

United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Rhode Island

ON THE DOCKET

The Covid -19 Pandemic Issue

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A Letter to the Rhode Island Bankruptcy Bar

Hello everyone. I hope you and your families are doing well and staying safe. I miss seeing all of you and the in-person interaction. While it has been very difficult these past few months dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, coping with this dramatic change in our lives seems just a little bit easier with the nicer weather and the gradual re-opening of the state. May the worst be behind us.

Through the diligence and enormous efforts of the court’s IT team and all our other dedicated employees, the court quickly moved to full remote operations without missing a beat. I am deeply grateful for all their efforts and commitment to ensuring a smooth transition and the maintenance of all the court’s operations at nearly the same level as prior to closing the court to the public. It was no small feat! We continue to enhance our IT capabilities to serve you and the public better during these times. Telephonic hearings are proceeding well, and evidentiary hearings and trials will be conducted virtually using the easily accessible platform of ZoomGov.com. To address this evolving situation and alleviate some of the burdens on you, debtors and trustees, I entered several general orders relaxing and amending certain of our local rules and operations. This included modifying the requirement of “wet signatures” on petitions at the time of filing and shifting noticing burdens for certain creditor-wide mailings to the clerk’s office. I hope they have achieved their intended goals.

I also want to thank you all for your cooperation and adjustment to these changes in our operations. Clerk of Court Susan Thurston and her team have done an amazing job publicizing information on all of the changes we have made to enable continued full operations while working remotely. If you have not visited the court’s [COVID-19 Operations page](#) posted on our website I encourage you to do so. There are also helpful links to various sources of on-going information about the pandemic. I think you will find it informative.

In terms of re-opening the court to the public, our highest priority is the safety and well-being of you, litigants, the public and our employees. Because the court can efficiently operate remotely and conduct business virtually, we will be moving cautiously and carefully. Susan and I are monitoring the situation as the state of Rhode Island slowly moves through the re-opening phases announced by Governor Raimondo. The court will not be re-opening to the public in June, but we will assess the situation later in June in that regard. For everyone’s protection, we anticipate any re-opening will be gradual and phased, with safety protocols in place as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Rhode Island Department of Health. Rest assured that you will have ample notice of such protocols and time to adjust as modifications to the Court’s operations are made as we progress through this pandemic.

Should you have questions, need assistance or have suggestions as we navigate these uncharted waters, please reach out to our clerk’s office team. Stay Safe Everyone.

With Best Wishes,

Diane Finkle

Inner Workings: News and Advice

by Susan Thurston, Clerk of Court

The Pandemic Issue – that’s what we are calling this edition of our bi-annual newsletter, *On the Docket*. So much has happened at the Bankruptcy Court, in our state and in our world since our Fall 2019 edition. We sincerely hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy. Our primary goal at the court right now is to be able to serve you and provide access to justice, while taking all steps to minimize the risk of this harmful virus on our employees, attorneys, parties and members of the public. We hope this publication provides important information, useful resources and general knowledge about how the court is functioning during the COVID-19 period, and serves as a handy resource for staying apprised of the many recent operational changes taken to allow us to continue providing excellent service and court access.

All bankruptcy court staff began full time telework due to the coronavirus on March 16, 2020. The following day, the Court issued the first of many general orders transitioning all hearings to telephonic only and over the course of the next few weeks, shifted its normal business in both the Clerk’s office and the courtroom to a remote-only operation. A [COVID-19 Status of Operations page](#) was quickly created on our website to help practitioners and the public stay updated on the frequent changes taking place to transition our prior in-person operation to a fully remote one, while striving to provide the same level of service to all court users. As the number of changes continued throughout April, we added a [second web page summarizing](#) the general orders and news announcements for ease of use. A chronological list of this information with content links is provided on [page 6](#). We hope these two website pages have helped you stay informed about the many procedural changes undertaken to ensure your continued bankruptcy practice during this pandemic. Please feel free to [send me an email](#) if you have suggestions or recommendations for improvement; we are always looking to improve our customer service.

Notwithstanding all the work we have done related to COVID-19 changes in the last several months, we have also been continuing forward with two other major court projects. The first is a complete overhaul of the audio

and visual technology in the bankruptcy courtroom, which was last updated about 15 years ago. Last year we hired an A/V designer to help plan the scope of the project, and this year we were fortunate to secure the necessary funding to move ahead with contracting for the electrical upgrades, new state of the art video conferencing, evidence presentation, and sound system equipment and installation. It may still take several more months to schedule the work and complete the install, but we are very pleased that we have been able to keep this project on track, despite the pandemic.

The other major project that we have been working through the past year is the Plain Language Initiative, a national government effort to “*make it easier for the public to read, understand and use government communications.*” See, <https://plainlanguage.gov/>. We are tackling both an internal and an external review effort, having partnered with the Roger Williams University of Law’s [Pro Bono Collaborative](#) and four law students to assess and apply the plain language guidelines against the Court’s web pages and resources, as well as operational manuals ([Attorney User manual](#), [Electronic Filer User manual](#), [Self Help manual](#)) to identify areas for revision and rewriting to enhance court communications. In addition, internally, a group of Clerk’s office staff are performing a similar review of court notices, orders and instructional documents for compliance with the plain language guidelines. We hope to complete this substantial effort by late fall, which we anticipate will result in overall improved court communications and instructional resources, that are clear, concise, well organized and easily understood.



