

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

www.flsb.uscourts.gov

In re:

Administrative Order 2021-06

**Expanding the Bankruptcy Court to
Allow Fewer Restrictions for In-Person Hearings,
and Expanding the Clerk's Office Intake Hours
to Service the Public for In-Person Filings**

Based on the significant decline in the number of COVID-19 positivity rates and per capita COVID-19 case numbers in the Southern District of Florida, as well as the numerous health and safety precautions that have been adopted and implemented throughout the courthouses, the Judges of the Bankruptcy Court have determined that without jeopardizing the health, wellness and safety of the public and staff, they can safely reopen to the public for in-person hearings and filings. The Court will continue to monitor the latest safety protocols and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control to assure everyone's safety, while at the same time allowing necessary flexibility as changing circumstances warrant. All persons entering the Courthouse must comply with the requirements and protocols (e.g., mask, social distancing, temperature scan) in effect at the time of entry. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED as follows:

1. **EFFECTIVE Wednesday, July 7, 2021**, The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida [Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach divisions] will allow fewer restrictions to serve the public for in-person court hearings and in-person filings with the Clerk of Court.
2. The Court will begin allowing fewer restrictions for in-person attendance at designated court hearings at the discretion and preference of the assigned judge. The Court will also continue to provide remote access (by video conference or telephone) to hearings using Zoom Video Communications, Inc. or CourtSolutions. This Order does not affect any hearings that are presently scheduled. Unless renoticed, canceled, or continued by the Court, all scheduled hearings will be held and conducted as originally noticed.
3. **The Clerk's Office will further extend its hours of operation to service the public with a reduced work schedule between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday-Wednesday-Friday and will continue to remain closed on Tuesday and Thursday.**
4. If a person **not represented by counsel** needs to file a bankruptcy petition and accompanying documents ("petition"), or if a debtor or party in interest in a pending bankruptcy case or proceeding needs to file a document with the Clerk of Court ("the

Clerk”), and cannot do so in-person or by timely mailing the documents to the Clerk, they may transmit the documents in Portable Document Format (PDF) to the Clerk by electronic mail (“electronic transmission”) to the following emergency email address: **FLSB-EMERGENCY-FILINGS@flsb.uscourts.gov**. Documents that are electronically transmitted to the Clerk shall not be deemed to have been “FILED” until the filer receives an electronic reply by the Clerk confirming the filing and (if applicable) the case number. Documents electronically transmitted for filing after 4:00 p.m. will be stamped “FILED” the next business day.

- a. Each electronic transmission shall include a valid email address and telephone number for the filer. The Court will not read, consider, or respond to any text in the email itself.
- b. Only an individual debtor, a person with a power of attorney authorizing that person to file the petition on the debtor’s behalf, or a court-appointed guardian may file a petition with the clerk’s office. The debtor (and any person holding power of attorney authorizing that person to file on behalf of the debtor) must include a legible photocopy of a current government-issued photo identification along with the petition. The photo identification will remain inaccessible to the public. A person claiming authority through a power of attorney must also include a notarized copy of the power of attorney. A court-appointed guardian must also include a copy of the court order appointing the guardian.
- c. Any electronic transmission that requires a signature shall either be signed with the original handwritten signature of the filer with a copy of the signed document scanned and included in the electronic transmission to the Clerk, or electronically with “/s/” followed by the filer’s *full name*. The original petition or other original document containing the original signature in ink of the filer shall be mailed, within fourteen (14) days of electronic transmission, to the Clerk at one of the following addresses:
 - i. **Miami** - United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Florida, 301 North Miami Avenue, Ste. 150, Miami, FL 33128
 - ii. **Fort Lauderdale** - United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Florida, 299 East Broward Blvd., Ste. 112, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
 - iii. **West Palm Beach** - United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Florida, 1515 North Flagler Drive, 8th Floor, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
- d. For any electronic transmission requiring the payment of a fee, the fee shall be remitted to the Clerk within fourteen (14) days by mailing a certified check or a money order (**cash will not be accepted by mail**), in the exact amount payable to: **Clerk, U.S. Court**. The case number must be included on the certified check or money order. Fees may also be paid online by clicking a Pay.gov link contained in the “Clerk’s Confirmation” email to the filer.

- e. If any of the requirements of this Order are not met, the Court may take appropriate action without further notice, including, but not limited to, denying the relief requested and dismissing and closing any case initiated.
 - f. Parties without legal representation are directed to the Court's webpage at www.flsb.uscourts.gov for more information about filing without an attorney.
5. Self-represented parties who have questions regarding filing procedures in any division may contact by phone the Clerk's Office Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Miami: (305) 714-1800, Fort Lauderdale: (954) 769-5700, West Palm Beach: (561) 514-4100. Also, questions may be directed to the Clerk of Court by email to: Webmaster_FLSB@flsb.uscourts.gov. **Be advised that Clerk's Office staff cannot provide legal advice.**
6. This Order replaces and abrogates Administrative Order 2021-05.

ORDERED in the Southern District of Florida, this 28th day of June 2021.



Laurel Myerson Isicoff
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

- c. Honorable William H. Pryor, Jr., Chief Judge, Eleventh Circuit
All Southern District Bankruptcy Judges
Chief U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore
All Southern District Judges and Magistrate Judges
Joe Falzone, Clerk of Court – Bankruptcy
Angela Noble, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court
James Gerstenlauer, Circuit Executive, Eleventh Circuit
Juan Antonio Gonzalez, Acting United States Attorney
Gadyaces Serralta, United States Marshal
Michael Caruso, Federal Public Defender
Consuelo Irimia, Chief United States Probation Officer