

**SUMMARY OF THE**  
**REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE**

The Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure recommends that the Judicial Conference:

1. Approve the proposed amendments to Appellate Rules 3 and 6, and Forms 1 and 2 as set forth in Appendix A, and transmit them to the Supreme Court for consideration with a recommendation that they be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress in accordance with the law..... pp. 2-4
  
2. Approve the proposed amendments to Bankruptcy Rules 2005, 3007, 7007.1, and 9036 as set forth in Appendix B, and transmit them to the Supreme Court for consideration with a recommendation that they be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress in accordance with the law..... pp. 5-8

The remainder of the report is submitted for the record and includes the following for the information of the Judicial Conference:

- Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure ..... pp. 4-5
- Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure ..... pp. 8-15
- Federal Rules of Civil Procedure..... pp. 15-18
- Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure..... pp. 18-20
- Federal Rules of Evidence ..... pp. 20-21
- Other Items ..... pp. 21-22

<p><b>NOTICE</b> <b>NO RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED HEREIN REPRESENT THE POLICY OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE</b> <b>UNLESS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.</b></p>
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**REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**

**COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE**

**TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF THE  
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES:**

The Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Standing Committee or Committee) met by videoconference on June 23, 2020, due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. All members participated.

Representing the advisory committees were Judge Michael A. Chagares, Chair, and Professor Edward Hartnett, Reporter, Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules; Judge Dennis Dow, Chair, Professor S. Elizabeth Gibson, Reporter, and Professor Laura B. Bartell, Associate Reporter, Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules; Judge John D. Bates, Chair, Professor Edward H. Cooper, Reporter, and Professor Richard Marcus, Associate Reporter, Advisory Committee on Civil Rules; Judge Raymond M. Kethledge, Chair, Professor Sara Sun Beale, Reporter, and Professor Nancy J. King, Associate Reporter, Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules; Judge Debra Ann Livingston, Chair, and Professor Daniel J. Capra, Reporter, Advisory Committee on Evidence Rules.

Also participating in the meeting were Professor Catherine T. Struve, the Standing Committee's Reporter; Professor Daniel R. Coquillette, Professor Bryan A. Garner, and Professor Joseph Kimble, consultants to the Standing Committee; Rebecca A. Womeldorf, the Standing Committee's Secretary; Bridget Healy, Scott Myers, and Julie Wilson, Rules Committee Staff Counsel; Allison Bruff, Law Clerk to the Standing Committee; and John S.

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Cooke, Director, and Dr. Tim Reagan, Senior Research Associate, of the Federal Judicial Center (FJC).

Elizabeth J. Shapiro, Deputy Director, Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division, and Andrew Goldsmith, National Coordinator of Criminal Discovery Initiatives, represented the Department of Justice (DOJ) on behalf of Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen.

In addition to its general business, including a review of the status of pending rules amendments in different stages of the Rules Enabling Act process and pending legislation affecting the rules, the Committee received and responded to reports from the five rules advisory committees and two joint subcommittees. The Committee also discussed the Rules Committees' work on developing rules for emergencies as directed by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281. Additionally, the Committee discussed an action item regarding judiciary strategic planning and was briefed on pending legislation that would affect the rules and the judiciary's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE**

### ***Rules and Forms Recommended for Approval and Transmission***

The Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules submitted proposed amendments to Rules 3 and 6, and Forms 1 and 2, with a recommendation that they be approved and transmitted to the Judicial Conference. The amendments were published for public comment in August 2019.

Rule 3 (Appeal as of Right—How Taken), Rule 6 (Appeal in a Bankruptcy Case), Form 1 (Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Judgment or Order of a District Court), and Form 2 (Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Decision of the United States Tax Court)

The proposed amendment to Rule 3 revises the requirements for a notice of appeal. Some courts of appeals, using an *expressio unius* rationale, have treated a notice of appeal from a final judgment that mentions one interlocutory order but not others as limiting the appeal to that

order, rather than reaching all of the interlocutory orders that merge into the judgment. In order to reduce the loss of appellate rights that can result from such a holding, and to provide other clarifying changes, the proposed amendment changes the language in Rule 3(c)(1)(B) to require the notice of appeal to “designate the judgment—or the appealable order—from which the appeal is taken.” The proposed amendment further provides that “[t]he notice of appeal encompasses all orders that, for purposes of appeal, merge into the designated judgment or appealable order. It is not necessary to designate those orders in the notice of appeal.” The proposal also accounts for situations in which a case is decided by a series of orders over time and for situations in which the notice is filed after entry of judgment but designates only an order that merged into the judgment. Finally, the proposed amendment explains how an appellant may limit the scope of a notice of appeal if it chooses to do so. The proposed amendments to Forms 1 and 2 reflect the proposed changes to Rule 3. The proposed amendment to Rule 6 is a conforming amendment.

The comments received regarding Rule 3 were split, with five comments supporting the proposal (with some suggestions for change) and two comments criticizing the proposal. No comments were filed regarding the proposed amendments to Rule 6, and the only comments regarding Forms 1 and 2 were style suggestions. Most issues raised in the comments had been considered by the Advisory Committee during its previous deliberations. The Advisory Committee added language in proposed Rule 3(c)(7) to address instances where a notice of appeal filed after entry of judgment designates only a prior order merged into the judgment and added a corresponding explanation to the committee note. The Advisory Committee also expanded the committee note to clarify two issues and made minor stylistic changes to Rule 3 and Forms 1 and 2.

The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed amendments to Rules 3 and 6, and Forms 1 and 2, be approved and transmitted to the Judicial Conference.

**Recommendation:** That the Judicial Conference approve the proposed amendments to Appellate Rules 3 and 6, and Forms 1 and 2 as set forth in Appendix A, and transmit them to the Supreme Court for consideration with a recommendation that they be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress in accordance with the law.

### ***Rule Approved for Publication and Comment***

The Advisory Committee submitted a proposed amendment to Rule 25 (Filing and Service), with a request that it be published for public comment in August 2020. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee's request.

The proposed amendment to Rule 25(a)(5) responds to a suggestion regarding privacy concerns for cases under the Railroad Retirement Act. The proposed amendment would extend the privacy protections afforded in Social Security benefit cases to Railroad Retirement Act benefit cases. The Advisory Committee will identify specific stakeholder groups and seek their comments on the proposed rule amendment.

### ***Information Items***

The Advisory Committee met by videoconference on April 3, 2020. Agenda items included continued consideration of potential amendments to Rules 35 (En Banc Determination) and 40 (Petition for Panel Rehearing) in an effort to harmonize the rules. The Advisory Committee decided not to pursue rulemaking to address appellate decisions based on unbriefed grounds. It tabled a suggestion to amend Rule 43 (Substitution of Parties) to require the use of titles rather than names in cases seeking relief against officers in their official capacities, pending inquiry into the practice of circuit clerks. The Advisory Committee also decided to establish two new subcommittees to consider suggestions to regularize the standards and procedures governing

in forma pauperis status and to amend Rule 4(a)(2), the rule that addresses the filing of a notice of appeal before entry of judgment, to more broadly allow the relation forward of notices of appeal.

The Advisory Committee will reconsider a potential amendment to Rule 42 (Voluntary Dismissal) following discussion and comments at the June 23, 2020 Standing Committee meeting. The proposed amendment to Rule 42 was published in August 2019. As published, the proposed amendment would have required the circuit clerk to dismiss an appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any court fees that are due. (The amendment would accomplish this by replacing the word “may” in the current rule with “must.”) The proposed amendment would have also added a new paragraph (a)(3) providing that a court order is required for any relief beyond the dismissal of an appeal, and a new subdivision (c) providing that Rule 42 does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration. At the Standing Committee meeting, a question was raised concerning the proposed amendment’s effect on local circuit rules that impose additional requirements before an appeal can be dismissed. The Advisory Committee will continue to study Rule 42, with a particular focus on the question concerning local rules.

## **FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE**

### ***Rules Recommended for Approval and Transmission***

The Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules submitted proposed amendments to Rules 2005, 3007, 7007.1, and 9036. The amendments were published for public comment in August 2019.

#### **Rule 2005 (Apprehension and Removal of Debtor to Compel Attendance for Examination)**

The proposed amendment to Rule 2005(c) replaces the current reference to “the provisions and policies of title 18, U.S.C., § 3146(a) and (b)” – sections that have been repealed

– with a reference to “the relevant provisions and policies of title 18 U.S.C. § 3142” – the section that now deals with the topic of conditions of release. The only comment addressing the proposal supported it. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee unanimously approved the amendment as published.

#### Rule 3007 (Objections to Claims)

The proposed amendment to Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)(ii) clarifies that the special service method required by Rule 7004(h) must be used for service of objections to claims only on insured depository institutions as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1813. The clarification addresses a possible reading of the rule that would extend such special service not just to banks, but to credit unions as well. The only relevant comment supported the proposed amendment and the Advisory Committee recommended final approval of the rule as published.

#### Rule 7007.1 (Corporate Ownership Statement)

The proposed amendment extends Rule 7007.1(a)’s corporate-disclosure requirement to would-be intervenors. The proposed amendment also makes conforming and stylistic changes to Rule 7007.1(b). The changes parallel the recent amendment to Appellate Rule 26.1 (effective December 1, 2019), and the proposed amendments to Bankruptcy Rule 8012 (adopted by the Supreme Court and transmitted to Congress on April 27, 2020) and Civil Rule 7.1 (published for public comment in August 2019).