Recent Court Decisions

by Julia Blackburn Otero and Jon Pincince, Law Clerks

Here is a short digest of a recent noteworthy decision of the Court. As always, opinions and orders are available on the Court's website.

***Allen B. Gammons et al v. M.T.M. Development Corp. et al*, A.P. No. 19-01017 (In re Allen B. Gammons and Ann C. Gammons, BK No. 12-10362) (Chapter 7) (March 31, 2020):** In an adversary proceeding in which the plaintiff-debtors alleged the defendants violated the automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. § 362 and the discharge injunction under 11 U.S.C. § 524, the Court denied the individual defendants' motion to dismiss because violations of the automatic stay and discharge injunction are wrongful acts for which agents may be held liable in addition to principals.

Court is Now in [Remote] Session...

by Pamela Ricciarelli, Courtroom Deputy

Telephonic Hearings

Since mid-March, pursuant to the [General Order 20-002](#), our courtroom staff have been working remotely facilitating bankruptcy hearings telephonically due to the circumstances caused by COVID-19. For official record purposes, these telephonic proceedings are recorded through a direct connection to the bankruptcy court's digital audio and recording system located in the courtroom, just as if all parties were present in the courtroom.

Due to the urgency of this new hearing procedure, the Court quickly developed written instructions and [web pages](#) to help litigants stay informed about how to appear for hearing. Two days prior to a scheduled hearing, the Courtroom Deputy will email all counsel and self-represented parties with the telephone access instructions to join the telephonic hearing. Included in these instructions are important best practices, which we list below for your edification:

1. Whenever possible, use a landline rather than a cell phone, as it provides optimal sound quality for both listening and speaking;

2. It is strongly recommended that you use some form of headset or ear bud to reduce noise interference and feedback, to allow for freedom of movement, ergonomic support and improved sound;
3. Do not use the speaker phone feature on your device as it distorts the sound for all participants as well as interferes with the audio recording, and most importantly, always mute your line unless you are speaking. Tip: *If you do not have a mute button on your phone, you can press *6 to mute your individual line. When you wish to speak, press *6 again to un-mute your phone line.*

We are extremely happy to report that overall, our telephonic court hearings have been proceeding very smoothly and that everyone is doing a great job participating. Thank you for your excellent adherence to our best practice advice!

Evidentiary Hearings and Trials

All evidentiary hearings and trials are being held using the Zoom video conferencing platform. The Bankruptcy Court uses the government version of Zoom ([ZoomGov.com](#)) which provides for enhanced security and privacy. Basic requirements for using Zoom include having a device with a camera and a microphone (such as a laptop, tablet, desktop computer or mobile phone). We also recommend that participants use a headset or ear buds for improved sound quality. The Court has created an [Attorney Zoom Guide](#) for your use, and if you don't already have a Zoom account, you can [create one for free at this link](#). Also, for new users, please see these self-help and quick start guides available at the Zoom [help center](#).

Prior to conducting a Zoom hearing/trial, the courtroom staff will host a practice session with the litigants to ensure everyone can properly connect and understands how the remote proceeding will be conducted. If at any time you have questions or need additional assistance with an upcoming evidentiary hearing or trial, please contact Courtroom Deputy, Pamela Ricciarelli, at 401-626-3136 or by e-mail at Pamela_Ricciarelli@rib.uscourts.gov.

Audio of Live Court Hearing Now Available on Court YouTube Channel

The Court is pleased to announce that it is now live streaming audio of court hearings on its YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaFUH4LPF3DD4jtR-mxd2w/live>

This method replaces the prior process that required members of the public and media to submit a written request in advance in order to access a live court hearing. Details about the Court's calendaring process and links to our [YouTube channel](#), [monthly calendars](#) (with the Live Stream link) and instructional documents can be found on the [Court's calendar page of its website](#). Note: recorded audio of court hearings are available on the case docket generally within 48 hours of hearing and require [Pacer access](#).

Updated Court Calendar

Finally, you may have noticed that we recently made a change to the [court calendar](#), which is posted on the [Court's website](#), to provide two different versions. You can now access either the "current" calendar or the "vacated" view calendar. The 'current' version displays only those matters presently scheduled on a calendar date. To see which matters have been removed from the original calendar (possibly continued or settled), click on the 'w/vacated' link to see the red-line list of cases/matters that have been removed for that hearing date.



News and Announcements

([VISIT PAGE](#))

- US Trustee Program extends Telephonic or Video Section 341 Meetings to Cases Filed Through October 10, 2020
- Audio of Live Court Hearings Now Available on Court YouTube Channel
- A Letter to the Rhode Island Bankruptcy Bar
- Access to Court Documents During COVID-19 Clerk's Office Public Area Closure
- New Online Fee Payment Program for Self-Represented Filers and Certain Misc Fees for Registered ECF Users
- Summary of Bankruptcy Changes Related to CARES Act and Notice of DBR's Financial Institution COVID-19 Relief Pledge
- Training Material re Bankruptcy Provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ([CARES Act](#))
- US Trustee Program Issues Notice to Chapter 7 and 13 Trustees Regarding Recovery Rebates Under the CARES Act of 2020
- Rhode Island Remote Online Notarization
- Self-Represented Parties Means of Filing Documents with the Court during COVID-19
- Accessing Court Telephonic Proceedings
- Judiciary Preparedness for Coronavirus ([COVID-19](#))
- Change in Court Telephonic Hearing Start Time due to COVID-19
- US Trustee Information Regarding Telephonic Sec. 341 Meetings of Creditors
- Changes to Free Bankruptcy Legal Clinic Meetings
- Temporary Increase in Debt Limit Eligibility under Subchapter V of Chapter 11
- New Court Coronavirus Status of Operations Page
- US Trustee Notice Continuing All In-Person Section 341 Meetings Through April 10, 2020
- Information about Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and Bankruptcy Court Operation

