

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

**FILED**  
MAR 29 2022  
DOUGLAS E. WEDGE  
CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA  
BY: 875 DEPUTY

IN RE: )  
)  
) General Order 22-02  
ORIGINAL SIGNATURE )  
REQUIREMENTS AND CARES ACT )  
EXPIRATION )

In March 2020, because of the developing issues with COVID-19, the Court entered two General Orders, General Order 20-7, “In re: Temporary Suspension of Original Signature Requirements in Response to COVID-19,” and General Order 20-9, “In re: Amendment to Interim Rule 1020.”

General Order 20-7 temporarily suspends requirements to obtain original signatures provided certain conditions are fulfilled. One basis for the temporary suspension is the Centers for Disease Control advising that individuals should engage in social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Although the CDC continues to recommend social distancing as one way to protect oneself and others from COVID-19, its guidance has also evolved to encourage additional steps like receiving the COVID-19 vaccines and wearing a mask.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the CDC currently tracks the community level of COVID-19 throughout most of the Western District of Oklahoma as low.<sup>2</sup> Because the circumstances that originally prompted the temporary suspension requiring original signatures have changed, the Court ends the temporary suspension effective April 15, 2022.

General Order 20-9 was entered in response to Congress passing and the President signing into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) on March 27, 2020. Section 1113 of that legislation makes several changes to the Bankruptcy Code, most of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> (updated February 25, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

them temporary, to provide financial assistance during the coronavirus crisis. One of these provisions modifies the definition of “debtor” for determining eligibility to proceed under subchapter V of chapter 11. To incorporate this amended definition of “debtor,” the Court entered General Order 20-9 to amend General Order 20-1, “Adoption of Interim Bankruptcy Rules Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019,” by modifying Interim Bankruptcy Rule 1020 to include references to “a debtor as defined in §1182(1) of the Code.” This provision was temporary, effective for one year after the effective date of the CARES Act. On March 27, 2021, the President signed an amended version of the CARES Act that extended the provisions of Section 1113 an additional year. The amended definition of “debtor” expired on March 27, 2022, as the provisions of Section 1113 were not renewed. As a result, General Order 20-9 is no longer necessary. The Interim Bankruptcy Rules as set forth in General Order 20-1 remain in effect as originally set forth on January 7, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED that General Order 20-7 and General Order 20-9 are SUPERSEDED by this order.

SO ORDERED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

  
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JANICE D. LOYD  
CHIEF U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE