

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

In re: Court Operations Under the Exigent )      **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
Circumstances Created by COVID-19      )      **Effective June 4, 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.

Consistent with these declarations and recommendations and 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 to the public from March 23, 2020, through May 31, 2020, except for scheduled appointments. The United States Courthouses will be open to the public with certain restrictions, effective June 1, 2020.
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 been asked to self-quarantine or self-isolate by any doctor or other medical provider, hospital or health agency if they remain within that time of self-quarantine or self-isolation;
  - B. 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 self-quarantine or self-isolation period;
  - C. Persons who suffer from symptoms of COVID-19. See <https://www.cdc.gov>.

Court Security Officers are authorized to question any person seeking to do business with the Court to determine whether he or she falls into any of these categories. Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry.

3. Beginning on June 1, 2020, the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office will be open to the public. Pursuant to the policy adopted by the Facilities Security Committee, all visitors, employees and contractors shall wear face masks or face coverings as described in CDC regulations when in any common spaces of the Quentin N. Burdick Federal Building in Fargo, North Dakota, the William L. Guy Federal Building in Bismarck, North Dakota, and other United States Courthouses in North Dakota. These individuals shall also maintain CDC suggested social distancing separation of six-foot intervals. The public is encouraged to wear their own personal protective equipment when accessing United States Courthouses. These protective measures will remain in place until further notice.
4. All bankruptcy case and adversary proceeding deadlines remain as scheduled. Litigants may assume that the hearings will take place in the courtroom designated unless the notice provides otherwise. Due to the fluid nature of the pandemic and the need for flexibility, counsel may request modification of these deadlines as necessary. They may also seek to appear by video or telephone if they have pandemic-related concerns.

Dated: June 4, 2020.

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