



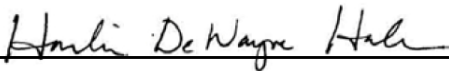
CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

ENTERED

THE DATE OF ENTRY IS ON
THE COURT'S DOCKET

The following constitutes the ruling of the court and has the force and effect therein described.

Signed June 14, 2021


United States Bankruptcy Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE:

CONTINUED COURT OPERATIONS
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

§
§
§
§

GENERAL ORDER
2021-06

This Order supersedes General Order 2020-14. As conditions during the COVID-19 Pandemic have continued to improve in the Northern District of Texas, effective July 1, 2021, and until ordered otherwise, hearings in the Dallas and Fort Worth Divisions will go forward in the manner set forth below:

1. Conduct of Hearings.

Hearings will be conducted either (a) remotely (by video and telephone via the Court's WebEx platform – see attached WebEx Connection Information providing applicable WebEx links and call-in numbers), (b) in-person (before the Court in the courtroom), or (c) in a hybrid mode (enabling participants to appear in-person or remotely), as set forth below. The below procedures are in all cases subject to the discretion of the presiding judge.

a. Remote Hearings. Due to continued travel restrictions and health concerns, the following types of hearings will be conducted by the Court remotely with no in-person attendance permitted: (i) all hearings in Complex Chapter 11 Cases; (ii) all “First-Day” hearings in all types of Chapter 11 cases; (iii) all hearings involving matters set on the Chapter 13 Trustees’ monthly contested Chapter 13 hearing dockets; (iv) all preliminary hearings on Motions to Lift the Stay; (v) all hearings on Motion to Extend or Impose the Stay; and (vi) all hearings set on an emergency basis; provided that upon timely request made to the Court, the Court may, in its discretion, authorize any of the foregoing types of hearings to be conducted in an in-person or hybrid mode instead of remotely if all affected parties have consented to the alternative mode (in which case all participants at the hearing must comply with all of the requirements applicable to the alternative mode so authorized).

b. In-Person Hearings. The following types of hearings will be conducted by the Court in-person with no remote attendance permitted: (i) all hearings and trials in adversary proceedings, and (ii) all final hearings on Motions to Lift the Stay; provided that upon timely request made to the Court, the Court may, in its discretion, authorize any of the foregoing types of hearings to be conducted remotely or in a hybrid mode instead of in-person if all affected parties have consented to the alternative mode (in which case all participants at the hearing must comply with all of the requirements applicable to the alternative mode so authorized).

c. Hybrid Hearings. All other types of hearings not identified in ¶ 1.a. and ¶ 1.b. above, will be conducted by the Court in a hybrid mode, where participants will be allowed to participate either remotely or in-person; provided that upon timely request made to the Court, the Court may, in its discretion, authorize any such hearing to be conducted remotely only or in an in-person only mode if all affected parties have consented to the alternative mode (in which case all

participants at the hearing must comply with all of the requirements applicable to the alternative mode so authorized).

The Court does not guarantee that computer connectivity or telephonic service will not be interrupted during the course of any hearing. If the hearing is being conducted in a hybrid mode, those who elect to participate remotely do so at their own risk, understanding that except in extremely rare circumstances the Court will not entertain a request for continuance of the hearing based upon technological failure or any disadvantage experienced on account of an election to attend remotely instead of in-person.

2. Exhibits and Demonstrative Aids.

For all hearings conducted remotely or in a hybrid mode, all exhibits must be filed on the docket of the case or adversary proceeding, as applicable, by no later than the date that they are required to be exchanged pursuant to the Court's Local Rules or any applicable scheduling order. To comply with such requirement, any party intending to introduce documentary evidence at the hearing must file an exhibit list in the case using the "notice" or "list (witness/exhibit/generic)" event in ECF, with a true and correct copy of each designated exhibit filed as a separate, individual attachment thereto, so that the Court and all participants have ready access to all designated exhibits. For voluminous exhibits, please consult the presiding judge's local exhibit requirements or contact the courtroom deputy, as it may be necessary for you to provide the Court with an exhibit notebook or electronic file in advance of the hearing. For any witness who is to be called to testify remotely, the party calling the witness is responsible for supplying the witness or counsel, as appropriate, with paper copies of all designated exhibits prior to the hearing. Demonstrative aids and Power Points should also be filed prior to the hearing, if possible.

Participants should contact the appropriate courtroom deputy for each judge if they have any questions regarding the format, exhibits, or any other requirements for hearings.

For all hearings in the Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, San Angelo, and Wichita Falls Divisions, please refer to the individual pages on our website for [Judge Jones](#) and [Judge Hale](#).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

###END OF ORDER###

WebEx Connection Information

WebEx Meeting Links:

Judge Harlin D. Hale	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/hale
Judge Stacey G. C. Jernigan	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/jerniga
Judge Mark X. Mullin	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/mullin
Judge Edward L. Morris	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/morris
Judge Michelle V. Larson	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/larson

WebEx Teleconference Information:

Judge Harlin D. Hale	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 476-420-189
Judge Stacey G. C. Jernigan	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 479-393-582
Judge Mark X. Mullin	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 474-603-746
Judge Edward L. Morris	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 473-581-124
Judge Michelle V. Larson	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 160-135-6015