The Advisory Committee made one change in response to the comments. It agreed to retain the terminology “corporate ownership statement” because “disclosure statement” is a bankruptcy term of art with a different meaning. With that change, it recommended final approval of the rule.

## Rule 9036 (Notice and Service Generally)

The proposed amendment to Rule 9036 would encourage the use of electronic noticing and service in several ways. The proposed amendment recognizes a court's authority to provide notice or make service through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center ("BNC") to entities that currently receive a high volume of paper notices from the bankruptcy courts. The proposed amendment also reorganizes Rule 9036 to separate methods of electronic noticing and service available to courts from those available to parties. Under the amended rule, both courts and parties may serve or provide notice to registered users of the court's electronic-filing system by filing documents with that system. Both courts and parties also may serve and provide notice to any entity by electronic means consented to in writing by the recipient. But only courts may serve or give notice to an entity at an electronic address registered with the BNC as part of the Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing program.

The proposed amendment differs from the version previously published for comment. The published version was premised in part on proposed amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410. As discussed below, the Advisory Committee decided not to proceed with the proposed amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410.

The Advisory Committee received seven comments regarding the proposed amendments, mostly from court clerks or their staff. In general, the comments expressed great support for the program to encourage high-volume paper-notice recipients to register for electronic bankruptcy noticing. But commenters opposed several other aspects of the proposed amendment. The concerns fell into three categories: clerk monitoring of email bounce-backs; administrative burden of a proof-of-claim opt-in for email noticing and service; and the interplay of the proposed amendments to Rules 2002(g) and 9036.

The Advisory Committee addressed concerns about clerk monitoring of email bounce-backs by adding a sentence to Rule 9036(d): “It is the recipient’s responsibility to keep its electronic address current with the clerk.”

The Advisory Committee was persuaded by clerk office concerns that the administrative burden of a proof-of-claim opt-in outweighed any benefits, and therefore decided not to go forward with the earlier proposed amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410 and removed references to that option that were in the published version of Rule 9036. This decision also eliminated the concerns raised in the comments about the interplay between the proposed amendments to Rules 2002(g) and 9036. With those changes, the Advisory Committee recommended final approval of Rule 9036.

The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee’s recommendation that the proposed amendments to Rules 2005, 3007, 7007.1, and 9036 be approved and transmitted to the Judicial Conference

**Recommendation:** That the Judicial Conference approve the proposed amendments to Bankruptcy Rules 2005, 3007, 7007.1, and 9036 as set forth in Appendix B, and transmit them to the Supreme Court for consideration with a recommendation that they be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress in accordance with the law.

### ***Rules and Official Forms Approved for Publication and Comment***

The Advisory Committee submitted proposed amendments to three categories of rules and forms with a request that they be published for public comment in August 2020. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee’s request.

The three categories are: (1) proposed restyled versions of Parts I and II of the Bankruptcy Rules; (2) republication of the Interim Rule and Official Form amendments previously approved to implement the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019 (SBRA); and (3) proposed amendments to Rules 3002(c)(6), 5005, 7004, and 8023.

## Restyled Rules, Parts I and II

At its fall 2018 meeting, after an extensive outreach to bankruptcy judges, clerks, lawyers and organizations, the Advisory Committee began the process of restyling the bankruptcy rules. This endeavor follows similar projects that produced comprehensive restyling of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure in 1998, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure in 2002, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in 2005, and the Federal Rules of Evidence in 2011. The Advisory Committee now proposes publication of restyled drafts of approximately one third of the full bankruptcy rules set consisting of the 1000 series and 2000 series of rules. The proposed restyled rules are the product of intensive and collaborative work between the style consultants who produced the initial drafts, and the reporters and the Restyling Subcommittee who provided comments to the style consultants on those drafts. In considering the subcommittee's recommendations, the Advisory Committee endorsed the following basic principles to guide the restyling project:

1. *Make No Substantive Changes.* Most of the comments the reporters and the subcommittee made on the drafts were aimed at preventing an inadvertent substantive change in meaning by the use of a different word or phrase than in the existing rule. The rules are being restyled from the version in effect at the time of publication. Future rule changes unrelated to restyling will be incorporated before the restyled rules are finalized.
2. *Respect Defined Terms.* Any word or phrase that is defined in the Code should appear in the restyled rules exactly as it appears in the Code definition without restyling, despite any possible flaws from a stylistic standpoint. Examples include the unhyphenated terms “equity security holder,” “small business case,” “small business debtor,” “health care business,” and “bankruptcy petition preparer.” On the other hand, when terms are used in the Code but are not defined, they may be restyled in the rules, such as “personal financial-management course,” “credit-counseling statement,” and “patient-care ombudsman.”
3. *Preserve Terms of Art.* When a phrase is used commonly in bankruptcy practice, the Advisory Committee recommended that it not be restyled. Such a phrase that was often used in Part I of the rules was “meeting of creditors.”

4. *Remain Open to New Ideas.* The style consultants suggested some different approaches in the rules, which the Advisory Committee has embraced, including making references to specific forms by form number, and listing recipients of notices by bullet points.
5. *Defer on Matters of Pure Style.* Although the subcommittee made many suggestions to improve the drafting of the restyled rules, on matters of pure style the Advisory Committee committed to deferring to the style consultants when they have different views.

The Advisory Committee also decided not to attempt to restyle rules that were enacted by Congress. As a result, the restyled rules will designate current Rule 2002(o) (Notice of Order for Relief in Consumer Case) as 2002(n) as set forth in Section 321 of the Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, Pub. L. 98-353, 98 Stat. 357, and the Advisory Committee will not recommend restyling the wording as it was set forth in the Act. Other bankruptcy rules that were enacted by Congress in whole or in part are Rule 2002(f), 3001(g), and 7004(h).

Although the Advisory Committee requested that the Part I and II restyled rules be published for public comment in August 2020, those proposed amendments will not be sent forward for final approval until the remaining portions of the Bankruptcy Rules have been restyled. Work has already begun on a group of rules expected to be published in 2021, and the Advisory Committee anticipates that the final batch of rules will be published for comment in 2022. After all the rules have been restyled, published, and given final approval by the Standing Committee, the Rules Committees hope to present the full set of restyled Bankruptcy Rules to the Judicial Conference for approval at its fall 2023 meeting.

### SBRA Rules and Forms

On August 23, 2019, the President signed into law the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-54, which creates a new subchapter V of chapter 11 for the reorganization of small business debtors, an alternative procedure that small business debtors can elect to use. Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee, on December 16, 2019, the

Executive Committee, acting on an expedited basis on behalf of the Judicial Conference, authorized the distribution of Interim Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 1007, 1020, 2009, 2012, 2015, 3010, 3011, 3014, 3016, 3017.1, 3017.2, 3018, and 3019 to the courts so they could be adopted locally, prior to the February 19, 2020 effective date of the SBRA, to facilitate uniformity of practice until the Bankruptcy Rules can be revised in accordance with the Rules Enabling Act. The Advisory Committee has now begun the process of promulgating national rules governing cases under subchapter V of chapter 11 by seeking publication of the amended and new rules for comment in August 2020, along with the SBRA form amendments.

The SBRA rules consist of the following:

- Rule 1007 (Lists, Schedules, Statements, and Other Documents; Time Limits),
- Rule 1020 (Small Business Chapter 11 Reorganization Case),
- Rule 2009 (Trustees for Estates When Joint Administration Ordered),
- Rule 2012 (Substitution of Trustee or Successor Trustee; Accounting),
- Rule 2015 (Duty to Keep Records, Make Reports, and Give Notice of Case or Change of Status),
- Rule 3010 (Small Dividends and Payments in Cases Under Chapter 7, Subchapter V of Chapter 11, Chapter 12, and Chapter 13),
- Rule 3011 (Unclaimed Funds in Cases Under Chapter 7, Subchapter V of Chapter 11, Chapter 12, and Chapter 13),
- Rule 3014 (Election Under § 1111(b) by Secured Creditor in Chapter 9 Municipality or Chapter 11 Reorganization Case),
- Rule 3016 (Filing of Plan and Disclosure Statement in a Chapter 9 Municipality or Chapter 11 Reorganization Case),
- Rule 3017.1 (Court Consideration of Disclosure Statement in a Small Business Case),
- new Rule 3017.2 (Fixing of Dates by the Court in Subchapter V Cases in Which There Is No Disclosure Statement),
- Rule 3018 (Acceptance or Rejection of Plan in a Chapter 9 Municipality or a Chapter 11 Reorganization Case), and
- Rule 3019 (Modification of Accepted Plan in a Chapter 9 Municipality or a Chapter 11 Reorganization Case).

The Advisory Committee recommended publishing the SBRA rules as they were recommended to the courts for use as interim rules with some minor stylistic changes to Rule 3017.2.

Unlike the SBRA interim rules, the SBRA Official Forms were issued on an expedited basis under the Advisory Committee’s delegated authority to make conforming and technical amendments to official forms (subject to subsequent approval by the Standing Committee and notice to the Judicial Conference, (JCUS-MAR 16, p. 24)). Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee committed to publishing the forms for comment in August 2020, along with the SBRA rule amendments, in order to ensure that the public has an opportunity to review the rules and forms together.

