

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Northern District of Ohio  
Eastern Division - Akron Court Location Only**

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF  
COVID EMERGENCY HEARING PROCEDURES FOR JUDGE ALAN M. KOSCHIK**

On March 23, 2020, the undersigned Judge issued his Notice of Telephonic Hearing Procedures (the “COVID Telephonic Hearing Notice”) to address the public health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the declarations of public health emergencies by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Ohio. The mandatory telephonic hearing procedures became effective on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Fifteen months later, on June 15, 2021, the undersigned issued his Notice of Resumed In-Person Hearing Procedures with permissive option for telephonic appearance (the “Limited In-Person Hearing Procedures Notice”). Attorneys, their clients, and the general public were permitted to attend hearings in person, subject to a variety of health restrictions and precautions, provided they first contacted my Courtroom Deputy no later than 3:00 p.m. on the court day prior to the hearing to report their intention to appear in person.

On June 18, 2021, Michael DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, issued his Executive Order 2021-08D ending the State of Ohio’s COVID-19 state of emergency. More recently, President Biden and Congress terminated the national COVID-19 emergency declaration. The national declaration was terminated effective April 10, 2023, pursuant to President Biden’s approval of House Joint Resolution 7, which provides that “the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on March 13, 2020, in Proclamation 9994 ... is hereby terminated.”

**Therefore, the undersigned Judge vacates his two previous COVID related hearing procedure notices, the COVID Telephonic Hearing Notice and the Limited In-Person Hearing Procedures Notice, effective Monday, May 1, 2023. It is the Court's intention to resume the hearing protocol that existed in this Court prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

All trials and hearings must be conducted in open court and, so far as convenient, in a regular court room. Fed.R.Bankr.P. 5001(b). With the expiration of the President's 2020 emergency declaration, it is appropriate for in-person hearings to be the rule rather than the exception unless and until circumstances change.

To the extent they are necessary, telephonic appearances by counsel or parties will be permitted. **However, telephonic appearance is no longer presumed.** As was the practice in this Court prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, attorneys, parties, and party representatives who wish to appear telephonically at court hearings in the Akron Bankruptcy Court must contact my Courtroom Deputy, Mary Knotts, at (330) 252-6134, no later than 3:00 p.m. on the court day immediately prior to the hearing in question and request permission to do so.

Presentation of evidence, including live witness testimony, must be presented in person absent further order of the Court after motion and notice and opportunity for a hearing, and only if permitted by applicable statute or rule.

These procedures shall be effective on and after May 1, 2023.

Dated: April 21, 2023

Alan M. Koschik  
United States Bankruptcy Judge