

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ALBANY DIVISION**

In re:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #134 ON CANCELING IN-PERSON
PHYSICAL APPEARANCES FOR ALBANY HEARINGS
APRIL 14-15, 2020**

Due to the National, State and Local states of emergency relating to the COVID-19 virus and the Court's *Administrative Order #126 on Mandatory Telephonic Hearings During 2020 Pandemic*, as amended,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that no in-person physical hearings will be held in this Court for Albany, Georgia during the period April 14 through 15, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the hearings scheduled for that time will be handled as follows:

1. All hearings on April 14 and April 15, 2020, will occur solely by telephonic conference (hereinafter "T/C") at their regularly scheduled date and time as provided for below.
2. Prior to a hearing, a party may advise the Courtroom Deputy, Ms. Valerie Vaughn, that the matter has been continued by agreement of all parties involved, that the matter has been withdrawn, or that the matter has been resolved and that a consent order will be subsequently submitted. Those matters will be removed from the calendar and the parties excused from the T/C.
3. For the motion for relief from stay calendar, prior to the hearing, a party may advise Ms. Vaughn that the moving attorney has been advised by the debtor's attorney that there is no opposition to the granting of the motion, and that the trustee in the case has either advised that he or she does not oppose the relief or that the trustee has filed a "No Asset" report. Those matters will be removed and the parties excused.
4. For motions not addressed pursuant to subparagraphs 3 and 4, the hearing will proceed by T/C as hereinafter provided.
5. As for matters on the "Final Disposition Calendar," unless an order consistent with the parties' prior announcement to the Court is submitted prior to the

scheduled hearing, the parties will appear at the T/C at the regularly scheduled date and time and advise the Court of the status of the matter.

6. All motions to dismiss and Chapter 13 confirmation hearings will be heard by T/C at the regularly scheduled date and time unless all disputes in a particular matter are resolved prior thereto. If all disputes in a matter are resolved, the Court will receive announcements by the Chapter 13 trustee (or her attorney) at the T/C, and all other parties in that matter are excused.

7. For all disputed matters heard by T/C, on matters presented on stipulated facts and legal argument, the Court will enter decisions, either at the conclusion of the hearing or after taking the matter under advisement. However, matters involving disputed facts will be continued to a later date, to be set based on evolving COVID-19 related conditions.

8. **Because of the nature of scheduling T/C involving multiple parties, hearings will begin promptly at the scheduled time. Therefore, unlike as occurs at typical “mass” calendars, parties will not be able to wait until the time of the hearing to begin resolution negotiations. Accordingly, the Court strongly urges that all parties begin negotiations with opposing parties at the earliest possible time.**

9. Contacts with Courtroom Deputy Ms. Vaughn shall be by telephone to 478-749-6885 or by email to valerie_vaughn@gamb.uscourts.gov.

10. Teleconference call-in instructions:

Call-in number: 1-888-398-2342

Access code: 5569600

Security code: No security code required

11. Parties are instructed to call into the T/C at least five minutes prior to the scheduled hearing time, so as to allow time to resolve any connection issues.

It is SO ORDERED, this 6th day of April, 2020.

/s/ Austin E. Carter

Austin E. Carter, Judge

United States Bankruptcy Court

Middle District of Georgia