The SBRA Official Forms consist of the following:

- Official Form 101 (Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy),
- Official Form 201 (Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy),
- Official Form 309E-1 (Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case (For Individuals or Joint Debtors)),
- Official Form 309E-2 (Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case (For Individuals or Joint Debtors under Subchapter V)),
- Official Form 309F-1 (Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case (For Corporations or Partnerships)),
- Official Form 309F-2 (Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case (For Corporations or Partnerships under Subchapter V)),
- Official Form 314 (Ballot for Accepting or Rejecting Plan),
- Official Form 315 (Order Confirming Plan), and
- Official Form 425A (Plan of Reorganization for Small Business Under Chapter 11).

In addition, the Advisory Committee recommends one additional SBRA-related form amendment to Official Form 122B (Chapter 11 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income).

The instructions to that form currently require that it be filed “if you are an individual and are filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 11.” This statement is not accurate if the debtor is an individual filing under subchapter V of Chapter 11. The proposed amendment to the form clarifies that it is not applicable to subchapter V cases.

#### Rules 3002(c)(6), 5005, 7004, and 8023

*Rule 3002 (Filing Proof of Claim or Interest).* Under Rule 3002(c)(6)(B), an extension of time to file proofs of claim may be granted to foreign creditors if “the notice was insufficient

under the circumstances to give the creditor a reasonable time to file a proof of claim.” The Advisory Committee recommended an amendment that would allow a domestic creditor to obtain an extension under the same circumstances.

*Rule 5005 (Filing and Transmittal of Papers).* The Advisory Committee recommended publication of an amendment to Rule 5005(b) that would allow papers to be transmitted to the U.S. trustee by electronic means and would eliminate the requirement that the filed statement evidencing transmittal be verified.

*Rule 7004 (Process; Service of Summons, Complaint).* The Advisory Committee recommended publication of a new subsection (i) to clarify that Rule 7004(b)(3) and Rule 7004(h) permit use of a title rather than a specific name in serving a corporation or partnership, unincorporated association or insured depository institution. Service on a corporation or partnership, unincorporated association or insured depository institution at its proper address directed to the attention of the “Chief Executive Officer,” “President,” “Officer for Receiving Service of Process,” or “Officer” (or other similar titles) or, in the case of Rule 7004(b)(3), directed to the attention of the “Managing Agent,” “General Agent,” or “Agent” (or other similar titles) suffices, whether or not a name is also used or such name is correct.

*Rule 8023 (Voluntary Dismissal).* The proposed amendment to Rule 8023 would conform the rule to changes currently under consideration for Appellate Rule 42(b). As noted earlier in this report, the proposed amendment to Appellate Rule 42 was published for comment in August 2019, but the amendment is not yet moving forward for final approval because the Advisory Committee will study further the amendments’ implications for local circuit provisions that impose additional requirements for dismissal of an appeal. The proposed amendment to Rule 8023 will be published for comment in the meantime.

### *Information Items*

The Advisory Committee met by videoconference on April 2, 2020. In addition to its recommendations for final approval and for public comment discussed above, it recommended five official form amendments and one interim rule amendment in response to the CARES Act. [Notice of Conforming Changes to Official Forms 101, 201, 122A-1, 122B, and 122C-1](#)

The CARES Act made several changes to the Bankruptcy Code, most of them temporary, to provide financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the one-year period after enactment, the definition of “debtor” for subchapter V cases is changed, requiring conforming changes to Official Forms 101 and 201. For the same one-year time period, the definitions of “current monthly income” and “disposable” income are amended to exclude certain payments made under the CARES Act. These changes required conforming amendments to Official Forms 122A-1, 122B, and 122C-1. The Advisory Committee approved the necessary changes at its April 2, 2020 meeting pursuant to its authority to make conforming and technical changes to Official Forms subject to retroactive approval by the Standing Committee and notice to the Judicial Conference. The Standing Committee approved the amendments at its June 23, 2020 meeting, and notice is hereby provided to the Judicial Conference. The amended forms are included in Appendix B. These amendments have a duration of one year after the effective date of the CARES Act, at which time the former version of these forms will go back into effect.

#### [Interim Rule 1020 \(Chapter 11 Reorganization Case for Small Business Debtors or Debtors Under Subchapter V\)](#)

One of the interim rules that was adopted by courts to implement the SBRA, Interim Rule 1020, required a temporary amendment due to the new definition of a Chapter 11, subchapter V debtor that was introduced by the CARES Act.

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously at its spring meeting to approve the proposed amendment to Interim Rule 1020 for issuance as an interim rule for adoption by each

judicial district. By email vote concluding on April 11, the Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee's recommendation, and, on April 14, the Executive Committee, acting on an expedited basis on behalf of the Judicial Conference, approved the request. Because the CARES Act definition of a subchapter V debtor will expire in 2021, the temporary amendment to Interim Rule 1020 is not incorporated into the proposed amendments to Rule 1020 that are recommended for public comment (under the Rules Enabling Act, permanent amendments to Rule 1020 to address the SBRA would not take effect before December 1, 2022).

## **FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE**

### ***Rules Approved for Publication and Comment***

The Advisory Committee submitted a proposed amendment to Rule 12, as well as new Supplemental Rules for Social Security Actions Under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), with a request that they be published for public comment in August 2020. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee's request.

#### **Rule 12 (Defenses and Objections: When and How Presented; Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings; Consolidating Motions; Waiving Defenses; Pretrial Hearing)**

The proposed amendment to Rule 12(a)(4) extends the time to respond (after denial of a Rule 12 motion) when a United States officer or employee is sued in an individual capacity for an act or omission occurring in connection with duties performed on the United States' behalf. Under the current rule, the time to serve a responsive pleading after notice that the court has denied a Rule 12 motion or has postponed its disposition until trial is 14 days. The DOJ, which often represents federal employees or officers sued in an individual capacity, submitted a suggestion urging that the rule be amended to extend the time to respond in these types of actions to 60 days.

The Advisory Committee agreed that the current 14-day time period is too short. First, personal liability suits against federal officials are subject to immunity defenses, and a denial of a

qualified or absolute immunity defense at the Rule 12 motion-to-dismiss stage can be appealed immediately. The appeal time in such circumstances is 60 days, the same as in suits against the federal government itself. In its suggestion, the DOJ points out that, under the current rule, when a district court rejects an immunity defense, a responsive pleading must be filed before the government has determined whether to appeal the immunity decision.

The suggestion is a logical extension of the concerns that led to the adoption several years ago of Rule 12(a)(3), which sets the time to serve a responsive pleading in such individual-capacity actions at 60 days, and Appellate Rule 4(a)(1)(B)(iv), which sets the time to file an appeal in such actions at 60 days.

#### Supplemental Rules for Social Security Review Actions Under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g)

The proposal to append to the Civil Rules a set of supplemental rules for Social Security disability review actions under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) is the result of three years of extensive study by the Advisory Committee.

This project was prompted by a suggestion by the Administrative Conference of the United States that the Judicial Conference “develop for the Supreme Court’s consideration a uniform set of procedural rules for cases under the Social Security Act in which an individual seeks district court review of a final administrative decision of the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).” Section 405(g) provides that an individual may obtain review of a final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security “by a civil action.” A nationwide study commissioned by the Administrative Conference revealed widely differing district court procedures for these actions.

A subcommittee was formed to consider the suggestion. The subcommittee’s first tasks were to gather additional data and information from the various stakeholders and to determine whether the issues revealed by the Administrative Conference’s study could – or should – be

corrected by rulemaking. With input from both claimant and government representatives, as well as the Advisory Committee and Standing Committee, the subcommittee developed draft rules for discussion.

Over time, the draft rules were revised and simplified. During this process, the subcommittee continued to discuss whether a better approach might be to develop model local rules or best practices. Ultimately, with feedback from the Advisory Committee, the Standing Committee, and district and magistrate judges, the subcommittee determined to press forward with developing proposed rules for publication. A continuing question that has been the focus of discussion in both the Advisory Committee and the Standing Committee is whether the benefits of the proposed supplemental rules would outweigh the costs of departing from the usual presumption against substance-specific rulemaking. The federal rules are generally trans-substantive and the Rules Committees have, with limited exceptions, avoided promulgating rules applicable to only a particular type of action.

The proposed supplemental rules – eight in total – are modest and drafted to reflect the unique character of § 405(g) actions. The proposed rules set out simplified pleadings and service, make clear that cases are presented for decision on the briefs, and establish the practice of presenting the actions as appeals to be decided on the briefs and the administrative record. While trans-substantivity concerns remain, the Advisory Committee believes the draft rules are an improvement over the current lack of uniform procedures and looks forward to receiving comments in what will likely be a robust public comment period.

### ***Information Items***

The Advisory Committee met by videoconference on April 1, 2020. In addition to the action items discussed above, the agenda included a report by the Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) Subcommittee and consideration of suggestions that specific rules be developed for MDL

proceedings. As previously reported, the subcommittee has engaged in a substantial amount of fact gathering, with valuable assistance from the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation and the FJC. Subcommittee members have also participated in numerous conferences hosted by different constituencies, most recently a virtual conference focused on interlocutory appeal issues in MDLs hosted by the Institute for Complex Litigation and Mass Claims at Emory University School of Law. It is still to be determined whether this work will result in any recommendation for amendments to the Civil Rules.

