

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

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

This General Order is being issued in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and is intended to provide guidance to the public and bar regarding operations of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire. On March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, which the President extended. On April 10, 2023, following House and Senate passage, the President signed into law a Joint Resolution (H.J. Res. 7), which provides that “the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on March 13, 2020, in Proclamation 9994 . . . is hereby terminated.” Accordingly, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire will return generally to pre-pandemic practices. The terms of this order supersede all previously issued General Orders Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19. Specifically, the Court orders as follows:

1. The Fifth General Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 is rescinded effective June 1, 2023. The Court hereby reinstates the requirement that a Filing User secure a signer’s handwritten, wet ink signature prior to electronically filing a document bearing that signature. The Court hereby reinstates the requirement of Administrative Order 5005-4(d)(3) that a Declaration Regarding Electronic Filing be submitted to the Court within 7 days of the electronic filing of a document containing signatures under oath. For any document filed before June 1, 2023, the deadline for filing a Declaration Regarding Electronic Filing is 21 days thereafter. For any document filed on or after June 1, 2023, the deadline for filing a Declaration Regarding Electronic Filing is 7 days thereafter.

2. The Fifteenth General Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 is rescinded effective June 1, 2023. Thereafter, all hearings in the Bankruptcy Court will be conducted in person at the Rudman Courthouse unless the Court indicates or orders otherwise. Consistent with the principles of access to justice and the courts, parties are encouraged to participate in hearings remotely, to the extent permissible by applicable law, rules and procedures. Parties may appear telephonically using the services of CourtCall as permitted by Administrative Order 9074-2.

3. All persons seeking entry to the Rudman Courthouse are required to comply with access restrictions and screening protocols.

SO ORDERED.

Date: April 27, 2023

/s/ Bruce A. Harwood
Bruce A. Harwood
Chief Bankruptcy Judge