The CARES Act

by Susan Thurston, Clerk of Court

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, affectionately called “the CARES Act”, took effect on March 27, 2020, and among many things, amended several sections of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code related to consumer cases as well as cases filed under the recently-enacted Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019 (SBRA). The Court created several [notices](#) and a [training document](#) outlining the details of the Act’s impact on bankruptcy, which we refer our readers to for detailed information. Provided below is a general outline of the major changes that practitioners should be aware of:

1. The debt threshold for eligibility under the SBRA is increased from \$2,725,625 to \$7,500,000.
2. Amended definitions for current monthly income under §101(10A) and disposable income in chapter 13 cases under § 1325(b).
3. Amended provisions related to the modification of Chapter 13 plans, including an additional 2-year period for repayment.
4. The provisions listed above apply for a one-year period only, until March 26, 2021, after which they will sunset, unless renewed by Congress.



We are currently in the process of updating the Rhode Island Bankruptcy Court Local Rule book. If all goes according to schedule, the 2020 edition should be finalized and published by the end of the this summer. The Court will notify the public and members of the bar when and how to order the 2020 Local Rule book.

General Orders

[\(VISIT PAGE\)](#)

- [20-002](#) - Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 - Hearing Information
- [20-003](#) - Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 - Court Location Closing Order
- [20-004](#) - Temporarily Modifying Means of Filing Documents with the Court by Self Represented Parties Due to COVID-19 Virus Pandemic
- [20-005](#) - Suspension of Local Rule 5005-4(j) and Establishment of Procedures for Admission of Direct Evidence through Declarations or Affidavits Due to COVID-19 Virus Pandemic
- [20-006](#) - Temporary Suspension of Specified Local Rules Delegating Service of Court Notices, Orders and Other Documents to Parties Due to COVID-19 Virus Pandemic
- [20-007](#) - Extension of Certain Deadlines Related to Meeting of Creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341(a) due to the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 Pandemic
- [20-008](#) - Amendment of Interim Bankruptcy Rule 1020 to Implement Provisions of the CARES Act

Tips and Tricks

by Pamela Ricciarelli, Courtroom Deputy
Telephonic Hearings

- Have you misplaced your hearing’s telephone access instructions? Contact the Clerk’s office at (401) 626-3100, ext. 0, as soon as possible and the access information will be provided to you over the phone or by e-mail.
- Do you have a telephonic hearing scheduled? Be sure to call into the conference bridge at least 10 minutes before the hearing start time. Once connected to the conference bridge, please state your name as it assists the Courtroom Deputy in taking attendance and monitoring the calendar call.
- Is your phone line on mute? If you do not have a mute button on your phone, press *6 to mute your line. If you wish to speak, press *6 again to un-mute.

Enhanced Court Resources During the COVID-19 Period

by Amy Geraghty, Operations Supervisor

COVID-19 has resulted in social distancing, quarantines and challenges on a myriad of levels. As a result of the court's rapid transition to a fully remote operation, we quickly realized that it was necessary to provide an even greater level of service to our customers and thus, we moved swiftly to implement many new technologies and procedures to assist the Bankruptcy Bar, self-represented parties and the public with continuing to do business with the Court. We created two web pages devoted to our COVID-19 changes, and we highly recommend that users of the bankruptcy court [visit these pages](#) for a chronological list of changes, as well as a [summary page](#).

In addition, for convenience, we recap below the major adjustments taken to assist users of the court with continued access and service during the sustained period of this pandemic.

| HEARINGS, TRIALS AND SECTION 341 MEETING OF CREDITORS | |
|---|--|
| Hearings and Trials | <p>Since the issuance of General Order 20-002 on March 17, 2020, the Court has continued to hold its weekly motion calendar telephonically, and trials are being scheduled using the Zoom.gov platform. Court staff have been working quickly and diligently to familiarize themselves with this video technology, and are conducting one on one training sessions with attorneys/litigants who have upcoming trials scheduled.</p> <p>Instructions for telephonic appearances are provided at THIS LINK, and are also uploaded to the case docket two days prior to each hearing date. Instructions posted to the case docket will include the security code to access the hearing. For security, this information is available to case participants only.</p> <p>Questions? Contact Courtroom Deputy, Pamela Ricciarelli at 401-626-3136 or via e-mail at Pamela_Ricciarelli@rib.uscourts.gov. Also, refer to the Tips and Tricks article on page 5 for best practices on attending a telephonic hearing.</p> |
| Section 341 Creditor Meetings | <p>The Office of the U.S. Trustee continues to conduct all Section 341 meeting of creditors telephonically and, on June 12, 2020, the U.S. Trustee Program extended telephonic Section 341 meetings to cases filed through October 10, 2020.</p> <p>To help facilitate a smooth and efficient Section 341 meeting by telephone, the U.S. Trustee has supplied four new documents for use by the debtor, counsel and/or the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions for testifying Debtors and Counsel.• Declaration regarding Oath, Identity and SSN, Attachment #1.• Attorney Declaration, Attachment #2.• Bankruptcy Information Sheet. <p>The required Attorney Declarations will be placed on the docket, along with a, "Notice of Trustee Reset Section 341 Meeting of Creditors" which contains dial-in instructions.</p> |

