

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**GENERAL ORDER  
REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS  
UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19**

This General Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”) and other health authorities have advised people to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to slow the spread of the disease. In particular, the CDC is recommending that people attempt to keep physical distance between themselves and other people. This technique, known as social distancing, is especially important for people who have a higher health risk should they contract the disease. The CDC is also recommending employers attempt to minimize exposure between employees and the public and to consider the public health and safety when scheduling public events.

Therefore, in order to protect public health, and in order to reduce the size of public gatherings and unnecessary travel, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire issues the following order, effective immediately:

1. By order of the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, the Rudman Courthouse is closed to the public until March 23, 2020. While the Courthouse is closed to the public, the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court will accept the filing of new petitions, motions, pleadings, notices, and other papers through one of several means: (1) through the Court’s Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system; (2) through an e-mail, with the appropriate document or documents attached in PDF format, sent to [nhbnofee@nhb.uscourts.gov](mailto:nhbnofee@nhb.uscourts.gov); (3) through physical deposit in the depository box at the Courthouse, which must be accompanied by either (a) an e-mail to [nhbnofee@nhb.uscourts](mailto:nhbnofee@nhb.uscourts), indicating the filer’s name, the case name and number, and the date and time at which the filing was placed into the depository box or (b) a telephone call to 603-222-2600 to confirm the deposit; and (4) through any other method expressly authorized by the Clerk, who can be reached at 603-222-2600.
2. All trials and evidentiary hearings scheduled to commence at any time during the Covered Period are hereby continued generally. All such trials and evidentiary hearings will be rescheduled at a later date, after notice and opportunity for hearing. **As used in this General Order, the term “Covered Period” refers to the period of time beginning on the date of this order and continuing through (and including) April 17, 2020.** At this point, the Covered Period is not coterminous with the closure of the Courthouse as specified in Paragraph 1 above.
3. During the Covered Period, participation in all other hearings must be accomplished through telephonic means. Attorneys must utilize CourtCall. Self-represented parties and any member of the public, who wish to observe or participate in a hearing, must contact the courtroom deputy at 603-222-2644 to receive instructions on how to do so.
4. Due to the fluidity of the situation, the Court may alter or amend this General Order as may be necessary to achieve the stated goal of protecting the public health while, at the same time, continuing to fulfill the Court’s mission and its duties to litigants and the public.

5. Hearings, conferences, and trials may be conducted by videoconference at the discretion of the presiding judge. In addition, hearings may be conducted in person at the Rudman Courthouse when necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to any person.

SO ORDERED.

Date: March 16, 2020

s/ Michael A. Fagone  
Michael A. Fagone  
United States Bankruptcy Judge  
District of New Hampshire (by designation)