masks, social distancing, occupancy restrictions, and hand washing.

Anyone who fails or refuses to abide by these health and safety procedures will be required to leave the Bankruptcy Court space immediately. Anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: December 31, 2020

/s/ Diane Finkle

United States Bankruptcy Judge