

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

In re:

**AMENDED THROUGH DATE**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #129 TEMPORARY AMENDMENT TO LBR 5005-4**  
**ALLOWING FOR THE USE OF DIGITAL SIGNATURES ON PAPERS FILED BY**  
**ATTORNEYS CONTINUED THROUGH **JULY 3, 2020****

Because of concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, the Court will follow Center for Disease Control's and other public health organization's guidance to maximize social distancing opportunities and reduce the risk of exposure to attorneys, their staff, and clients.

Our current Local Bankruptcy Rule (LBR) 5005-4 requires that attorneys obtain an original signature on petitions, pleadings, documents, or other papers. These papers are to be held by the attorney for one year after the closing of the case. Attorneys may then file documents in CM/ECF that are digitally signed in accordance with Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (FRBP) 5005.

Effective March 18, 2020 through **\*\*\*July 3, 2020\*\*\***, the Court amends LBR 5005-4(a)(3) to allow digital signatures on petitions, pleadings, documents, or other papers attorneys are required to maintain in accordance with LBR 5005-4 provided that the petitions, pleadings, documents, or other papers are not violative of FRBP 9011.

Attorneys must obtain the debtor's original signature within 60 days of filing the digitally signed paper and will maintain it in accordance with LBR 5005-4(a)(3).

SO ORDERED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

/s/ James P. Smith  
JAMES P. SMITH  
Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
Middle District of Georgia