## FILED 2020 MAR 20 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT - UT

## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

## FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENDING § 341-RELATED DEADLINES FOR § 341 MEETINGS IN CHAPTER 7 AND CHAPTER 11 CASES THAT HAVE BEEN CONTINUED DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

General Order No.: 20-003

In response to the threat to public health posed by the COVID-19 virus, the Office of the United States Trustee has continued meetings of creditors in chapter 7 and chapter 11 cases that were originally scheduled pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 341 ("§ 341 meetings") between and including the dates of March 16, 2020 and April 13, 2020 to a date after April 13, 2020. Please see the attached "Notice of Continuances of Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 Meetings of Creditors and Video Appearances in Chapter 13 Meetings of Creditors in the District of Utah in Response to the COVID-19 Virus" (the "Notice of § 341 Continuances").

Pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004, a complaint objecting to the debtor's discharge in a chapter 7 case must be filed no later than 60 days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341(a). The court may, for cause, extend the time to object to discharge on motion of any party in interest, after notice and a hearing.

Likewise, pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4007, a complaint filed under 11 U.S.C. § 523(c) against a debtor in a chapter 7 or 11 case must be filed no later than 60 days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341(a). The court may, for cause, extend the time to object to dischargeability on motion of any party in interest, after notice and a hearing.

11 U.S.C. § 102 defines "after notice and a hearing" to mean such notice as is appropriate in the particular circumstances, and such opportunity for a hearing as is appropriate in the particular circumstances. An act may be authorized without an actual hearing if such notice is given properly and if there is insufficient time for a hearing to be commenced before such act must be done. The Court finds that there is insufficient time for a hearing before this act must be taken. In addition, 11 U.S.C. § 105(a) authorizes the Court to issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title.

Upon request by the United States Trustee and after due consideration of the legal rights of the debtors and their creditors; the unavoidable delay in conducting § 341 meetings due to the situation brought on by the COVID-19 virus; and the administrative burden of requiring a motion, notice, and hearing in all such cases with continued § 341 meetings, the Court hereby ORDERS as follows:

- For all § 341 meetings in Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 cases continued pursuant to the Notice of § 341 Continuances or pursuant to any subsequent continuance occasioned by the COVID-19 virus, the deadlines established in Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004 and 4007 are extended so that the 60-day time limit in those rules begins to run on the date of the continued § 341 meeting as stated in the controlling Order Continuing § 341 Meeting of Creditors and notice of rescheduled § 341 meeting entered in each applicable case;
- The notice of the continued § 341 meeting that shall be mailed by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center with the deadlines adjusted as described in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be adequate notice of the extended deadlines.

No further motion, order, or notice is required pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(b) or 4007(c) to extend the deadlines described in this General Order.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2020.

BY THE COURT:

BY THE COURT

/s/ R. Kimball Mosier R. KIMBALL MOSIER, Chief Judge /s/ Joel T Marker Joel T. Marker, Judge

/s/ Kevin R. Anderson Kevin R. Anderson, Judge <u>/s/ William T. Thurman</u> William T. Thurman, Judge

[END OF ORDER]

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the United States Trustee

District of Utah

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## NOTICE OF CONTINUANCES OF CHAPTER 7 AND CHAPTER 11 MEETINGS OF CREDITORS AND VIDEO APPEARANCES IN CHAPTER 13 MEETINGS OF CREDITORS IN THE DISTRICT OF UTAH IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

The Bankruptcy Court has entered General Order 20-002 to assist in the effort to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The General Order states that all hearings scheduled in the Court through April 13, 2020, shall be conducted by telephone, unless otherwise ordered by the hearing judge. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Governor of the State of Utah has recommended that public gatherings be limited.

Consistent with General Order 20-002 and pursuant to direction from the Acting United States Trustee for Region 19, all Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 meetings of creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341 scheduled to occur on March 16, 2020, through and including April 13, 2020, shall be continued to a date after April 13, 2020. Trustees assigned to specific cases will advise debtors' counsel and debtors without attorneys of the continued dates of these meetings. In cases where written notice of the continuance could not be served prior to the scheduled meetings of creditors, the dates and times of the continued meetings of creditors will be announced at the originally scheduled meetings of creditors. Debtors, counsel, creditors, and parties in interest should not appear at the originally scheduled meetings of creditors and no examinations of debtors will occur. Debtors and other parties in interest should contact the trustee assigned to particular cases if they have any questions about the dates and times of the continued meetings of creditors.

All Chapter 13 meetings of creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341 scheduled to occur on March 16, 2020, through and including April 13, 2020, will be conducted by video. Debtors, counsel, creditors, and parties in interest should not appear in person. Additional information is available at <u>http://www.ch13ut.org</u>.

Date: March 13, 2020

ACTING UNITED STATES TRUSTEE Patrick S. Layng

By: <u>s// David W. Newman</u> David W. Newman Assistant United States Trustee Salt Lake City, Utah

