

**NOTICE REGARDING IN-PERSON HEARINGS IN THE KNOXVILLE DIVISION
BEFORE JUDGE BAUKNIGHT – TEMPORARY HYBRID HEARING PROTOCOL**

Since July 1, 2021, the Court has returned to pre-COVID-19 hearing protocol for telephonic appearances, permitting persons residing outside of the Northern (Knoxville) Division to attend non-evidentiary hearings telephonically as long as they filed a notice of their intention to so appear by at least 4:00 p.m. EST two business days before the hearing and permitting local counsel to appear telephonically only if they filed an ex parte motion to so appear no later than 12:00 p.m. EST two business days before the hearing and included a reason for such request.

In light of the increase in cases and hospitalizations from a surge in COVID-19, beginning on September 1, 2021, Judge Bauknight alters her hearing protocols as follows:

Unless extended, the Court will allow attorneys – both local and non-local – to appear telephonically at the motion docket hearings on **September 2, 15, 16, 29, and 30** provided they file a notice of their intention to so appear by at least 4:00 p.m. EST on the day before the hearing. Any attorney who cannot comply with this directive for a health-related reason or because of another emergency may notify Judge Bauknight’s courtroom deputy, Heather Connatser, of the necessity to attend telephonically by email at heather_connatser@tnb.uscourts.gov at any time before the beginning of the Court’s docket. The Court will utilize the AT&T call-in number listed below for its telephonic hearings in Chapters 7, 11, and 13 cases.

Pro se parties and/or any party who will provide testimony must appear in person utilizing the appropriate COVID-19 safeguards as directed by the United States District Court.

PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATING TELEPHONICALLY

Dial into the toll-free AT&T teleconferencing number: **(877) 336-1828**

Enter the access code: **4941759**

Approximately fifteen minutes before the 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. dockets, Judge Bauknight’s courtroom deputy, Heather Connatser, will open the telephone line, announce that Judge Bauknight’s docket will begin shortly, and direct all parties already on the line that phones should be muted until it is time for that person’s appearance on the docket.

After Ms. Connatser opens Court, Judge Bauknight will remind parties to leave their phones on mute until they are scheduled to appear on the docket, which are sorted by the debtors’ attorneys, and will advise parties that any recording of the proceeding through any medium is strictly prohibited.

PROTOCOLS FOR PARTICIPATING TELEPHONICALLY

1. ***Recordings Prohibited.*** Pursuant to E.D. Tenn. LBR 5073-1, recording any portion of the Court's proceedings is strictly prohibited. All proceedings are on the record and any party may request a transcript of a proceeding.

2. ***Courtroom Formalities and Application of Rules.*** Although the Court's proceedings are being conducted telephonically, all parties must observe the formalities of the courtroom, and the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the Rules of Civil Procedure continue to apply. Each participant in the telephonic hearings must conduct himself or herself with the proper decorum afforded any federal court proceeding.

3. ***Procedures When Matters Are Called.*** Because persons may attend hearings telephonically only if they have filed a notice by 4:00 p.m. EST on the day before each hearing, for each case including a telephonic participant, the Court will call the case, recognize the parties in the courtroom before recognizing the participant(s) on the telephone and asking that his or her phone be taken off mute only for the duration of that case. Please do not talk over one another.

Only *pro se* parties who have filed a notice of intention to appear telephonically will be allowed to do so. *Pro se* parties who appear will be sworn in; however, as is its general practice, the Court will not take evidentiary proof during its regularly scheduled motion docket. Any matter requiring such proof will be specifically set for evidentiary hearing by the Court for a later date (which may occur via video conferencing and will be subject to its own procedures that will be set forth in the scheduling order).