COURT OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES

| | |
|--|---|
| Court Operations | <p>On March 23, 2020, General Order 20-003 was issued announcing the March 25, 2020 temporary closing of the clerk's office and court space to the public due to the pandemic. Since that time, all court staff continue to be available by telephone, email and website on-line chat during business hours.</p> <p>Although the public intake counter remains closed, filing in the Court's electronic filing system (CM/ECF) remains unaffected, and the Clerk's office continues to have both a physical and electronic drop box available for the receipt of court documents for filing by non-ECF users. The physical drop box is located outside the Clerk's office public door entrance on the 6th floor of the Federal Center; requirements for using the box are contained in General Order 20-003. While the drop box is mainly intended for non-electronic filers, electronic filers may request to use the drop box if they are unable to follow the standard filing procedures due to system failure set forth in Local Rule 5005-4(p).</p> <p>Additionally, the Clerk's office recently implemented an electronic drop box for accepting filings from self-represented parties and it provides a higher level of security and case integration than an email solution. Instructions for use of the electronic box are covered on a new web page created specifically for self-represented parties and can be found here.</p> |
| Access to Court Documents Usually Available from the Clerk's Office | <p>The Clerk's office has implemented a new procedure to ensure public access to court records that would otherwise be available for viewing and copying from our public area remain available, despite the temporary closure of the Clerk's office. Instructions for obtaining documents can be found here.</p> |
| Court Fees – Two New Ways to Pay Various Court Fees | <p>In an effort to make fee payment as easy as possible without being able to serve customers in person, on April 30, 2020, the Clerk's office implemented a new (free) electronic payment method with pay.gov, to allow self-represented parties to pay fees online, and for ECF filers to use for limited purposes such as when requesting certified copy of documents, copies of documents, recording of hearings, or requests for search of court records. This new method is called Automated Clearing House (ACH) Direct Debit and Debit Card Payments and is processed through Pay.gov. Pay.gov is operated by the U.S. Department of Treasury and is a web-based application that allows users to make online payments to government agencies by electronic check, credit card or debit from their personal or business checking or savings accounts.</p> <p>Please visit our Online Fee Payment Program Page for complete details, including links to the online payment program as well as a step-by-step training document.</p> <p>Requesting a certified copy just got <i>even</i> easier! Electronic Filers are encouraged to use our new, Request Certified Copy event in ECF. This easy to use event functions as any other event that charges a filing fee and is paid using your pay.gov account. Simply select the document you'd like certified and pay. No more mailing checks to the Court! Instructions and further discussion about this event can be found on page 9.</p> |

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|---|---|
| Rhode Island Bankruptcy Legal Clinic | The Rhode Island Bankruptcy Legal Clinic appointments are now being conducted by telephone conference until further notice. The Clinic Administrator is working hard to ensure that customers receive and complete their required clinic documents before their scheduled appointments. |
| Service of Certain Court/Case Documents | Recognizing the potential burden that service of certain documents on all creditors may place on litigants during the pandemic and stay at home telework period, the Court issued General Order 20-006 temporarily modifying specified local rules. The Order suspended certain local rules which delegated noticing to someone other than the clerk, and directed the clerk to provide service through the Judiciary's Bankruptcy Noticing Center . An in-depth discussion on the application of this order can be found on page 10 . |
| Signature Requirements and Procedures for Admission of Direct Evidence | For the safety and well-being of the public, including members of the Bankruptcy Bar, litigants and case participants, the Court issued General Order 20-005 which temporarily suspends Local Rule 5005-4(j) and sets forth new requirements for attorneys to obtain and retain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings during the pandemic period. Additionally, this order established procedures for admission of direct evidence through declarations or affidavits. |
| STATE OF RHODE ISLAND INITIATIVE | |
| Online Notarization | Governor Raimondo's office and the Secretary of State's office worked together to secure the temporary authorization of Remote Online Notarization (RON) in Rhode Island during the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Remote Online Notarization is the process by which documents are notarized in an electronic form where the signer and notary public are not physically in each other's presence but can communicate simultaneously using secure audio-video technology. To view the letter from Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea authorizing the RON, click here . To view the RI RON guidance, click here . To view the Standards of Conduct for Notaries in RI, click here . |



My new social distancing outfit just arrived from Amazon



“How Do I ... Electronically Request a Certified Copy of a Court Document?”

by Jennifer Davis, Case Administrator

First, let me start by saying I hope everyone is well and has adjusted during this COVID-19 work at home period. I hope you find our operation’s team readily available whenever you need us, just as if we were located ‘in’ the clerk’s office!

