

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

**TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SPECIFIED LOCAL RULES DELEGATING  
SERVICE OF COURT NOTICES, ORDERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO PARTIES  
DUE TO COVID 19 VIRUS PANDEMIC**

**GENERAL ORDER 20-006**

As a result of the Governor of Rhode Island's [Executive Order 20-09](#) issued on March 22, 2020 requiring all business service personnel to work from home, including law firms, with limited exception, which circumstance causes great difficulty for litigants in bankruptcy and their counsel to meet the Court's delegated noticing and/or service requirements, the Court issues this general order temporarily suspending the below specified local rules' noticing/service provisions, and directs the Clerk to utilize the services of the judiciary's [Bankruptcy Noticing Center](#) for mailing purposes. Due to the uncertainties of the course of the pandemic, this temporary order shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Court. For the safety and well-being of the public, including members of the bankruptcy bar and case participants, and consistent with the Governor's Executive Order to meet necessary and essential social distancing protocols, there is good cause for entry of this Order.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED:

1. For all local rules of this Court that designate notices required by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure to be made by a person other than the clerk, such local rules are hereby suspended temporarily, and the clerk is directed to provide notice through the judiciary's [Bankruptcy Noticing Center](#).

This includes the following local rules:

LBR 2002-1(a), (c), (d), and (e) – Notices to Various Persons/Entities  
LBR 3017-1(a) – Notices related to Disclosure Statement  
LBR 6004-1(a) – Notice of Sale  
LBR 9013-3(c) – Notice of Hearing

2. For all local rules of this Court that require a trustee, debtor, debtor in possession or other party to serve one of the following pleadings on all creditors in the case, such local rules are hereby suspended temporarily and the clerk is directed to provide service through the judiciary's [Bankruptcy Noticing Center](#).

This includes the following local rules:

LBR 1009-1(b) – Service of Amended Petition, Lists, Schedules  
LBR 1009-1(c)(1) – Service of Notices on Added Creditors  
LBR 3015-1(b) – Service of Chapter 13 Plan (note: LBR 9013-3(b) is *not* suspended)  
LBR 3015-2(b) – Service of Amended Chapter 13 Plan or Motion to Amend

LBR 6004-1(d) – Service of Motion to Sell in Chapter 13 Case

3. For all local rules of this Court that designate service of orders required by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9022 be made by a person other than the clerk, such local rules are hereby suspended temporarily, and the clerk is directed to provide service through the judiciary's [Bankruptcy Noticing Center](#).

This includes the following local rules:

LBR 9022-1 – Judgments and Orders

4. If a party identifies a local rule or service requirement that is not referenced in this general order which is unduly burdensome to serve under the current conditions, the party may file a motion for an order directing the clerk to provide service through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center.
5. Due to the fluidity of the situation surrounding COVID-19, the Court may alter or amend the provisions of this Order as necessary or appropriate to achieve the goal of protecting the health and safety of the public and Court personnel, while at the same time easing some of the burden on litigants and their counsel and enabling the Court to continue fulfilling its mission and its duties to the public.

SO ORDERED.

Date: March 27, 2020

/s/ Diane Finkle  
United States Bankruptcy Court