The Advisory Committee will continue to consider a potential amendment to Rule 7.1, the disclosure rule, following discussion and comments at the June 23, 2020 Standing Committee meeting. The proposed amendment to Rule 7.1(a) was published for public comment in August 2019. The proposed amendment to Rule 7.1(b) is a technical and conforming amendment and was not published for public comment. The proposed amendment to Rule 7.1(a)(1) would require the filing of a disclosure statement by a nongovernmental corporation that seeks to intervene, a change that would conform the rule to the recent amendment to Appellate Rule 26.1 (effective December 1, 2019) and the proposed amendment to Bankruptcy Rule 8012 (adopted by the Supreme Court and transmitted to Congress on April 27, 2020). The proposed amendment to Rule 7.1(a)(2) would create a new disclosure aimed at facilitating the early determination of whether diversity jurisdiction exists under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a), or whether complete diversity is defeated by the citizenship of a nonparty individual or entity that is attributed to a party.

## **FEDERAL RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

### ***Rule Approved for Publication and Comment***

The Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules submitted a proposed amendment to Criminal Rule 16 (Discovery and Inspection), with a request that it be published for public

comment in August 2020. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee's request.

The proposed amendment to Rule 16, the principal rule that governs discovery in criminal cases, would expand the scope of expert discovery. The Advisory Committee developed its proposal in response to three suggestions (two from district judges) that pretrial disclosure of expert testimony in criminal cases under Rule 16 should more closely parallel Civil Rule 26.

In considering the suggestions and developing a proposed amendment, the Advisory Committee drew upon two informational sessions. First, at the Advisory Committee's fall 2018 meeting, representatives from the DOJ updated the Advisory Committee on the DOJ's development and implementation of policies governing disclosure of forensic and non-forensic evidence. Second, in May 2019, the Rule 16 Subcommittee convened a miniconference to explore the issue with stakeholders. Participants included defense attorneys, prosecutors, and DOJ representatives who have extensive personal experience with pretrial disclosures and the use of experts in criminal cases. At the miniconference, defense attorneys identified two problems with the current rule: (1) the lack of a timing requirement; and (2) the lack of detail in the disclosures provided by prosecutors.

Over the next year, the subcommittee worked on drafting a proposed amendment. Drafts were discussed at Advisory Committee meetings and at the Standing Committee's January 2020 meeting. The proposed amendment approved for publication addresses the two shortcomings in the current rule identified at the miniconference – the lack of timing and the lack of specificity – while maintaining the reciprocal structure of the current rule. It is intended to facilitate trial preparation by allowing the parties a fair opportunity to prepare to cross-examine expert witnesses who testify at trial and to secure opposing expert testimony if needed.

### ***Information Item***

The Advisory Committee met by videoconference on May 5, 2020. In addition to finalizing for publication the proposed amendment to Rule 16, the Advisory Committee formed a subcommittee to consider suggestions to amend the grand jury secrecy provisions in Rule 6 (The Grand Jury), an issue last on the Advisory Committee’s agenda in 2012.

The Advisory Committee has received two suggestions that the secrecy provisions in Rule 6(e) be amended to allow for disclosure of grand jury materials under limited circumstances. A group of historians and archivists seeks, in part, an amendment adding records of “historical importance” to the list of exceptions to the secrecy provisions. Another group comprised of media organizations urges that Rule 6 be amended “to make clear that district courts may exercise their inherent supervisory authority, in appropriate circumstances, to permit the disclosure of grand jury materials to the public.” In addition to these two suggestions, in a statement respecting the denial of certiorari in *McKeever v. Barr*, 140 S. Ct. 597 (2020), Justice Breyer pointed out a conflict among the circuit courts regarding whether the district court retains inherent authority to release grand jury materials in “appropriate cases” outside of the exceptions enumerated in Rule 6(e). *Id.* at 598 (statement of Breyer, J.). He stated that “[w]hether district courts retain authority to release grand jury material outside those situations specifically enumerated in the Rules, or in situations like this, is an important question. It is one I think the Rules Committee both can and should revisit.” *Id.*

## **FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE**

### ***Information Items***

The Advisory Committee did not hold a spring 2020 meeting, but is continuing its consideration of several issues, including: various alternatives for an amendment to Rule 106 (the rule of completeness); Rule 615 and the problems raised in case law and in practice

regarding the scope of a Rule 615 order; and forensic expert evidence, *Daubert*, and possible amendments to Rule 702. The DOJ has asked that the Rules Committees hold off on amending Rule 702 in order to allow time for the DOJ's new policies regarding forensic expert evidence to take effect. The Advisory Committee will discuss this request along with other issues related to Rule 702 at its upcoming meetings.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

An additional action item before the Committee was a request by the Judiciary Planning Coordinator that the Committee review a draft update to the *Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary* for the years 2020-2025. The Committee did so and had no changes to suggest.

The Committee was also updated on the work of two joint subcommittees: the E-filing Deadline Joint Subcommittee, formed to consider a suggestion that the electronic filing deadlines in the federal rules be changed from midnight to an earlier time of day, such as when the clerk's office closes in the court's respective time zone; and the Appeal Finality After Consolidation Joint Civil-Appellate Subcommittee, which is considering whether the Appellate and Civil Rules should be amended to address the effect (on the final-judgment rule) of consolidating separate cases. Both subcommittees have asked the FJC to gather empirical data to assist in determining the need for rules amendments.

Finally, the Committee discussed the CARES Act, including its impact on criminal proceedings and its directive to consider the need for court rules to address future emergencies. On March 29, 2020, on the joint recommendation of the chairs of this Committee and the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, the Judicial Conference found that emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1651, with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts. Under § 15002(b) of the CARES Act,

this finding allows courts, under certain circumstances, to temporarily authorize the use of video or telephone conferencing for certain criminal proceedings.

Section 15002(b)(6) of the CARES Act directs the Judicial Conference to develop measures for the courts to address future emergencies. In response to that directive, the Committee heard reports on the subcommittees formed by each advisory committee to consider possible rules amendments that would provide for procedures during future emergencies. As a starting point, the advisory committees solicited public comments on challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic in state and federal courts from lawyers, judges, parties, or the public, and on solutions developed to deal with those challenges. The committees were particularly interested in hearing about situations that could not be addressed through the existing rules or in which the rules themselves interfered with practical solutions. Over 60 substantive comments were received. The Standing Committee asked each advisory committee to identify rules that should be amended to account for emergency situations and to develop discussion drafts of proposed amendments at the committees' fall meetings for consideration by the Standing Committee at its January 2021 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Campbell, Chair

Jesse M. Furman	Carolyn B. Kuhl
Daniel C. Girard	Patricia A. Millett
Robert J. Giuffra Jr.	Gene E.K. Pratter
Frank M. Hull	Jeffrey A. Rosen
William J. Kayatta Jr.	Kosta Stojilkovic
Peter D. Keisler	Jennifer G. Zipp

Appendix A – Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure (proposed amendments and supporting report excerpt)

Appendix B – Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and Official Bankruptcy Forms (proposed amendments and supporting report excerpt)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE<sup>1</sup>**

1 **Rule 3. Appeal as of Right—How Taken**

2 \* \* \* \* \*

3 **(c) Contents of the Notice of Appeal.**

4 (1) The notice of appeal must:

5 (A) specify the party or parties taking the appeal

6 by naming each one in the caption or body

7 of the notice, but an attorney representing

8 more than one party may describe those

9 parties with such terms as “all plaintiffs,”

10 “the defendants,” “the plaintiffs A, B, et

11 al.,” or “all defendants except X”;

12 (B) designate the judgment, ~~—~~or the appealable

13 order ~~—~~from which the appeal is taken, ~~or~~

14 ~~part thereof being appealed~~; and

<sup>1</sup> New material is underlined in red; matter to be omitted is lined through.

- 15 (C) name the court to which the appeal is taken.
- 16 (2) A pro se notice of appeal is considered filed on  
17 behalf of the signer and the signer's spouse and  
18 minor children (if they are parties), unless the  
19 notice clearly indicates otherwise.
- 20 (3) In a class action, whether or not the class has  
21 been certified, the notice of appeal is sufficient if  
22 it names one person qualified to bring the appeal  
23 as representative of the class.
- 24 (4) The notice of appeal encompasses all orders that,  
25 for purposes of appeal, merge into the designated  
26 judgment or appealable order. It is not necessary  
27 to designate those orders in the notice of appeal.
- 28 (5) In a civil case, a notice of appeal encompasses  
29 the final judgment, whether or not that judgment  
30 is set out in a separate document under Federal  
31 Rule of Civil Procedure 58, if the notice  
32 designates:

33                    (A) an order that adjudicates all remaining  
34                    claims and the rights and liabilities of all  
35                    remaining parties; or

36                    (B) an order described in Rule 4(a)(4)(A).

37                    (6) An appellant may designate only part of a  
38                    judgment or appealable order by expressly  
39                    stating that the notice of appeal is so limited.  
40                    Without such an express statement, specific  
41                    designations do not limit the scope of the notice  
42                    of appeal.

