

Bankruptcy Court Operations during COVID-19

The Bankruptcy Court is committed to serving parties and the public during the COVID-19 outbreak, but is taking the following actions to protect its employees and visitors to the Clerk's Offices in Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul from transmission of the virus:

Effective **Thursday, March 19, 2020**, the lobbies of the clerk's offices will be closed to the public.

- Customers are encouraged to contact the [Clerk's Offices](#) by phone for assistance. Most inquiries and requests for documents can be handled over the phone, and copies and certificates mailed or emailed to the requestor.
- Pro se parties and members of the public may drop off payments and documents for filing as directed outside each clerk's office.
- Filing fees may be paid by a cashier's check or money order ONLY. The clerk's office will NOT accept cash payments at this time.
- All clerk's offices will be staffed, the areas for drop offs closely monitored, and documents and payments promptly processed. Confirmation of filing or receipt of funds will be sent by mail or email.
- Forms and instructions for filing are available outside the clerk's offices and on the [court's website](#).
- Debtors are encouraged to file documents and make installment payments by mail to the [appropriate clerk's office](#).
- Creditors are encouraged to file proofs of claim, amended claims, and withdrawals of claims online using [ePOC](#).

Additional COVID-19 information:

- [Revised entrance protocols for U.S. Courthouses in the District of Minnesota effective March 17, 2020](#)
- [The in-person Bankruptcy Advice Clinics in the Twin Cities are temporarily suspended. A phone advice clinic is available by appointment only.](#)
- [All judges except Judge Kathleen Sanberg will handle hearings, trials, continuances and requests for telephonic appearances on a case-by-case-basis. Judge Sanberg will hold ALL hearings telephonically, effective March 19, 2020.](#)
- [All meetings of creditors scheduled through April 10, 2020 are continued.](#)
- [Advisory for travelers to China, Italy, Iran or South Korea](#)

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March 17, 2020

[The in-person Bankruptcy Advice Clinics in the Twin Cities are temporarily suspended. A phone advice clinic is available by appointment only](#)

Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, the Bankruptcy Advice Clinic is temporarily suspended. As an alternative to the in-person clinic, VLN is offering free legal advice over the phone. To sign up for an appointment to speak with an attorney, please call the VLN Intake Line at 612-752-6677 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

March 16, 2020

[All judges except Judge Kathleen Sanberg will handle hearings, trials, continuances and requests for telephonic appearances on a case-by-case-basis. Judge Sanberg will hold ALL hearings telephonically, effective March 19, 2020.](#)

All judges except Judge Sanberg will handle hearings, trials, continuances and requests for telephonic appearances on a case-by-case basis. Until further notice, all of Judge Kathleen Sanberg's hearings will be held telephonically. Further information will be posted in the dockets in affected individual cases. Notification of defaults will continue as before.

March 16, 2020

[All meetings of creditors scheduled through April 10, 2020 are continued.](#)

Effective immediately, all in-person chapter 7, 12, and 13 section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10, 2020, are hereby continued until a later date to be determined. Absent special circumstances, section 341 meetings may not proceed during this period except through telephonic or other alternative means not requiring personal appearance by debtors. Appropriate notice will be provided to parties in accordance with bankruptcy law and rules.

Meetings already noticed as telephonic meetings may proceed as scheduled.

March 16, 2020

[Advisory for travelers to China, Italy, Iran or South Korea](#)

Please note that if you have traveled to China, Italy, Iran, or South Korea within the last 14 days, reside or have had close contact with someone who has traveled to one of the above areas within the last 14 days, have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital or health agency, or have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must inform the Court Security Officers upon entering any of the federal courthouses within the District of Minnesota and will be restricted from entering the building. If you are so affected and are an attorney scheduled to appear before the Bankruptcy Court or to represent your client at a meeting of creditors in the near future, you must notify the court or the United States Trustee's Office so appropriate safeguard measures can be

taken. In the case of hearings before the court, you may request the presiding judge's permission to appear by telephone.

This requirement also applies to your clients in connection with their attendance at meetings of creditors, hearings and trials, and to any witnesses in hearings or trials, and you are asked to advise those individuals accordingly.

These restrictions will remain in place until further notice.

March 11, 2020