

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

**NOTICE OF RESUMED IN-PERSON HEARING PROCEDURES, WITH PERMISSIVE  
OPTION FOR TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE, FOR JUDGE ALAN M. KOSCHIK**

Almost 15 months ago, 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 pandemic spread of the COVID-19 disease and the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the national and state declarations of public health emergencies by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Ohio, and guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”) and state and local health officials (the “COVID-19 Emergency”). The mandatory telephonic hearing procedures became effective on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

**Effective June 16, 2021**, and until further notice, Judge Alan M. Koschik will permit attorneys, their clients, and the general public to attend and participate in person at court hearings held before the Bankruptcy Court at Akron. The Court will also permit continued telephonic appearances, as set forth in this Notice.

On June 7, 2021, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio entered its General order No. 2020-08-8, reopening the District’s courthouses and resuming in-person operations of that Court on a limited basis as part of a multi-phase approach based on the CDC’s recently issued COVID-19 guidance and updated guidance from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. On June 14, 2021, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio entered its General Order No. 21-02 resuming this Court’s in-person operations on a similar basis.

As a result of these developments, Judge Alan M. Koschik will reopen his courtroom to in-person hearings on a limited basis beginning June 16, 2021. This Notice vacates the portion of Judge Koschik's March 23, 2020 Notice that made telephonic appearances mandatory. Notwithstanding this Notice, pretrial conferences will continue to be held telephonically unless the Court directs otherwise in a particular case or adversary proceeding.

Consistent with the District Court's General Order No. 2020-08-8 and the Bankruptcy Court's General Order No. 21-02, the following rules will apply with respect to bankruptcy hearings taking place at the John F. Seiberling Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, Courtroom 260, located at 2 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio:

1. Health screening (temperature checking and COVID-19 screening questions) may take place for admittance to the Courthouse. Individuals will be denied entrance if they have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher or respond affirmatively to any COVID-19 screening question. Visitors denied entrance should make arrangements to participate in or listen to the Court hearing by telephone.
2. The use of face masks is required for all individuals in the public spaces of the Courthouse, from the front door, up the elevators, and down the hallways to the entrance of Courtroom 260. The face mask must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth at all times.
3. Physical distancing will be enforced in public and common areas.
4. The Court will restrict the number of persons present at any time in Courtroom 260 to 25, in addition to the judge and the court staff, in order to comply with the physical distancing requirement of six feet in all instances recommended by the CDC. Any person, including attorneys, parties, party representatives, and members of the general public must contact my Courtroom Deputy, Mary Knotts,

at (330) 252-6134 no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to the hearing in question and report their intent to appear in person in order to be allowed to do so. In the event the maximum capacity for Courtroom 260 is exceeded, admission preference will be given to counsel, parties, and party representatives who will be actively participating in matters set for hearing.

5. Participants in a bankruptcy court hearing (whether attorney, party, or party representative) who are fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 will be permitted to remove his/her mask at all times during the hearing, whether they are speaking or otherwise participating, as well as while they are observing other hearings on the same docket call from the spectators' gallery. Other persons who are merely observing or auditing the proceedings, including members of the general public, must remain masked at all times. If an individual is uncertain about whether it is permissible to remove a mask, a question should be directed to the presiding judge or court staff. In deciding whether it is permissible for an individual to remove his/her mask in a courtroom, the presiding judge may inquire about the individual's vaccination status. The inquiry may be made under oath at the discretion of the presiding judge.
6. Attorneys and their clients may sit together less than six feet apart in Courtroom 260, whether at the counsel table or in the spectators' gallery, if they wish.
7. Members of the same family may also sit together less than six feet apart in Courtroom 260, if they wish.
8. All counsel and parties, including *pro se* parties, are welcome to participate at the hearing telephonically under the same rules set forth in the March 23, 2020 COVID Telephonic Hearing Notice, which have applied during the last 15 months

of the COVID-19 pandemic. The AT&T phone bridge the Court has used since the beginning of the COVID-19 Emergency will continue to be available and will be used for all telephonic hearings unless alternative means for conducting telephonic hearings is designated in a particular case. The AT&T phone bridge call-in information is as follows: Telephone: (866) 434-5269; Access Code: 2469740#. The rules regarding muting and unmuting the telephone contained in the COVID Telephonic Hearing Notice will continue in force.

Attorneys, parties, and the public are advised that Main Street (King James Way) from Market Street to Mill Street is closed to vehicular traffic in both directions until further notice because of ongoing construction. This makes navigating the area around the Courthouse difficult and may delay your entry into the building.

The recommended parking lot to use during this time can be found next door to the Courthouse (at 2 South Dart Avenue). This lot currently requires you to place exact change into the metal box at the back of the parking lot, as there is no attendant on duty. Currently the rate is \$6.00/day. However, please note that sidewalks in front of the Courthouse are closed for the foreseeable future, except for a walkway from the corner of Main and Market Streets to the entry to the Courthouse Plaza. It is therefore recommended that you park in the surface lot and proceed to walk around the back of the Courthouse as indicated on the map attached. Please follow the arrows to reach the front entrance of the Courthouse.

June 15, 2021

Alan M. Koschik  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Recommended Parking and Walkway During Construction

