

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA**

In re: Court Operations Under the Exigent)
Circumstances Created by COVID-19)
)

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
Effective March 20, 2020**

The President of the United States of America declared a national emergency in response to COVID-19. Similarly, the Governor of the State of North Dakota declared a state of emergency to coordinate North Dakota's strategy to protect North Dakotans from COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities urge all to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and to slow the spread of disease.

To protect public health, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. Pursuant to the Administrative Order entered by the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota, the United States Courthouses in Bismarck, Fargo, Minot and Grand Forks, North Dakota, are closed from March 23, 2020 through April 3, 2020, except for scheduled appointments.
2. The following persons, including but not limited to federal employees and contractors, shall not enter any United States Courthouse in the District of North Dakota:
 - a. Persons who have traveled to any of the following countries within the last 14 days: China, South Korea, Italy or Iran;
 - b. Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has traveled to one of the countries listed above within the last 14 days;
 - c. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor or other medical provider, hospital, or health agency if they remain within that time of self-quarantine;
 - d. Persons who have been diagnosed with, or who have had any contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 unless and until they have completed a quarantine period;
 - e. Persons with fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or are presently suffering from an elevated body temperature or chills.

Court Security Officers may question any courthouse visitor to determine whether they fall into any of these categories. Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer.

3. The Bankruptcy Clerk's Office will be staffed remotely. Employees shall telework, except to the extent necessary to receive and process mail. You may continue to electronically file documents through CM/ECF. Please consult the Bankruptcy Court's website at www.ndb.uscourts.gov for current information regarding available services.
4. All bankruptcy case and adversary proceeding deadlines remain as scheduled. Due to the fluid nature of the pandemic and the need for flexibility, counsel may request modification of these deadlines as necessary. From March 23, 2020, through April 3, 2020, all hearings will be conducted telephonically. All other trials and hearings remain as scheduled.
5. The Court will vacate, amend or extend this order no later than April 3, 2020.

Dated: March 20, 2020.

/s/ Shon Hastings
Shon Hastings, Chief Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court