43                    ~~(4)~~ (7) An appeal must not be dismissed for  
44                    informality of form or title of the notice of  
45                    appeal, or for failure to name a party whose  
46                    intent to appeal is otherwise clear from the  
47                    notice, or for failure to properly designate the  
48                    judgment if the notice of appeal was filed after  
49                    entry of the judgment and designates an order  
50                    that merged into that judgment.



orders or decisions that may be reviewed on appeal because they merge into the judgment or order on appeal. Designation of the final judgment confers appellate jurisdiction over prior interlocutory orders that merge into the final judgment. The merger principle is a corollary of the final judgment rule: a party cannot appeal from most interlocutory orders, but must await final judgment, and only then obtain review of interlocutory orders on appeal from the final judgment.

In an effort to avoid the misconception that it is necessary or appropriate to designate each and every order of the district court that the appellant may wish to challenge on appeal, Rule 3(c)(1) is amended to require the designation of “the judgment—or the appealable order—from which the appeal is taken”—and the phrase “or part thereof” is deleted. In most cases, because of the merger principle, it is appropriate to designate only the judgment. In other cases, particularly where an appeal from an interlocutory order is authorized, the notice of appeal must designate that appealable order.

Whether due to misunderstanding or a misguided attempt at caution, some notices of appeal designate both the judgment and some particular order that the appellant wishes to challenge on appeal. A number of courts, using an *expressio unius* rationale, have held that such a designation of a particular order limits the scope of the notice of appeal to the particular order, and prevents the appellant from challenging other orders that would otherwise be reviewable, under the merger principle, on appeal from the final judgment. These decisions inadvertently create a trap for the unwary.

However, there are circumstances in which an appellant may deliberately choose to limit the scope of the notice of

appeal, and it is desirable to enable the appellant to convey this deliberate choice to the other parties.

To alert readers to the merger principle, a new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “The notice of appeal encompasses all orders that, for purposes of appeal, merge into the designated judgment or appealable order. It is not necessary to designate those orders in the notice of appeal.” The general merger rule can be stated simply: an appeal from a final judgment permits review of all rulings that led up to the judgment. Because this general rule is subject to some exceptions and complications, the amendment does not attempt to codify the merger principle but instead leaves its details to case law.

The amendment does not change the principle established in *Budinich v. Becton Dickinson & Co.*, 486 U.S. 196, 202-03 (1988), that “a decision on the merits is a ‘final decision’ for purposes of § 1291 whether or not there remains for adjudication a request for attorney’s fees attributable to the case.” *See also Ray Haluch Gravel Co. v. Cent. Pension Fund of Int’l Union of Operating Eng’rs & Participating Emp’rs*, 571 U.S. 177, 179 (2014) (“Whether the claim for attorney’s fees is based on a statute, a contract, or both, the pendency of a ruling on an award for fees and costs does not prevent, as a general rule, the merits judgment from becoming final for purposes of appeal.”).

To remove the trap for the unwary, while enabling deliberate limitations of the notice of appeal, another new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “An appellant may designate only part of a judgment or appealable order by expressly stating that the notice of appeal is so limited. Without such an express statement, specific designations do not limit the scope of the notice of appeal.”

A related problem arises when a case is decided by a series of orders, sometimes separated by a year or more. For example, some claims might be dismissed for failure to state a claim under F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6), and then, after a considerable period for discovery, summary judgment under F.R.Civ.P. 56 is granted in favor of the defendant on the remaining claims. That second order, because it resolves all of the remaining claims, is a final judgment, and an appeal from that final judgment confers jurisdiction to review the earlier F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) dismissal. But if a notice of appeal describes the second order, not as a final judgment, but as an order granting summary judgment, some courts would limit appellate review to the summary judgment and refuse to consider a challenge to the earlier F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) dismissal. Similarly, if the district court complies with the separate document requirement of F.R.Civ.P. 58, and enters both an order granting summary judgment as to the remaining claims and a separate document denying all relief, but the notice of appeal designates the order granting summary judgment rather than the separate document, some courts would likewise limit appellate review to the summary judgment and refuse to consider a challenge to the earlier F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) dismissal. This creates a trap for all but the most wary, because at the time that the district court issues the order disposing of all remaining claims, a litigant may not know whether the district court will ever enter the separate document required by F.R.Civ.P. 58.

To remove this trap, a new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “In a civil case, a notice of appeal encompasses the final judgment, whether or not that judgment is set out in a separate document under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58, if the notice designates . . . an order that adjudicates all remaining claims and the rights and liabilities of all remaining parties. . . .”

Frequently, a party who is aggrieved by a final judgment will make a motion in the district court instead of filing a notice of appeal. Rule 4(a)(4) permits a party who makes certain motions to await disposition of those motions before appealing. But some courts treat a notice of appeal that designates only the order disposing of such a motion as limited to that order, rather than bringing the final judgment before the court of appeals for review. (Again, such an appeal might be brought before or after the judgment is set out in a separate document under F.R.Civ.P. 58.) To reduce the unintended loss of appellate rights in this situation, a new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “In a civil case, a notice of appeal encompasses the final judgment, whether or not that judgment is set out in a separate document under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58, if the notice designates . . . an order described in Rule 4(a)(4)(A).” This amendment does not alter the requirement of Rule 4(a)(4)(B)(ii) (requiring a notice of appeal or an amended notice of appeal if a party intends to challenge an order disposing of certain motions).

Rule 3(c)(5) is limited to civil cases. Similar issues may arise in a small number of criminal cases, and similar treatment may be appropriate, but no inference should be drawn about how such issues should be handled in criminal cases.

On occasion, a party may file a notice of appeal after a judgment but designate only a prior nonappealable decision that merged into that judgment. To deal with this situation, Rule 3(c)(7) provides that an appeal must not be dismissed for failure to properly designate the judgment if the notice of appeal was filed after entry of the judgment and designates an order that merged into that judgment. In this situation, a court should act as if the notice had properly designated the judgment. In determining whether a notice of appeal was

filed after the entry of judgment, Rules 4(a)(2) and 4(b)(2) apply.

The new provisions are added as Rules 3(c)(4), 3(c)(5), and 3(c)(6), with the existing Rules 3(c)(4) and 3(c)(5) renumbered. In addition, to reflect these changes to the Rule, Form 1 is replaced by Forms 1A and 1B, and Form 2 is amended.

1 **Rule 6. Appeal in a Bankruptcy Case**

2 \* \* \* \* \*

3 **(b) Appeal From a Judgment, Order, or Decree of a**  
4 **District Court or Bankruptcy Appellate Panel Exercising**  
5 **Appellate Jurisdiction in a Bankruptcy Case.**

6 (1) **Applicability of Other Rules.** These rules apply to  
7 an appeal to a court of appeals under 28 U.S.C. §  
8 158(d)(1) from a final judgment, order, or decree  
9 of a district court or bankruptcy appellate panel  
10 exercising appellate jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §  
11 158(a) or (b), but with these qualifications:

12 (A) Rules 4(a)(4), 4(b), 9, 10, 11, 12(c), 13–20,  
13 22–23, and 24(b) do not apply;

14 (B) the reference in Rule 3(c) to “Forms 1A and  
15 1B in the Appendix of Forms” must be read  
16 as a reference to Form 5;

17 (C) when the appeal is from a bankruptcy  
18 appellate panel, “district court,” as used in

19 any applicable rule, means “appellate  
20 panel”; and  
21 (D) in Rule 12.1, “district court” includes a  
22 bankruptcy court or bankruptcy appellate  
23 panel.

24 \* \* \* \* \*

#### **Committee Note**

The amendment replaces “Form 1” with “Forms 1A and 1B” to conform to the amendment to Rule 3(c).

Form 1A

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a  
Judgment or Order of a District Court.

United States District Court for the \_\_\_\_\_  
District of \_\_\_\_\_  
File Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Plaintiff

v.

C.D., Defendant

Notice of Appeal

~~Notice is hereby given that~~ \_\_\_\_\_ (here name all parties taking the appeal) \_\_\_\_\_, (~~plaintiffs~~) (~~defendants~~) ~~in the above named case,~~ \* hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit (~~from the final judgment~~) (~~from an order (describing it)~~) entered ~~in this action~~ on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the judgment was entered) the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**[Note to inmate filers:** If you are an inmate confined in an institution and you seek the timing benefit of Fed. R. App. P. 4(c)(1), complete Form 7 (Declaration of Inmate Filing) and file that declaration ~~along~~ with this Notice of Appeal.]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

Form **1B**

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a ~~Judgment or~~ **an Appealable** Order of a District Court.

United States District Court for the \_\_\_\_\_  
District of \_\_\_\_\_  
File **Docket** Number \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Plaintiff
v.
C.D., Defendant

Notice of Appeal

Notice is hereby given that \_\_\_\_\_ (here name all parties taking the appeal) \_\_\_\_\_, (plaintiffs) (defendants) in the above named case, \* hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit (from the final judgment) (from an **the** order \_\_\_\_\_ (describing **the order** it)) entered in this action on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the order was entered) the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Note to inmate filers: If you are an inmate confined in an institution and you seek the timing benefit of Fed. R. App. P. 4(c)(1), complete Form 7 (Declaration of Inmate Filing) and file that declaration ~~along~~ with this Notice of Appeal.]*

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

**Form 2**

**Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Decision  
of  
the United States Tax Court**

United States Tax Court  
Washington, D.C.

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Petitioner
v.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Respondent

Notice of Appeal

~~Notice is hereby given that~~ \_\_\_\_\_  
(~~here~~ name all parties taking the appeal\*) ~~\_\_\_\_\_ hereby~~ appeal  
to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit  
from (~~that part of~~) the decision of ~~this court~~ entered in the  
~~above captioned proceeding~~ on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the  
decision was entered) the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
(relating to \_\_\_\_\_).

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Counsel* Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE  
OF THE  
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

DAVID G. CAMPBELL  
CHAIR

REBECCA A. WOMELDORF  
SECRETARY

CHAIRS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

MICHAEL A. CHAGARES  
APPELLATE RULES

DENNIS R. DOW  
BANKRUPTCY RULES

JOHN D. BATES  
CIVIL RULES

RAYMOND M. KETHLEDGE  
CRIMINAL RULES

DEBRA A. LIVINGSTON  
EVIDENCE RULES

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable David G. Campbell, Chair  
Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

From: Honorable Michael A. Chagares, Chair  
Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

Re: Report of the Advisory Committee on the Appellate Rules

Date: June 1, 2020

---

**I. Introduction**

The Advisory Committee on the Appellate Rules met by telephone conference call on Friday, April 3, 2020.

\* \* \* \* \*

**II. Action Items for Final Approval After Public Comment**

The Committee seeks final approval for proposed amendments to Rules 3, 6, and 42, as well as Forms 1 and 2. These amendments were published for public comment in August 2019.

**A. Rule 42 – Voluntary Dismissal**

The proposed amendment to Rule 42 would require the circuit clerk to dismiss an appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any court fees that are due. The current Rule gives a discretionary power to dismiss by using the word “may.” Prior to restyling, the word “may” was “shall”; the proposed amendment would replace the word “may” with the word “must.”

Here is the proposed text of Rule 42 as published:

**Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.**

**(1) Stipulated Dismissal.** The circuit clerk ~~may~~ **must** dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any **court** fees that are due. ~~But no mandate or other process may issue without a court order.~~

**(2) Appellant’s Motion to Dismiss.** An appeal may be dismissed on the appellant’s motion on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by the court.

**(3) Other Relief.** A court order is required for any relief beyond the mere dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating an action of the district court or an administrative agency, or remanding the case to either of them.

**(c) Court Approval.** This Rule 42 does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Committee received two comments on this proposal.

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) suggested adding language to proposed Rule 42(b)(3). First, it suggested that the phrase “setting aside or enforcing an administrative agency order” be added to the list of examples of the kinds of actions that require a court order. Second, it suggested that the phrase “if provided by applicable statute” be added to the end of the subsection.

The Committee decided against making either change. Proposed Rule 42(b)(3) does not purport to be exhaustive, nor does it purport to authorize courts of appeals to take actions by order that are not otherwise authorized by law.

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) found the proposal “well taken,” but suggested that two sentences should be added to protect criminal defendants from inappropriate dismissals by counsel.

The Committee decided against making this change. The Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure do not generally address the particular responsibilities that counsel owe to criminal defendants, leaving that to other bodies of law.

Further reflection on a drafting suggestion made in connection with the January meeting of the Standing Committee did lead the Committee to make a minor revision to proposed Rule 42(b)(3): rephrasing it to eliminate the word “mere” and to make clear that it applies only to dismissals under Rule 42(b) itself. The Committee changed the relevant sentence of the Committee Note to reflect this rephrasing.

This is the only change to the proposed Rule made by the Committee since publication:

**(3) Other Relief.** A court order is required for any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating an action of the district court or an administrative agency, or remanding the case to either of them.

#### **Committee Note**

The amendment replaces old terminology and clarifies that any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating, or remanding—requires a court order.

The style consultants have suggested adding the article “a” before the word “payment” in proposed Rule 42(c).

Here is the proposed amendment recommended for final approval, including both the changes made by the Committee and the one suggested by the style consultants:

#### **Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.**

**(1) Stipulated Dismissal.** The circuit clerk ~~may~~ **must** dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement

**Excerpt from the June 1, 2020 Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules**

specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any court fees that are due. ~~But no mandate or other process may issue without a court order.~~

**(2) Appellant’s Motion to Dismiss.** An appeal may be dismissed on the appellant’s motion on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by the court.

**(3) Other Relief.** A court order is required for any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating an action of the district court or an administrative agency, or remanding the case to either of them.

**(c) Court Approval.** This Rule 42 does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, a payment, or other consideration.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Committee Note**

The amendment restores the requirement, in effect prior to the restyling of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, that the circuit clerk dismiss an appeal if all parties so agree. It also clarifies that the fees that must be paid are court fees, not attorney’s fees. The Rule does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, a payment, or other consideration. See, e.g., F.R.Civ.P. 23(e) (requiring district court approval).

The amendment replaces old terminology and clarifies that any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating, or remanding—requires a court order.

Pursuant to Rule 20, Rule 42(b) applies to petitions for review and applications to enforce an agency order. For Rule 42(b) to function in such cases, “appeal” should be understood to include a petition for review or application to enforce an agency order.

## B. Rules 3 and 6; Forms 1 and 2 – Content of Notice of Appeal

The notice of appeal is supposed to be a simple document that provides notice that a party is appealing and invokes the jurisdiction of the court of appeals. But a variety of decisions from around the circuits have made drafting a notice of appeal a somewhat treacherous exercise, especially for any litigant taking a final judgment appeal who mentions a particular order that the appellant wishes to challenge on appeal. The proposed amendment to Rule 3 is designed to reduce the inadvertent loss of appellate rights. The proposed amendments to Forms 1 and 2 reflect the proposed changes to Rule 3. The proposed amendment to Rule 6 is a conforming amendment. Accordingly, discussion has focused on Rule 3.

Here is the proposed text of Rule 3 as published:

### Rule 3. Appeal as of Right—How Taken

\* \* \* \* \*

#### (c) Contents of the Notice of Appeal.

- (1) The notice of appeal must:
  - (A) specify the party or parties taking the appeal by naming each one in the caption or body of the notice, but an attorney representing more than one party may describe those parties with such terms as “all plaintiffs,” “the defendants,” “the plaintiffs A, B, et al.,” or “all defendants except X”;
  - (B) designate the judgment, ~~—or the appealable order—~~from which the appeal is taken, ~~or part thereof being appealed~~; and
  - (C) name the court to which the appeal is taken.
- (2) A pro se notice of appeal is considered filed on behalf of the signer and the signer’s spouse and minor children (if they are parties), unless the notice clearly indicates otherwise.
- (3) In a class action, whether or not the class has been certified, the notice of appeal is sufficient if it names one person qualified to bring the appeal as representative of the class.
- (4) The notice of appeal encompasses all orders that merge for purposes of appeal into the designated judgment or appealable order. It is not necessary to designate those orders in the notice of appeal.

Excerpt from the June 1, 2020 Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

(5) In a civil case, a notice of appeal encompasses the final judgment, whether or not that judgment is set out in a separate document under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58, if the notice designates:

(A) an order that adjudicates all remaining claims and the rights and liabilities of all remaining parties; or

(B) an order described in Rule 4(a)(4)(A).

(6) An appellant may designate only part of a judgment or appealable order by expressly stating that the notice of appeal is so limited. Without such an express statement, specific designations do not limit the scope of the notice of appeal.

~~(4)~~ (7) An appeal must not be dismissed for informality of form or title of the notice of appeal, or for failure to name a party whose intent to appeal is otherwise clear from the notice.

~~(5)~~ (8) Forms 1A and 1B in the Appendix of Forms are ~~is a~~ suggested forms of a notices of appeal.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nine public comments were submitted. Five were generally supportive. Two were critical. Two were nonresponsive.\*

Thomas Mayes offers his “full support” and urges adoption “without delay” because filing a notice of appeal “ought to be straightforward and ministerial.” Professor Bryan Lammon also supports the proposed amendments, finding them “important and necessary,” but as discussed below, offered a proposed simplification and expansion. The ACBNY supports the amendments, but offered a minor edit. The NACDL “supports these amendments, which are of particular importance in criminal cases,” and suggested an expansion, discussed below. (Its stylistic suggestions for the forms were referred to the style consultants.) The Council of Appellate Lawyers of the American Bar Association has no objection to the proposed rule except, as discussed below, it suggested that it would be better not to allow appellants to limit the scope of a notice of appeal.

The two critical comments, one submitted by Michael Rosman and one submitted by Judge Steven Colloton, are discussed below.

---

\* These two comments questioned some bankruptcy matters.

## Wholesale Critiques

The Committee received two critical comments that, if accepted, would derail the project.

At the Fall 2019 meeting, the Committee considered the comments of Michael Rosman, who contends that the proposal is inconsistent with Civil Rule 54(b). As he sees it, Civil Rule 54(b), properly understood, requires a district court to enter a separate document that lists “all the claims in the action . . . and the counterclaims, cross-claims, and intervenors’ claims, if any—and identify what has become of all of them.” On this understanding, if a district court dismisses one count of a two count complaint under Civil Rule 12(b)(6) and then grants summary judgment for the defendant on the second count, there is no final judgment until the court files a document that recites both the action on the first count and the action on the second count—and until this is done, an appeal should be dismissed for want of appellate jurisdiction.

The Committee was not persuaded in the Fall. It is generally understood that a decision disposing of all remaining claims of all remaining parties to a case is a final judgment, without the need for the district judge to recite the prior disposition of all previously decided claims. At the January meeting of the Standing Committee, no member expressed agreement with Mr. Rosman’s critique. And at the Spring meeting, the Committee adhered to its view; it does not recommend any changes in response to Mr. Rosman’s comment.

The second critical comment was submitted by Judge Steven Colloton, who urged the Committee to abandon the proposal. Judge Colloton pointed to cases across the circuits, written by illustrious judges, that appropriately read the existing rule to hold appellants to their choices to limit the notices of appeal. He observed that it is not hard for appellants to designate everything for appeal, and does not think we should encourage appellate counsel to expand the scope of the appeal beyond what was in the notice.

In contrast to Judge Colloton, the comment submitted by the NACDL emphasized the importance of appellate counsel being able to review record material that may not be available at the time the notice of appeal is filed.

As the Supreme Court has recently explained, at the time a notice of appeal is filed, “the defendant likely will not yet have important documents from the trial court, such as transcripts of key proceedings, and may well be in custody, making communication with counsel difficult. And because some defendants receive new counsel for their appeals, the lawyer responsible for deciding which appellate claims to raise may not yet even be involved in the case.” *Garza v. Idaho*, 139 S. Ct. 738, 745-46 (2019) (citations omitted). Accordingly, filing a notice of appeal is “generally

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speaking, a simple, nonsubstantive act,” and filing requirements for notices of appeal “reflect that claims are . . . likely to be ill defined or unknown” at the time of filing. *Id.*

As a result, the Committee was not persuaded to abandon the project.

Judge Colloton also urged that if the project goes forward, references to “trap for the unwary” should be deleted from the committee note as pejorative.

The Committee declined to delete the phrase, not viewing it as pejorative. As reflected in Black’s Law Dictionary, a trap can exist even if no one intended to set it.

### Suggested Simplification

Professor Bryan Lammon suggested simplification by deleting proposed (c)(4) and (c)(5) and instead adding the following to the end of (c)(1) the sentence: “Unless the notice states otherwise, the designation of a judgment or order does not affect the scope of appellate review.”

The Committee declined to adopt this suggestion, concerned both that it would seem to make the designation irrelevant and that it might not clearly overcome the *expressio unius* rationale that is the target of the proposed amendment.

### Suggested Broadening

Two comments were submitted suggesting that the project be broadened.

First, the NACDL suggested that proposed Rule 3(c)(5) be expanded to cover criminal cases.

The Committee declined to do so. First, such an expansion would require further review and republication. Second, the NACDL did not point to a particular problem currently occurring in criminal cases, and indicated that there are not many criminal cases where the issue addressed by proposed (c)(5) is presented. Its concern was that a rule limited to civil cases might lead some courts, using an *expressio unius* rationale, to abandon their current precedent that takes an approach in criminal cases similar to that of the proposed rule. To deal with this concern, the Committee added a passage to the committee note:

These two provisions are limited to civil cases. Similar issues may arise in a small number of criminal cases, and similar treatment may be appropriate, but no inference should be drawn about how such issues should be handled in criminal cases.

Second, Professor Bryan Lammon suggested that the proposed amendment provide that there is no need to file a new or amended notice of appeal after the denial of a Rule 4(a)(4)(A) motion. The Committee declined to adopt this suggestion because it would require further review and republication. It decided to roll this suggestion into the new agenda item (20-AP-A) dealing with the relation forward of notices of appeals, discussed below in Part IV.

## **Attorney’s Fees**

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee, a concern was raised about whether the proposed amendment might inadvertently change the rule that there is an appealable final judgment even though a motion for attorney’s fees is outstanding. One suggestion was that perhaps the proposal should use the conjunction “or” rather than “and” in connecting “claims” with “rights and liabilities” or perhaps the phrase “rights and liabilities” should be deleted.

The Committee decided against making either change. While part of Civil Rule 54(b) uses the conjunction “or,” the last sentence of 54(b) uses the conjunction “and,” referring to “entry of a judgment adjudicating all the claims and all the parties’ rights and liabilities.” In addition, keeping “rights and liabilities” in the proposed amendment preserves the intended connection between the proposal and Civil Rule 54(b).

To deal with the concern about attorney’s fees, the Committee added to the committee note a statement that the amendment does not change the principle established in the Supreme Court decisions *Budinich* and *Ray Haluch*. See *Budinich v. Becton Dickinson & Co.*, 486 U.S. 196, 202-03 (1988); *Ray Haluch Gravel Co. v. Cent. Pension Fund of Int’l Union of Operating Eng’rs & Participating Emp’rs*, 571 U.S. 177, 179 (2014). Under these cases, attorney’s fees incurred in the action are collateral—and can be understood as neither “claims” nor “rights and liabilities of the parties” within the meaning of Civil Rule 54(b). As the Court put it in *Budinich*:

As a general matter, at least, we think it indisputable that a claim for attorney’s fees is not part of the merits of the action to which the fees pertain. Such an award does not remedy the injury giving rise to the action, and indeed is often available to the party defending against the action.

*Budinich*, 486 U.S. at 200.\*

\* The Committee also considered a related question about Civil Rule 58(e), a rule that allows a district court to treat a motion for attorney’s fees as if it were a Civil Rule 59 new trial motion for purposes of Appellate Rule 4(a)(4)(A). The Committee concluded that this

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The addition to the committee note is as follows:

The amendment does not change the principle established in *Budinich v. Becton Dickinson & Co.*, 486 U.S. 196, 202-03 (1988), that “a decision on the merits is a ‘final decision’ for purposes of § 1291 whether or not there remains for adjudication a request for attorney’s fees attributable to the case.” See also *Ray Haluch Gravel Co. v. Cent. Pension Fund of Int’l Union of Operating Eng’rs & Participating Emp’rs*, 571 U.S. 177, 179 (2014) (“Whether the claim for attorney’s fees is based on a statute, a contract, or both, the pendency of a ruling on an award for fees and costs does not prevent, as a general rule, the merits judgment from becoming final for purposes of appeal.”).

### Avoiding the Creation of a New Trap for the Unwary

Judge Colloton also suggested that the proposed rule might create its own trap for the unwary. Suppose a party waits until final judgment, but instead of designating the final judgment (or the final judgment and some interlocutory order or orders) designates *only* an interlocutory order in the notice of appeal. If Rule 3(c)(1)(B) requires that either a final judgment or an appealable order be designated, might a court conclude that the notice is ineffective?

To guard against this possible result, the Committee added a provision to what would become Rule 3(c)(7):

~~(4)~~ (7) An appeal must not be dismissed for informality of form or title of the notice of appeal, ~~or~~ for failure to name a party whose intent to appeal is otherwise clear from the notice, or for failure to properly designate the judgment if the notice of appeal was filed after entry of the judgment and designates an order that merged into that judgment.

It also added an explanation to the committee note:

On occasion, a party may file a notice of appeal after a judgment but designate only a prior nonappealable decision that merged into that judgment. To deal with this situation, existing Rule 3(c)(4) is amended to provide that an appeal must not be dismissed for failure to properly designate the judgment if the notice of appeal was filed after entry of the judgment and designates an order that merged into that judgment. In this situation, a court should act as if the notice had properly

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situation is covered by Rule 4(a)(4)(A)(iii) because such a district court order is effectively an extension of time and Civil Rule 58(e) is the intended reference of subsection (iii).

designated the judgment. In determining whether a notice of appeal was filed after the entry of judgment, Rules 4(a)(2) and 4(b)(2) apply.

### **Designating Only Part of a Judgment or Order in a Notice of Appeal**

Throughout the pendency of this proposed amendment, a persistent question has been whether to permit a party to limit the scope of a notice of appeal or to leave such limitations to the briefs. It is a difficult and close issue. Indeed, on all of the issues discussed above, the Committee reached consensus. But on this issue, it was closely divided, five to three.

Rule 3(c)(1)(B) currently permits a party to designate “the judgment, order, or part thereof being appealed.” Believing that the phrase “or part thereof” has contributed to the problem of confusing the judgment or appealable order with the issues sought to be reviewed on appeal, the Committee deleted that phrase in the proposed amendment. But to preserve the ability of a party to limit the scope of a notice of appeal by deliberate choice, proposed Rule 3(c)(6) as published provides: “An appellant may designate only part of a judgment or appealable order by expressly stating that the notice of appeal is so limited. Without such an express statement, specific designations do not limit the scope of the notice of appeal.”

The Council of Appellate Lawyers of the American Bar Association submitted a comment suggesting that it would be better not to include a provision allowing for a limitation of the scope of a notice of appeal. The Council is concerned that proposed 3(c)(6) may give rise to strategic attempts to limit the jurisdiction of the court of appeals, particularly when cross-appeals are involved. It supports leaving the narrowing of the issues on appeal to the briefing.

