

**NOTICE:**  
**Telephonic Information Regarding Hearings on  
Objections to Confirmation of Modified or  
Amended Plans No Longer Required  
in Local Forms 3015.2 and 3015.4**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the court issued a New Notice Regarding Court Operations during COVID-19 Virus Outbreak, dated March 15, 2020, stating that all hearings noticed for the Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of Tennessee would be held telephonically unless arrangements were made otherwise with the chambers staff of the presiding judge. By notice issued May 19, 2021, the court rescinded the March 15, 2020 notice, and in-court hearings will resume in the Knoxville Division on June 1, 2021, and in all other divisions on July 12, 2021.

On April 1, 2020, in response to the cancellation of in-court hearings, the court also issued a notice that modified the requirements of Local Forms 3015.2 and 3015.4 (the “Forms”) to provide that the confirmation hearings on modified plans should include a notice that the hearings would be by telephone. With the resumption of in-court proceedings, the court hereby rescinds the requirement in the April 1, 2020 notice that added the following language to paragraph 4 of the Forms regarding the location of any hearing on an objection to confirmation:

*Pending notice of resumption of normal operations following the COVID-19 pandemic, the hearing on any objection will be held telephonically before [insert name of presiding judge], and information on how to participate is available in the Information for Participating in Hearing by Telephone located on the court’s website, <http://www.tneb.uscourts.gov/covid-19- notices>.*

**For any motion to modify or amend for which any objection is noticed for hearing on or after June 1, 2021, in the Knoxville division, or after July 12, 2021, in all other divisions, the hearing notice on the Forms should no longer contain the telephonic-hearing language and, instead, should comply with the local form as required by E.D. Tenn. LBR 3015-2(a)(1)(iii) and (b)(1).**

Concerning paragraph 2 of the Forms, the modifications required by the

standing chapter 13 trustees' March 23 and 26, 2020 notices, stating that all meetings of creditors would be conducted telephonically or by web-conferencing, will continue. The trustees have not changed their practice, and the provisions of the Forms concerning noticing of meetings with the chapter 13 trustee and continued meetings of creditors on any motions to modify plans or for preconfirmation amended plans must still include the following statement in paragraphs 2 of the Forms.

*The meeting will be conducted [insert telephonically or by web-conferencing, as the case may be], and information on how to participate is available in the Notice from [insert name of chapter 13 trustee] Regarding Meetings of Creditors During COVID-19 Virus Outbreak located on the court's website, <http://www.tneb.uscourts.gov/covid-19-notices>.*

Because the trustees are continuing to conduct meetings by telephone or video conference, lodging of an objection to confirmation of a plan with the chapter 13 trustee at the meeting of creditors in a particular case as permitted in E.D. Tenn. LBR 3015-3(a) or an objection to modify a confirmed plan as permitted in E.D. Tenn. LBR 3015-2(a)(5) may still be accomplished by voicing the objection on the record with the trustee before the conclusion of the meeting, provided that the objecting party:

- (i) files with the clerk of court a written objection by the end of the day; or
- (ii) if not represented by an attorney, mails a written objection with a postmark the day of the meeting.

Nothing in this notice prevents an objecting party from filing an objection before the scheduled time of the meeting of creditors as provided in E.D. Tenn. LBR 3015-3(a) and E.D. Tenn. LBR 3015- 2(a)(5).

Shelley D. Rucker  
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

May 20, 2021