



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

NEW PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR DEBTORS FILING A PETITION WITHOUT ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2011

If you file a bankruptcy petition on or after August 1, 2011 with this court and you are not represented by an attorney, you must provide a current government issued photo identification when you bring in or mail your petition to the clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court or your petition will not be accepted for filing.

Below are the new requirements and information as to what is considered proper identification. (See also *Local Rule 1002-1(B)1(d)* and the "Clerk's Filing Instructions".)

1) Filing in person: Only the individual debtor or a person presenting a notarized power of attorney authorizing that person to file the petition on the debtor's behalf may bring a petition to the clerk's office. The debtors (and any person holding power of attorney authorizing that person to file on behalf of the debtor) must present photo identification. If the petition is for a husband and wife and only one spouse appears in person to file the petition, a legible copy of the absent spouse's identification card must be provided at the time the petition is filed.

2) Filing by mail: A photocopy of the debtor(s)' government issued identification must accompany the petition.

3) Required identification: When filing in person or by mail, identification presented must:

- contain a photograph
- be **government** issued such as a state driver's license, state or federal issued identification card, U.S. passport, federal, state or local U.S. government employee photo identification card
- be current
- be legible

4) Retention of identification photocopies by the clerk: The clerk will convert identification photocopies collected to pdf documents for retention under a restricted docket event which will be inaccessible to the public. Any paper copies submitted will be destroyed.