

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

**REGARDING EXTENSION OF CERTAIN DEADLINES RELATED TO  
MEETINGS OF CREDITORS UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 341(a) DUE TO THE EXIGENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**GENERAL ORDER 20-007**

This general order is issued in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This order, like this [Court's General Orders 20-002 through 20-006](#), entered between March 17 and March 27, 2020, is issued for the purpose of maintaining bankruptcy court operations due to the exigent circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic by recognizing the need to extend certain bankruptcy deadlines related to the Meetings of Creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341(a). For the safety and wellbeing 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.

On March 17, 2020, the United States Trustee issued a [Notice \(the "UST Notice"\)](#) continuing generally all in-person Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10, 2020 in all chapter 7, 12, and 13 cases pending in the District of Rhode Island. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 105(a), in order to carry out the provisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code during this time of national emergency, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. This order includes a rule of construction that will apply to the phrase "first date set for the meeting of creditors" (and other similar phrases) as used in certain parts of the United States Bankruptcy Code and the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") in light of actions recently taken by the United States Trustee.
2. The phrase "first date set for the meeting of creditors" as used in the Bankruptcy Rules shall be the rescheduled date of all meetings of creditors continued by the UST Notice (the Rescheduled First Meeting Date").
3. The deadlines that run from the "first date set for the meeting of creditors" under Bankruptcy Rules 1007(c), 1017(e), 1019(1)(B), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4002(b)(3) and (4), 4004(a), 4007(c), 4008(a), and 5009(b) shall be calculated from the Rescheduled First Meeting Date.
4. The deadlines under Bankruptcy Rule 2003(a) for holding section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the section 341 meetings described in the UST Notice.

5. For purposes of 11 U.S.C. § 521(a)(2)(B), the phrase “the first date set for the meeting of creditors shall be the Rescheduled First Meeting Date.
6. For purposes of 11 U.S.C. § 704(b)(1)(A), the phrase “the date of the first meeting of creditors” shall be the Rescheduled First Meeting Date.
7. For purposes of 11 U.S.C. § 1308(a) and (b)(1), the phrase “the date on which the meeting of the creditors is first scheduled to be held” shall be the Rescheduled First Meeting Date.
8. The Clerk of Court shall promptly: (a) send notice of entry of this General Order to all Registered Users of this Court’s CM/ECF filing system; (b) docket it in each Affected Case; and (c) post a copy of the General Order on the Court’s website.
9. Nothing in this General Order precludes the USTO or any other party in interest from seeking further relief, if appropriate, to modify or expand upon the provisions of this General Order.

SO ORDERED.

Date: April 1, 2020

/s/ Diane Finkle  
United States Bankruptcy Court