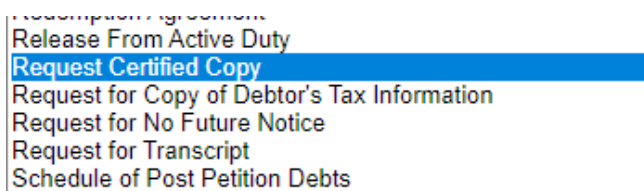
To make it easier for Electronic Filers and Limited Users to obtain certified copies of court documents, we have created a new e-filing event called: “Request Certified Copy”, which is available in the “Other” category. This means you no longer need to mail us a cover letter and check/credit card by phone for payment. It is a quick event that allows you to electronically request the document to be certified, link to the specific case document, and then pay the miscellaneous fee using your [pay.gov](https://www.pay.gov) account. Just one of the numerous, positive changes we have recently implemented! See our [Electronic Filer User Manual](#) and the steps below for filing this new procedure:

NEW EVENT: REQUEST CERTIFIED COPY

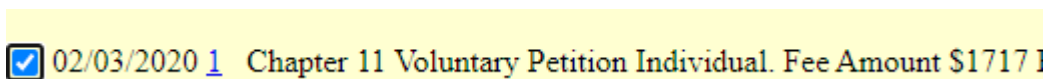
- 1) Click on either Bankruptcy or Adversary [depending on which docket has document to be certified]>Other:



- 2) Select, “Request Certified Copy”:



- 3) Next, you will see the following prompt: **“You can have one certification per request. Choose the document you want to be certified.”**
- 4) Click, “Next” and chose the document you want to have certified.



- 5) Next, you will be presented with a fee screen to pay the applicable certification fee.
- 6) You are done and once the clerk’s office reviews your request, your certified copy will be on the way!

Upon receipt of the request, the clerk’s office will process and mail the certified copy within 1-3 business days.

For convenience, Electronic Filers are strongly encouraged to use this new event to request certified copies. Options for Self-Represented Filers can be found on our new web page entitled [Free Online Fee Payment Program](#).

List of Documents to be Served by the Clerk through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) in Accordance with General Order 20-006

by Amy Geraghty, Operations Supervisor

As discussed in detail on [page 12](#) herein, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bankruptcy Judge Diane Finkle issued [General Order 20-006](#) temporarily suspending specific local rules delegating service of certain court documents to parties, and instead instructing the clerk to serve through the BNC. To assist practitioners with the scope of this order, we list below the most common documents that are now being served by the clerk in accordance with GO 20-006.

| Type of Document | Applicable Local Rule |
|--|---|
| Amendment(s) to the Petition, Lists, Schedules and Statements | LBR 1009-1(b) |
| Amendment(s) Adding an Omitted Creditor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amended schedule; Notice of Section 341 meeting of creditors and if applicable, a copy of the Notice to File Claims; R.I. Local Form 1009-1.1, "Notice to Added Creditors of Pending Bankruptcy and Applicable Case Deadlines and Certificate of Service". | LBR 1009-1(c)(1) |
| Notice(s) to Various Persons/Entities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice of the time fixed for filing objections and the hearing to consider approval of a disclosure statement, and Notice of the time fixed for filing objections and the hearing to consider confirmation of a chapter 9 or chapter 11 plan. | LBR 2002-1(a), (c), (d), and (e) LBR 2002-1(a) |
| Notice to Equity Security Holders: The notices required in chapter 11 by FRBP 2002(d)(1), (2), (3) : (d)(1) order for relief; (d)(2) the meeting of equity security holders pursuant to §341; and (d)(3) the hearing on all or substantially all of the debtor's assets The notices required by FRBP 2002(d)(4), (5), (6), and (7) : (d)(4) the hearing on the dismissal or conversion of a case to another chapter; (d)(5) the time fixed for filing objections to and the hearing to consider approval of a disclosure statement; (d)(6) the time fixed for filing objections to and the hearing to consider confirmation of a plan; and (d)(7) the time fixed to accept or reject a proposed modification of a plan. | LBR 2002-1(c) |

| | |
|--|--|
| Notice to Creditors in Chapter 7 Asset Cases and Chapter 13 Cases. | LBR 2002-1(d) |
| <p>Notices Required to be Served by Clerk or other Person</p> <p>FRBP 2002(a)(3) Application to Compromise;</p> <p>FRBP 2002(a)(6) Application for Compensation, commission or expenses over \$1,000;</p> <p>FRBP 2002(b) the time for filing objections to disclosure statement and confirmation of a chapter 9 or chapter 11 plan;</p> <p>FRBP 2002(f)(3) Notice to File Claims and Notice of Surplus Funds;</p> <p>FRBP 2002(f)(8) Summary of the chapter 7 trustee's final report if net proceeds are over \$1,000;</p> <p>FRBP 6007 Notice of Intended Abandonment of Property by the debtor or trustee</p> | <p>LBR 2002-1(e)</p> <p>Those documents delegated under the Federal Bankruptcy Rules and made applicable by Local Rule 2002-1(e)</p> |
| Chapter 13 Plan | LBR 3015-1(b) |
| Amended Chapter 13 Plan or Motion to Amend [if they adversely affect creditors] | LBR 3015-2(b) |
| <p>Chapter 9 or 11 Plan and approved disclosure statement;</p> <p>Chapter 9 or 11 Notice of the time fixed for objections and the confirmation hearing date;</p> <p>Chapter 9 or 11 Ballot Certification</p> | <p>LBR 3017-1(a)</p> <p>LBR 3018-1</p> |
| Motion/Notice of Proposed Sale of Property (subject to liens or free and clear of liens and other than in the ordinary course of business) | LBR 6004-1(a) |
| <p>Motion to Sell in Chapter 13 Case</p> <p>Any sale of the property of the estate outside the ordinary course of business in Chapter 13, including but not limited to, the Debtor's principal residence, real property, or other property being sold for \$2,000.</p> | LBR 6004-1(a) |
| Notice of Hearings | LBR 9013-3(c) |
| Judgments and Orders | LBR 9022-1 |

