

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

IN RE

**SIGNATURES REQUIRED
BY LOCAL RULE 5005-4(h)**

No. 2020-06

GENERAL ORDER

Given the public health crisis due to the COVID-19 virus, the court has determined to temporarily suspend the requirements in E.D. Tenn. LBR 5005-4(h)(2) and (3) that actual handwritten signatures be obtained before certain documents can be filed. Presently, paragraph (2) of subsection (h) requires actual handwritten signatures to appear on filed affidavits, declarations, verified documents, and reaffirmation agreements. Although paragraph (3) permits petitions, lists, schedules, statements, and other documents requiring a debtor's signature using "s/" followed by the debtor's typed name, the rule requires that the debtor must have actually signed a copy of the document. Until further order of the court, Registered Users may electronically file all the documents referenced in E.D. Tenn. LBR 5005-4(h)(2) and (3), including petitions, statements, schedules, affidavits, and reaffirmation agreements, using "s/" signatures provided that the Registered User has obtained either (i) the person's digital signature on such document via any commercially available digitally signed document; or (ii) express written permission via email or otherwise from the person to affix the person's signature to the document electronically filed with the court. The Registered User must retain the digital signature or express written permission and provide the same on request of the court.

ENTERED: March 20, 2020

/s/ Marcia Phillips Parsons
MARCIA PHILLIPS PARSONS
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

/s/ Shelley D. Rucker
SHELLEY D. RUCKER
United States Bankruptcy Judge

/s/ Suzanne H. Bauknight
SUZANNE H. BAUKNIGHT
United States Bankruptcy Judge

/s/ Nicholas W. Whittenburg
NICHOLAS W. WHITTENBURG
United States Bankruptcy Judge