

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

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

THIRD AMENDED GENERAL ORDER 20-012

In light of the evolving pandemic conditions throughout the State of Rhode Island as evidenced by the recent [Executive Orders issued by RI Governor McKee](#) allowing numerous Covid-19 health related restrictions within the state to expire in February and March 2022, as well as the RI Department of Health's transition to a revised [COVID-19 Risk Assessment Protocol](#) based on updated guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island hereby further amends its Visitation and Access Restrictions General Order 20-012. Effective immediately and until this order is rescinded, the following persons may not enter U.S. Bankruptcy Court space located on the 6th Floor of The Federal Center, 380 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode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 consistent within the current requirements of the RI Department of Health;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional within the last 7 days, unless on day 8 after such diagnosis they are symptom free and test negative on a rapid COVID test;
- Persons who have had contact in the last 7 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 7 days ago and the person diagnosed has been symptom-free for the past 72 hours and tests negative on a rapid COVID test;
- 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 7 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 7 days, unless the symptoms are attributable to another known condition;

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;

- For all other matters, please contact the Clerk's Office at (401) 626-3100.

It is further ordered that while in the Bankruptcy Court's public spaces, 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, and courtroom), unless you are permitted to remove your mask by an authorized court staff member or the Bankruptcy Judge. If a visitor does not have a mask, one will be provided;
- **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.

Revised: April 21, 2022

/s/ Diane Finkle
United States Bankruptcy Judge