

NOTICE REGARDING CONDUCT OF HEARINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DANIEL S. OPPERMAN
EFFECTIVE MAY 2, 2022

The following procedures shall apply to hearings before Judge Daniel S. Opperman beginning May 2, 2022:

Unless otherwise specified in a court order, notice of hearing, or docket entry, all trials, evidentiary hearings, and other contested hearings will be conducted in person. Status conferences, orders to show cause hearings, and reaffirmation agreement hearings are not considered to be contested hearings. Telephonic appearances for matters scheduled for motion days, pretrial conferences, and Chapter 13 calls will be permitted for individuals who are (or have recently been) ill, those who are required to quarantine due to recent Covid-19 exposure, those who have other Covid-19 related concerns,¹ and those who have other valid reasons which make them unable to attend the hearing in person. Each individual is responsible for determining whether they meet these criteria; at this time, the court will not pre-approve remote appearances but will closely monitor how parties choose to appear. This policy is subject to change as public health circumstances continue to change or if abuses or other logistical difficulties arise, in which case the court may impose a more stringent “for cause” requirement. As a courtesy, please advise the Court and opposing counsel and/or parties if you are planning to appear remotely for a scheduled hearing.

Date: April 12, 2022

Daniel S. Opperman
Unites States Bankruptcy Judge

¹ Some **non-exclusive** Covid-19 related concerns that might justify appearing by telephone are: (1) your employer does not allow you to appear in the courtroom, (2) you are encountering logistical difficulties, such as child-care issues, due to the pandemic, (3) you are attempting to minimize potential exposure to a loved one that might occur if you were to personally appear, (4) you are otherwise experiencing physical or emotional issues, including anxiety, that would affect your ability to personally appear, or (5) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has designated Bay County as having a “substantial” or “high” level of community transmission.