Application of General Order 20-006

by Jonathan Pincince, Career Law Clerk

On March 27, 2020, as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated work-from-home orders announced by the Governor of Rhode Island, the Court issued [General Order 20-006](#), temporarily suspending certain local bankruptcy rules (LBR) delegating to parties service of court notices, orders, pleadings, and other documents. The Order directed the Clerk of the Court to utilize the services of the [Bankruptcy Noticing Center \(BNC\)](#) for such mailing purposes, but only as to those documents/local rules specifically covered by the order. **The Order does not apply to, or relieve parties of service requirements, under any LBR not listed in the order.**

Specifically, General Order 20-006 applies only to the following LBRs:

1. [LBR 2002-1](#)(a), (c), (d), and (e) - Notices to Various Persons/Entities
2. [LBR 3017-1](#)(a) – Notices related to Disclosure Statement
3. [LBR 6004-1](#)(a) – Notice of Sale
4. [LBR 9013-3](#)(c) – Notice of Hearing
5. [LBR 1009-1](#)(b) – Service of Amended Petition, Lists, Schedules
6. [LBR 1009-1](#)(c)(1) – Service of Notices on Added Creditors
7. [LBR 3015-1](#)(b) – Service of Chapter 13 Plan
8. [LBR 3015-2](#)(b) – Service of Amended Chapter 13 Plan or Motion to Amend
9. [LBR 6004-1](#)(d) – Service of Motion to Sell in Chapter 13 Case
10. [LBR 9022-1](#) – Judgments and Orders

Note, in particular, that General Order 20-006 does not relieve parties of service obligations required by [LBR 9013-3\(b\)](#) governing service of motions to modify secured claims and motions to avoid judicial liens. Failure to properly serve any motion or other filing not within the scope of General Order 20-006 will be stricken by the court and the filer will be required to refile the document with a certificate of service evidencing proper service.

If a motion or other filing falls within the scope of General Order 20-006, parties and counsel should file a certificate of service that includes a statement that service is being performed by the Clerk via the BNC in accordance with General Order 20-006, utilizing language substantially similar to the following:

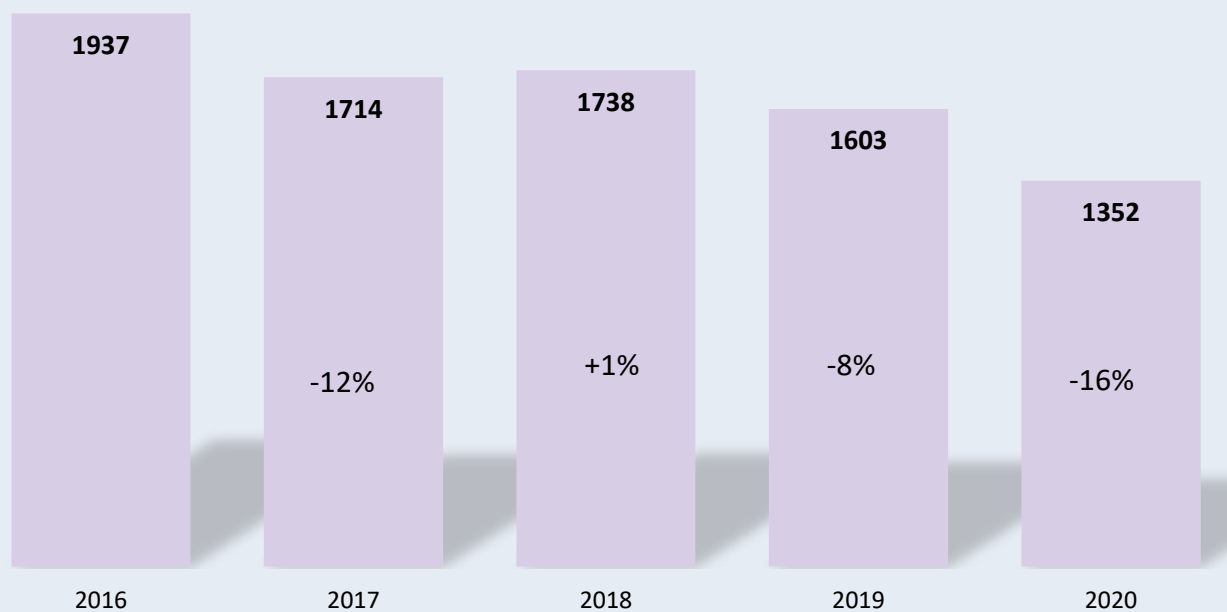
The Clerk will provide service of the [applicable filing] through the judiciary's Bankruptcy Noticing Center pursuant to General Order 20-006 on the attached list of non-CM/ECF participants.

General Order 20-006 will remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Court. Prior to that occurring, the Court will make an advance announcement through its email distribution list, as well as post to its website. Please contact the Clerk's Office if you have any questions.

