

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

Effective March 24, 2020

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the requirements set forth in the Court's Administrative Procedures for the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System, effective July 10, 2017, that filing attorneys receive and maintain "wet signature" copies of documents are modified effective March 24, 2020, and until further order of court. Signatures of debtors, attorneys, affiants, and declarants may still be received and maintained in "wet signature form" in accordance with prior practice, but, under the modified requirements, documents may also be

(i) electronically signed utilizing a commercially available electronic signing technology (such as DocuSign) that

(a) maintains an audit trail that allows the filing attorney to obtain the identification of the signer's computer or device from the commercial provider, and

(b) complies with the requirements of the United States ESIGN Act (*see* 15 U.S.C. §7001);
or

(ii) filed without the original signature in the filing attorney's possession if the filing attorney has a copy of the signed document in image format or other facsimile received either electronically (including email and text) or by facsimile machine from the signer, provided that

(a) the document is filed with the signature in image format (not by use of the "/s/" signature format), and

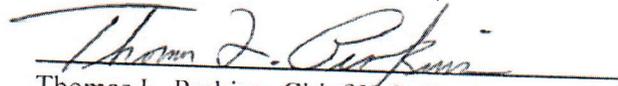
(b) the attorney files a certification within 30 days of filing that he/she has received the signer's original signature and will maintain it.

In all events, the filing of any verified paper constitutes a representation and certification that the filing attorney transmitted the entire document to the signer for review and signature, communicated with the signer regarding the substance and purpose of the document, received the entire document, including the signature page, back from the signer, and received express authorization from the signer to file the document.

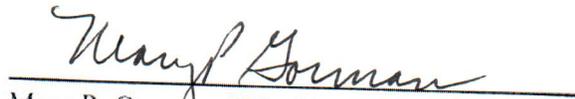
Nothing in this General Order should be construed as waiving any obligations that attorneys have pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy 9011 or the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct that govern practice before this Court.

While in effect, this General Order modifies the prior orders of this Court regarding the electronic filing of documents. To the extent not expressly modified hereby, however, all prior orders and the Administrative Procedures adopted July 10, 2017, remain in full force and effect.

ENTERED: *March 24, 2020*



Thomas L. Perkins, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge


Mary P. Gorman, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge