



Greetings Bankruptcy Practitioners,

By now I am sure you have heard that the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office in KCK is closed for two weeks because one of the staff has been exposed to an individual who is confirmed to have COVID-19. He attended a 341 meeting in the courthouse before he knew he had been exposed and before he had any symptoms.

The KCK clerk's office staff are all teleworking and still processing filings and still working cases. They remain available by phone and email. Most court proceedings will be handled by phone. If any in-person hearing is necessary, it will be conducted in Topeka. Please try and work on matters sooner than you normally would to determine if it is resolved or should be continued. This will be of great help to the clerks and the court.

The Topeka and Wichita offices will be doing business as usual for now. We are constantly reviewing the situation to ensure everyone's (that includes you and your clients) safety.

One change you will observe if you come to a courthouse is the Court Security Officers will be inquiring of you and any other members of the public if you have traveled to specific countries or regions of the United States (Washington State and New Rochelle, NY) or if there has been contact with someone who has traveled there, etc. If a yes answer is given, the individual won't be allowed in the courthouse and they will be given written instructions on how to contact the appropriate agency or court.

We are trying to keep everyone safe while at the same time ensuring that the Court stays open. The situation is fluid and we will try and keep you advised of developments. The court's webpage is a good place to check for updates: <https://www.ksb.uscourts.gov/COVID-19-updates>.

We appreciate your patience and understanding. Stay Tuned.

Dale L. Somers

Chief Bankruptcy Judge

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