

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
FEDERAL LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS

Miscellaneous Order No. 25-00000

**MISCELLANEOUS ORDER**

FILED  
OCT 01 2025 AM 09:02  
DOUGLAS E. WEDGE, CLERK  
U.S. BANKRUPTCY CLERK  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

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Before the Court is the matter of a lapse in appropriations currently impacting the Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office and the United States Trustee's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma (collectively, the "United States").

1. At midnight on September 30, 2025, funding for the Department of Justice expired and appropriations for the Department lapsed. Many other Executive agencies are also experiencing a lapse in appropriations.

2. Absent funding, Assistant U.S. Attorneys assigned to the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as attorneys representing the U.S. Trustee, may not lawfully provide uncompensated services on behalf of the Government.

An officer or employee of the United States Government ... may not accept voluntary services ... exceeding that authorized by law except for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property. ... [T]he term "emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property" does not include ongoing, regular functions of government the suspension of which would not imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property.

31 U.S.C. § 1342. As a result, on October 1, 2025, non-supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorneys assigned to the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, as well as attorneys representing the U.S. Trustee, funded by direct appropriations, will be in

furlough status. Furlough means the placing of an employee in a temporary status without duties because of lack of work or funds or other non-disciplinary reasons. 5 U.S.C. § 7511(a)(5). If the funding situation does not change, some Assistant U.S. Attorneys may be called back from furlough status, but only on a critical need basis to protect life or property. Some attorneys for the U.S. Trustee may also be called back from furlough status to continue in the oversight of the integrity and administration of bankruptcy cases.

3. The United States Attorney and U.S. Trustee have sought a stay of all bankruptcy cases within the Western District of Oklahoma wherein the United States or an agency, corporation, officer, or employee of the United States is a party until Congress restores appropriations to the Department of Justice. Further, the United States Attorney and the U.S. Trustee have requested that the Court extend all current deadlines commensurate with the duration of the lapse in appropriations.

4. Based on the number of cases involved, consulting all parties to all litigation in which the United States, or an agency, corporation, officer, or employee of the United States is a party, is impracticable. Likewise, requesting individual extensions of time or stays in cases, at a time when United States Attorney's Office and U.S. Trustee's Office personnel may not lawfully work, is impracticable.

5. To preserve the status quo until restoration of funding, all bankruptcy cases within the Western District of Oklahoma wherein the United States or an agency, corporation, officer, or employee, deemed or otherwise of the United States is a party are stayed. All deadlines, due dates, or cut-off dates are extended for a period of time commensurate with the duration of the lapse in appropriations.



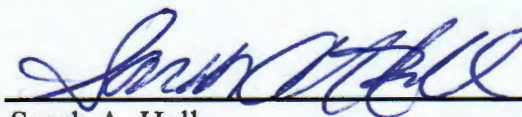
6. Bankruptcy hearings in which the United States or an agency or corporation of the United States is a party will be reset at a time after the lapse in appropriations.

7. This Order does not alter, vacate, or stay any obligation of individuals to pay amounts previously lawfully determined to be owed to the United States or to an agency or office of the United States.

8. This Order does not prohibit, in any manner, the ability of parties to file claims or commence actions against the United States. However, the cases or matters commenced while there is a lapse in appropriations will be immediately stayed, pending restoration of appropriations. All deadlines, response dates, due dates, or cut-off, dates in such cases will be extended for a period of time commensurate with the duration of the lapse in appropriations.

9. The United States Attorney shall notify the Court when Congress restores appropriations to the Department of Justice, and the Court shall enter additional instructions and guidance at that time.

**SO ORDERED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2025.



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Sarah A. Hall  
Chief Bankruptcy Judge