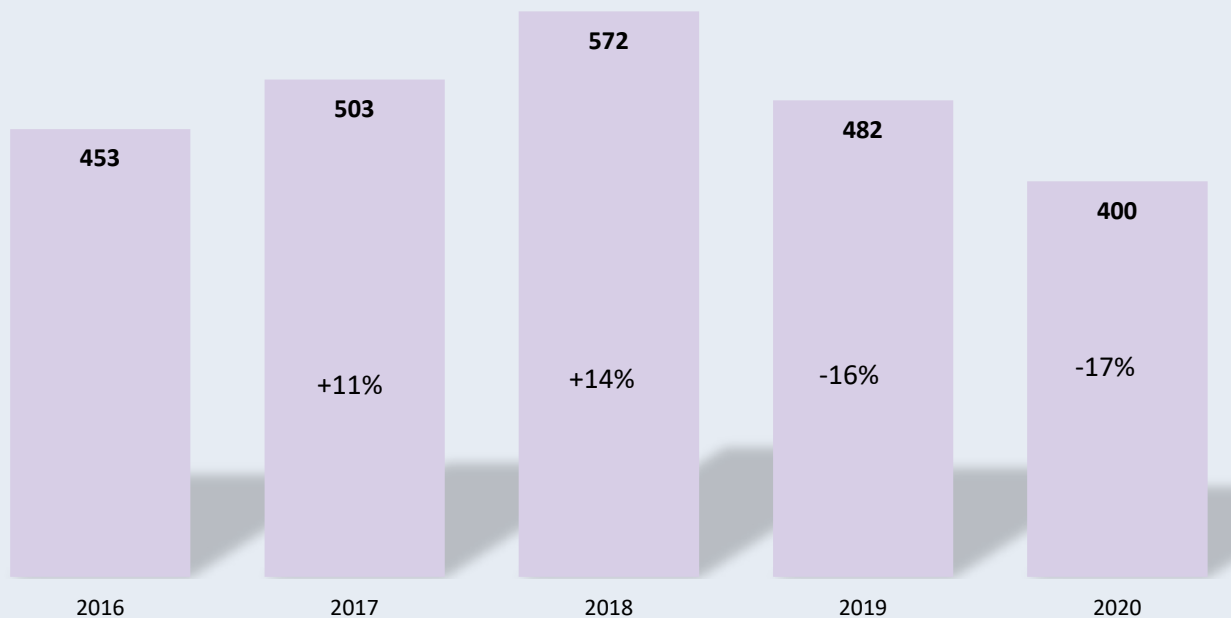
Case Filing Statistics for Period Ending May 2020

