

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

In re:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #126 ON MANDATORY TELEPHONIC HEARINGS  
DURING 2020 PANDEMIC**

Because of deep concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, the Court will follow Center for Disease Control's and other public health organization's guidance to maximize social distancing opportunities. Due to this concern and the concern for the health and welfare of the public, the bar, and court employees, the Court believes it prudent to take the extra-ordinary measure of requiring that all hearings in the Middle District of Georgia be conducted telephonically and that no in-person hearings be held in any bankruptcy court facility in the Middle District of Georgia during the time period stated below.

**Therefore, effective**

**MARCH 18, 2020 THROUGH APRIL 15, 2020,**

**all hearings noticed for the bankruptcy court in the Middle District of  
Georgia will be held telephonically.**

**This applies to all divisions and all court locations.**

In-person appearances at the courthouse by parties or their counsel are prohibited, absent extraordinary circumstances.

Any request for an evidentiary hearing or proceeding shall be made during the telephonic hearing and the Court will make a determination.

**CALL-IN INSTRUCTIONS AND PROTOCOL:** The hearings will be held via AT&T call-in numbers. The call-in number and passcode for hearings held in this District are listed below for each Judge.

Judge	Call in Number	Access Code	Security Code
Judge Smith	1-877-336-1839	7930011	None
Judge Carter	1-888-398-2342	5569600	None
Judge Laney	1-888-684-8852	8196200	None


In re: Administrative Order #126 on Mandatory Telephonic Hearings

If, during the telephonic hearing, a party or attorney is disconnected, they should simply hang up and call back into the telephonic hearing using the same call-in number and access code.

All counsel and parties are hereby directed (1) that all participants shall mute their phone when it is not their case, (2) that no participant shall use a "speaker" function, and (3) that no participant shall place the call on hold while participating in the telephonic hearing (in order to avoid hold music or other noises playing on the call). Attorneys may contact the Courtroom Deputy if they have additional questions.

The Court reminds all parties that pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (FRBP) 9014(c), FRBP 7055 applies to contested matters. Accordingly, if the respondent does not attend a telephonic hearing, the Court may presume that the motion is not opposed and grant relief if the movant is so entitled under the law.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2020.

  
JAMES P. SMITH, Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
Middle District of Georgia