

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

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

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
Effective April 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.

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.
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 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;
  - 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 or self-isolation period;
  - e. Persons with fever, cough or shortness of breath, or who are presently suffering from an elevated body temperature or chills.

Court Security Officers may question any courthouse visitor 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 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. Interested parties may continue to electronically file documents through CM/ECF. Please consult the Bankruptcy Court's website at [www.ndb.uscourts.gov](http://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 May 31, 2020, all hearings will be conducted telephonically or by video conference. All other trials and hearings remain as scheduled.
5. The Court will vacate, amend or extend this order no later than May 31, 2020.

Dated: April 20, 2020.

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