



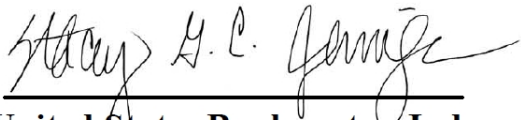
CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**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 October 1, 2025**

  
**United States Bankruptcy Judge**

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**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**Order Regarding Court Operations  
During a Lapse in Appropriations**

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**General Order 2025-05**

In the absence of appropriations or a continuing resolution funding the operation of the Federal Judiciary, the Judicial Conference has authorized continued operations critical to the performance of essential activities using fee balances and no-year appropriations, but these funds will soon be exhausted. At that time (referred to as “Phase 2”), the Federal Judiciary will operate under the terms of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341, *et seq.*, which only allows for excepted functions to be performed during a lapse in appropriations. These excepted functions include the continued exercise of the court’s constitutional and statutory authority to hear and resolve cases and proceedings, as well as matters that involve the protection of human life and property.

During Phase 2, the court will (i) continue to hear and resolve cases without interruption; (ii) timely process all filings, motions, orders, emergency applications, and other litigation documents; (iii) collect and deposit fees and costs; (iv) disburse registry funds pursuant to Court order; (v) accept new case petitions; (vi) maintain the court’s information technology (“IT”) systems, including the court’s systems network, CM/ECF system, courtroom technology, e-mail, internal and external websites, and IT security; and (vii) perform any other duty necessary and essential to support the excepted functions of the court.

During Phase 2, the court will suspend activities not authorized in this plan, including (i) hiring employees, including onboarding new interns; (ii) purchasing equipment, supplies, and contractual services;<sup>1</sup> (iii) entering into new contractual obligations; (iv) non-essential training; (v) non-case-related travel; (vi) supporting public and private non-adjudicative functions such as

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<sup>1</sup> Even if a contract is currently in place, any actions that would result in further expenses under the contract will be curtailed unless they are clearly in support of designated essential activities. Further, payment on any goods and services acquired during a lapse in appropriations will be delayed until funds become available.

bar organization meetings and functions, and moot courts; and (vii) attendance of judicial officers at public functions/appearances requiring security personnel.

Because all chambers and Clerk's Office staff currently perform functions that are excepted from the Anti-Deficiency Act as necessary to the exercise of the court's constitutional authority and the continued resolution of cases according to normal schedules and priorities, the court orders them to continue to work during any funding lapse, unless granted leave<sup>2</sup> or otherwise specifically instructed. Circumstances will be evaluated daily to ensure that only work on excepted activities is performed, and to the extent practical, when excepted activities are not being performed by an individual employee, that employee will be furloughed and then recalled when necessary to continue performing excepted activities. Employees in furlough status may not report to work.

Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1341(c)(2), all employees, whether excepted or in furlough status, shall be paid for the period of the lapse in appropriations at their standard rate of pay when funding is available.

This order will be effective once fee balances and no-year appropriation funds are exhausted and will remain in effect until there is an appropriation or continuing resolution funding the Federal Judiciary, or until amended or superseded by further order of this court.

###End of Order###

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1341(c)(3), excepted employees are entitled to take leave during any lapse in funding.