



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY RULES AND OFFICIAL BANKRUPTCY FORMS ADDRESSING PRIVACY AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION ISSUES SCHEDULED TO GO INTO EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2003.

Rule 1005: will be amended to require the debtor to list all names used in the six years preceding the filing of the petition, and to include on the caption appropriate numerical identifiers, but using only the last four digits of the social security number.

Rule 1007: will be amended to require the debtor to submit a verified statement of his or her full social security number. The statement is submitted, but it is not filed in the case and does not become a part of the court record. Therefore, the full social security number does not become a part of the electronic case record that would be available to the public either through internet access or by a search of the paper records at the court.

Rule 2002: will be amended to require the clerk to include the debtor's full social security number on the § 341 notice to creditors. The full number should be included only on the notices sent to the creditors and not on the copy of the notice that becomes part of the court record.

Official Form Petitions, Schedules, Statement of Financial Affairs, Proof of Claim Form and other Official and Administrative and Local Forms will be amended to require debtors and creditors to disclose only the last four digits of the debtor's or creditor's Social Security or other Taxpayer Identification number.

Schedules D, E and F instructions will be amended to inform the debtor that the debtor's account number with a listed creditor is useful to the trustee and to the creditor and should be provided whenever practicable, but not require the number to be provided.

Schedule I will be amended to provide greater privacy to minors and other dependents of the debtor by deleting the requirement that the debtor disclose their names.

Proof of Claim form will be amended to require a wage, salary, or other compensation creditor to disclose only the last four digits of the creditor's Social Security number to afford greater privacy to the creditor. A trustee can request the full information necessary for tax withholding and reporting at the time the trustee makes a distribution to creditors.

Pursuant to § 110(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, non-attorney bankruptcy petition preparers will continue to have to provide the full Social Security number of the individual who actually prepares the document.

Copies of the proposed amended rules and forms and information regarding adoption of the amendments are available on the Rule Making page of the Judiciary's website at www.uscourts.gov/rules under "Pending Rules Amendments Awaiting Final Action" and then "Amendments Submitted to the Judicial Conference".