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**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

In the matter of:

DEBTOR(S)' SIGNATURES ON
ELECTRONIC FILINGS

GENERAL ORDER 20-5

This General Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) and the well-documented concerns surrounding this virus. The President of the United States has declared a public health emergency in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the Governor of the State of Arizona has declared a public health emergency throughout the state. In order to protect public health through the aim of reducing the size of public gatherings, as well as balance the fair administration of justice, good cause exists to temporarily suspend, on the conditions set below, the requirement of a “signature” as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 1746, including in regard to the documents specified in Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1008, and to the extent implemented in Local Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 5005-4(d).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

A document required to be signed by the debtor under penalty of perjury (“Verified Document”) may be filed electronically by the debtor’s attorney if the attorney either:

- a. Complies with Local Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 5005-4(d); or
- b. Files the Verified Document electronically without possessing the original signature on satisfaction of the following conditions:
 - i. Before filing, the debtor’s attorney:

1. Transmitted the entire Verified Document to the debtor for review and signature;
2. Communicated with the debtor regarding the substance and purpose of the Verified Document;
3. Received the entire Verified Document including the signature page from the debtor electronically (by email, text or digital signature software) or by facsimile machine, which the attorney continues to maintain; and
4. Received express authorization from the debtor to file the Verified Document.

ii. For purposes of paragraph b. of this General Order:

1. The Verified Document must contain the debtor's signature in image format when filed electronically by the debtor's attorney.
2. The filing of a Verified Document will constitute a representation and certification that the debtor's attorney has complied with the conditions of this General Order.

This General Order does not waive, suspend, limit or alter any other ECF procedures requirements, or any Local Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure, Bankruptcy Code section, or Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this General Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

Dated this 30th day of March, 2020.

FOR THE COURT:



Honorable Brenda Moody Whinery, Chief Judge