

**NOTICE FROM THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE
REGARDING THE RESCHEDULING OF SECTION 341 MEETINGS
IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK (ALL DIVISIONS)**

On March 12, 2020, the United States District Court for the Western District of New York (WDNY) entered a Revised Standing Order setting restrictions on visitors to courthouses (the “Standing Order”) based on the Centers for Disease Control having advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. The Standing Order necessarily affects debtors who have filed bankruptcy cases in the District. The Standing Order further provides that these restrictions shall remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove them.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that consistent with the Standing Order and in accordance with direction from the United States Trustee, the trustees will accommodate all reasonable requests for continuances of the section 341 meetings by any debtor who falls into one of the following “heightened risk” categories: (i) debtors who exhibit symptoms of a flu-like illness or have been asked to self-quarantine by a healthcare professional; (ii) debtors who have been diagnosed or exposed to a person with COVID-19; (iii) debtors within a higher risk group for COVID-19 complications per CDC guidelines; and (iv) debtors who have recently traveled, or have been in contact with someone who has traveled, to a location outside of the United States identified in the Standing Order or by the CDC as being an area with widespread or on-going community spread of COVID-19. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> , provided the debtor complies with the procedures specified herein.

PLEASE BE FURTHER ADVISED that pursuant to this Notice chapter 7 and chapter 13 trustees have implemented the following procedures regarding the conduct or continuance of section 341 meetings of creditors in bankruptcy cases that are pending in the Western District of New York, in order to provide reasonable accommodations to debtors who fall into one or more of the above heightened risk categories

Procedures for Section 341 Meetings

1. Debtors should submit timely requests for a continuance to the trustees who are appointed to administer their cases, in accordance with United States Trustee procedures;
2. Debtors must provide the required notice of the rescheduling to the court and creditors, and stipulate to the extension of related deadlines, in accordance with United States Trustee procedures that apply to rescheduling for reasons unrelated to COVID-19;
3. If other alternatives are necessary or appropriate, debtors are advised to contact the trustees who are appointed to administer their cases and the trustees in consultation with the United States Trustee will work with parties to make alternate arrangements; and

4. The United States Trustee will continue to monitor developments and the status of the Standing Order, and these procedures shall remain in effect until further notice by the United States Trustee.