by Dina Fortes, ECF Analyst

Chapter 7 Case Filing Statistics for 12 Month Period Ending May 31, 2020

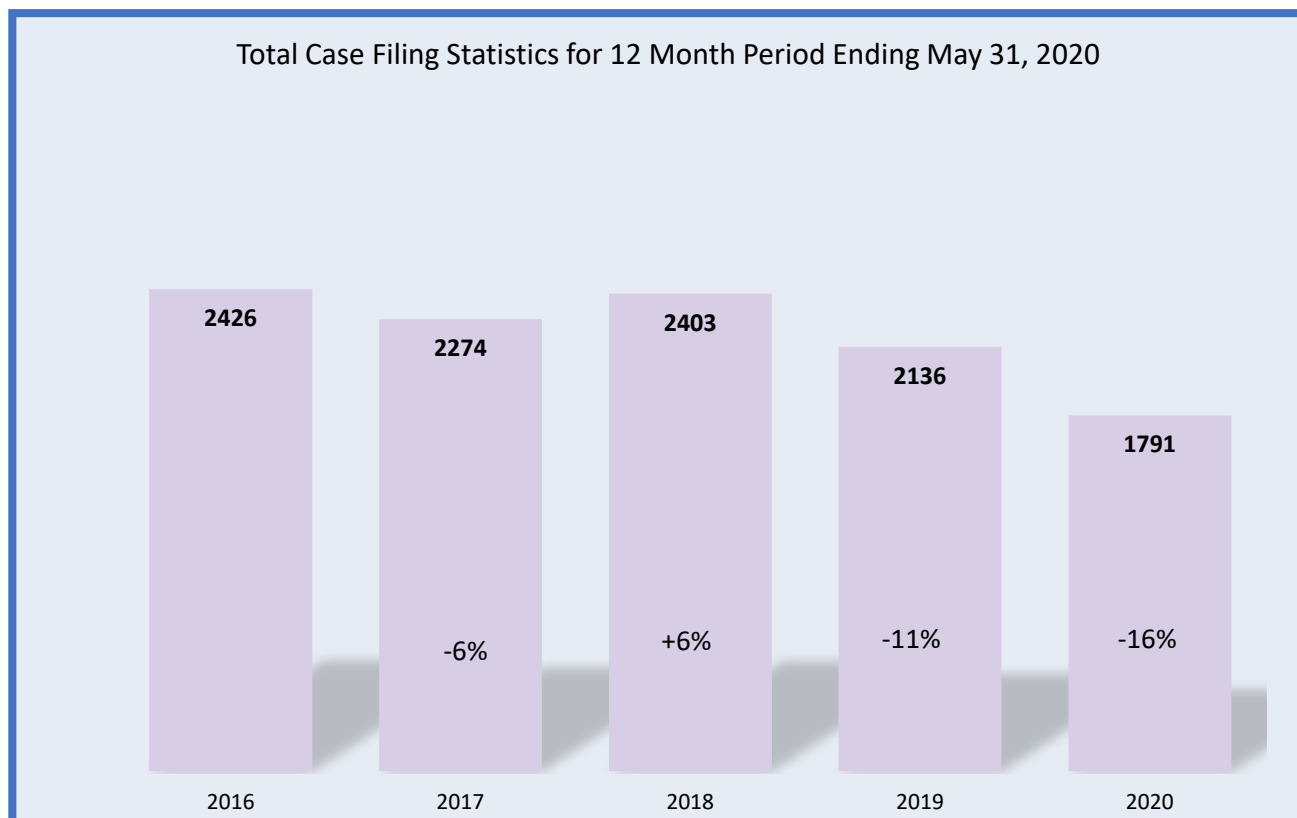
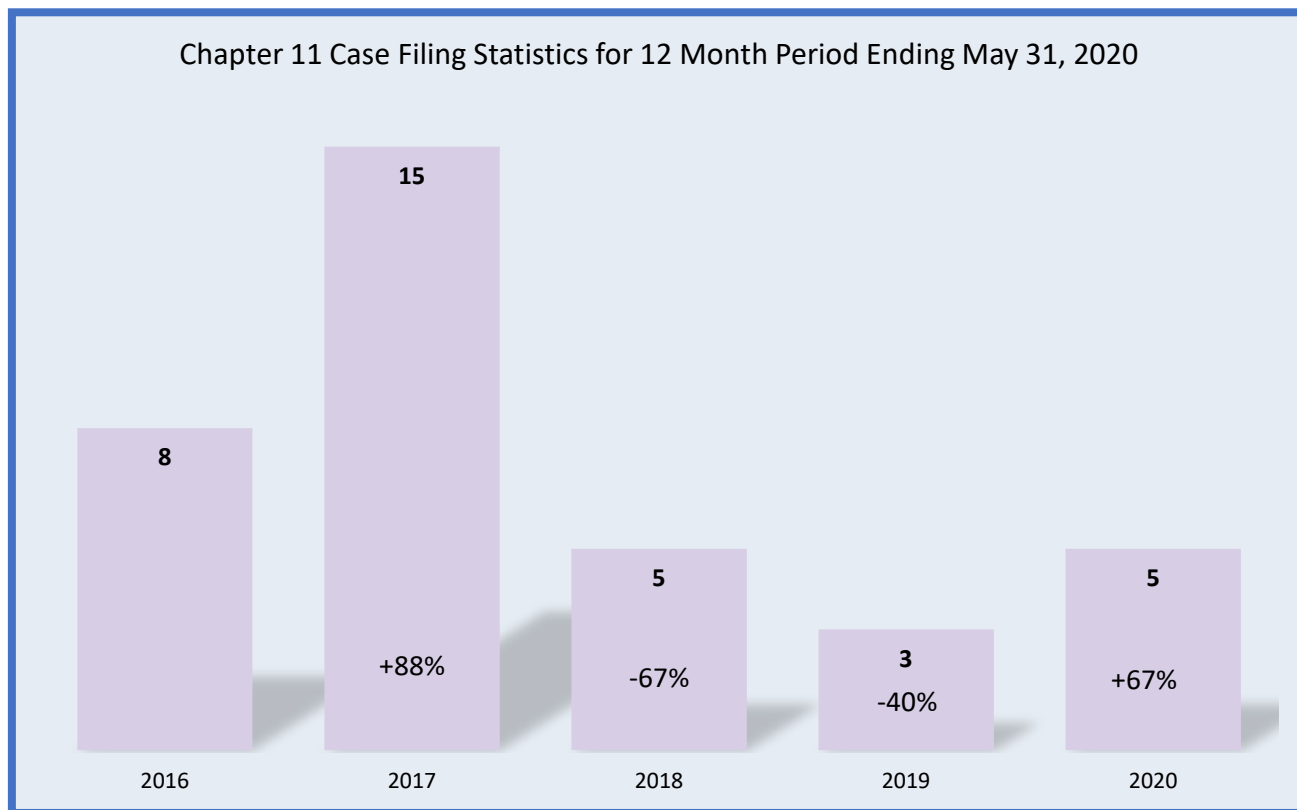


Chapter 13 Case Filing Statistics for 12 month Period Ending May 31, 2020



Case Filing Statistics for Period Ending May 2020

(continued from page 13)



UPCOMING COURT HOLIDAY CLOSING DATES

Independence Day (Observed) - Friday, July 3, 2020
Victory Day - Monday, August 10, 2020
Labor Day - Monday, September 7, 2020
Columbus Day - Monday, October 12, 2020
Veterans Day - Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 26, 2020
Day After Thanksgiving - Friday, November 27, 2020
Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24, 2020
Christmas Day - Friday, December 25, 2020
New Year's Eve - Closing at 2:00 pm - Thursday, December 31st

CONTACT PUBLICATION STAFF

If you have any comments regarding this issue or want to suggest ideas for future articles, please contact "On the Docket" staff at the following email address: Janet_Descoteaux@rib.uscourts.gov

Please do not use the above email address to file or send papers to the Court, or to ask questions about court procedures or status of a particular case. Contact the Clerk's Office at the following number for assistance in these matters.

Clerk's Office: (401) 626-3100

Visit the court website www.rib.uscourts.gov
for local filing information.
Thank you.

Please Note:
Clerk's Office staff is not permitted to give legal advice.