

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

**PROTOCOL FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT
PROCEEDINGS DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**


In response to the pandemic spread of COVID-19 disease and the SARS-CoV-2 virus and orders from the State of Ohio Department of Health, the Bankruptcy Court has been conducting proceedings remotely by telephone and video conference. The court is mindful of the need for public access to its proceedings, however, Judicial Conference policy also generally prohibits the broadcasting of proceedings in federal trial courts, JCUS-SEP 94, pp. 46-47, Guide to Judiciary, Vol;. 10, Ch 4.

In order to protect public health and safety during the coronavirus emergency, the public will be permitted to access, to the fullest extent possible considering technological restraints, public telephonic and video proceedings. The Court adopts the following protocol for access:

1. **Docket Entries – Video/Teleconference.** If a judge intends to conduct a public proceeding by telephone or video conference, that fact should be indicated on the docket.
2. **No Remote Access to Video.** Members of the public (including media, family members, and the general public) may attend public remote hearings only by telephone and not by video conference. They may, however, attend video conference proceedings by telephone or other audio connection.
3. **Requests for Remote Access.** If members of the public (including media, family members and the general public) request remote access to public telephone or video conference proceedings, such requests should be made at least 24 hours in advance of the proceeding by contacting either the courtroom deputy or chambers staff. Same day requests or requests made with less than a 24-hour notice may not be honored.
4. **Bridge Access Telephone Number.** The Court will provide notice containing the date and time of the public proceeding, the bridge line telephone number or other means of telephone access and a reminder of prohibition on broadcast or recording. This notice will be provided in writing and/or verbally.

The Bankruptcy Court may modify this protocol as necessary and appropriate to protect the public health and safety while maintaining a reasonable degree of public access to its proceedings.

Dated: May 21, 2020



Mary Ann Whipple
Chief Judge