The majority of the Committee decided not to change this aspect of the proposal as published. Current law allows limited notices of appeal, and the point of the current project is to avoid miscommunication, not to change what a party can and cannot do. Retaining the ability to expressly limit the scope of the notice of appeal is valuable, particularly in multi-party cases, enabling an appellant to assure a party that no challenge is being raised as to that party.

Eliminating the ability to limit the scope of the notice of appeal might upset settlement agreements, in which a defendant might have agreed not to appeal a judgment’s award of damages to one plaintiff but is still free to appeal the same judgment’s award of damages to a second plaintiff. There is utility in binding oneself in the notice of appeal rather than with some assurance on the side.

Eliminating the ability to limit the scope of the notice of appeal might also interfere with the district court’s ability to reconsider or modify existing rulings if a

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particular order does multiple things, of which some may be appealable, some may be unappealable, and some may be uncertain.

Moreover, the current proposal does not appear to give cause for the Council's worries regarding cross-appeals. Rules 4(a)(3) and 4(b)(1) give other parties additional time to file a notice after a timely notice of appeal, but they do not limit such cross-appeals to the same part of the judgment or order referenced in the initial notice.

While not persuaded to eliminate the ability to limit the scope of the notice of appeal, the Committee, cognizant of the competing concerns, decided to retain the matter on its agenda, with a plan to revisit the issue in three years.

A minority of the Committee, on the other hand, would delete proposed (c)(6) and add the following sentence to the end of proposed (c)(4): "Specific designations do not limit the scope of the notice of appeal."

In their view, such an approach would be a "cleaner" alternative, create less uncertainty, and avoid inadvertent loss of appellate rights. Concerns supporting the retention of proposed (c)(6) could be managed in other ways. For example, in multi-party cases where some parties settle, assurance that the appealing party is not breaching the settlement agreement could be provided separate from the text of the notice of appeal. Similarly, issues regarding the ability of a district court to modify existing rulings could be handled on a case-by-case basis. A motion in the district court, or a statement in a brief, could signal to the courts and parties the limits of what was sought to be raised on appeal.

Disagreement about this aspect of the proposal did not lead any member to withhold support for the proposal as a whole. Once the Committee resolved this issue by a divided vote, the Committee without dissent approved submitting the proposed amendment to the Standing Committee for final approval.

The style consultants suggested a minor change to proposed (c)(4): changing "all orders that merge for purposes of appeal into the designated judgment" to "all orders that, for purposes of appeal, merge into the designated judgment."

Here is the proposed amendment recommended for final approval, including both the changes made by the Committee and the one suggested by the style consultants:

### Rule 3. Appeal as of Right—How Taken

\* \* \* \* \*

#### (c) Contents of the Notice of Appeal.

(1) The notice of appeal must:

(A) specify the party or parties taking the appeal by naming each one in the caption or body of the notice, but an attorney representing more than one party may describe those parties with such terms as “all plaintiffs,” “the defendants,” “the plaintiffs A, B, et al.,” or “all defendants except X”;

(B) designate the judgment, ~~—or the appealable order—~~from which the appeal is taken, ~~or part thereof being appealed;~~ and

(C) name the court to which the appeal is taken.

(2) A pro se notice of appeal is considered filed on behalf of the signer and the signer’s spouse and minor children (if they are parties), unless the notice clearly indicates otherwise.

(3) In a class action, whether or not the class has been certified, the notice of appeal is sufficient if it names one person qualified to bring the appeal as representative of the class.

(4) The notice of appeal encompasses all orders that, for purposes of appeal, merge into the designated judgment or appealable order. It is not necessary to designate those orders in the notice of appeal.

(5) In a civil case, a notice of appeal encompasses the final judgment, whether or not that judgment is set out in a separate document under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58, if the notice designates:

(A) an order that adjudicates all remaining claims and the rights and liabilities of all remaining parties; or

(B) an order described in Rule 4(a)(4)(A).

(6) An appellant may designate only part of a judgment or appealable order by expressly stating that the notice of appeal is so limited. Without such an express statement, specific designations do not limit the scope of the notice of appeal.

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- ~~(4)~~ (7) An appeal must not be dismissed for informality of form or title of the notice of appeal, ~~or~~ for failure to name a party whose intent to appeal is otherwise clear from the notice, or for failure to properly designate the judgment if the notice of appeal was filed after entry of the judgment and designates an order that merged into that judgment.
- ~~(5)~~ (8) Forms 1A and 1B in the Appendix of Forms are ~~is a~~ suggested forms of ~~a~~ notices of appeal.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Committee Note

The notice of appeal is supposed to be a simple document that provides notice that a party is appealing and invokes the jurisdiction of the court of appeals. It therefore must state who is appealing, what is being appealed, and to what court the appeal is being taken. It is the role of the briefs, not the notice of appeal, to focus and limit the issues on appeal.

Because the jurisdiction of the court of appeals is established by statute, an appeal can be taken only from those district court decisions from which Congress has authorized an appeal. In most instances, that is the final judgment, see, e.g., 28 U.S.C. § 1291, but some other orders are considered final within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1291, and some interlocutory orders are themselves appealable. See, e.g., 28 U.S.C. § 1292. Accordingly, Rule 3(c)(1) currently requires that the notice of appeal “designate the judgment, order, or part thereof being appealed.” The judgment or order to be designated is the one serving as the basis of the court’s appellate jurisdiction and from which time limits are calculated.

However, some have interpreted this language as an invitation, if not a requirement, to designate each and every order of the district court that the appellant may wish to challenge on appeal. Such an interpretation overlooks a key distinction between the judgment or order on appeal—the one serving as the basis of the court’s appellate jurisdiction and from which time limits are calculated—and the various orders or decisions that may be reviewed on appeal because they merge into the judgment or order on appeal. Designation of the final judgment confers appellate jurisdiction over prior interlocutory orders that merge into the final judgment. The merger principle is a corollary of the final judgment rule: a party cannot appeal from most interlocutory orders,

but must await final judgment, and only then obtain review of interlocutory orders on appeal from the final judgment.

In an effort to avoid the misconception that it is necessary or appropriate to designate each and every order of the district court that the appellant may wish to challenge on appeal, Rule 3(c)(1) is amended to require the designation of “the judgment—or the appealable order—from which the appeal is taken”—and the phrase “or part thereof” is deleted. In most cases, because of the merger principle, it is appropriate to designate only the judgment. In other cases, particularly where an appeal from an interlocutory order is authorized, the notice of appeal must designate that appealable order.

Whether due to misunderstanding or a misguided attempt at caution, some notices of appeal designate both the judgment and some particular order that the appellant wishes to challenge on appeal. A number of courts, using an *expressio unius* rationale, have held that such a designation of a particular order limits the scope of the notice of appeal to the particular order, and prevents the appellant from challenging other orders that would otherwise be reviewable, under the merger principle, on appeal from the final judgment. These decisions create a trap for the unwary.

However, there are circumstances in which an appellant may deliberately choose to limit the scope of the notice of appeal, and it is desirable to enable the appellant to convey this deliberate choice to the other parties.

To alert readers to the merger principle, a new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “The notice of appeal encompasses all orders that, for purposes of appeal, merge into the designated judgment or appealable order. It is not necessary to designate those orders in the notice of appeal.” The general merger rule can be stated simply: an appeal from a final judgment permits review of all rulings that led up to the judgment. Because this general rule is subject to some exceptions and complications, the amendment does not attempt to codify the merger principle but instead leaves its details to case law.

The amendment does not change the principle established in *Budinich v. Becton Dickinson & Co.*, 486 U.S. 196, 202-03 (1988), that “a decision on the merits is a ‘final decision’ for purposes of § 1291 whether or not there remains for adjudication a request for attorney’s fees attributable to the case.” See also *Ray Haluch Gravel Co. v. Cent. Pension Fund of Int’l Union of Operating Eng’rs & Participating Emp’rs*,

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571 U.S. 177, 179 (2014) (“Whether the claim for attorney’s fees is based on a statute, a contract, or both, the pendency of a ruling on an award for fees and costs does not prevent, as a general rule, the merits judgment from becoming final for purposes of appeal.”).

To remove the trap for the unwary, while enabling deliberate limitations of the notice of appeal, another new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “An appellant may designate only part of a judgment or appealable order by expressly stating that the notice of appeal is so limited. Without such an express statement, specific designations do not limit the scope of the notice of appeal.”

A related problem arises when a case is decided by a series of orders, sometimes separated by a year or more. For example, some claims might be dismissed for failure to state a claim under F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6), and then, after a considerable period for discovery, summary judgment under F.R.Civ.P. 56 is granted in favor of the defendant on the remaining claims. That second order, because it resolves all of the remaining claims, is a final judgment, and an appeal from that final judgment confers jurisdiction to review the earlier F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) dismissal. But if a notice of appeal describes the second order, not as a final judgment, but as an order granting summary judgment, some courts would limit appellate review to the summary judgment and refuse to consider a challenge to the earlier F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) dismissal. Similarly, if the district court complies with the separate document requirement of F.R.Civ.P. 58, and enters both an order granting summary judgment as to the remaining claims and a separate document denying all relief, but the notice of appeal designates the order granting summary judgment rather than the separate document, some courts would likewise limit appellate review to the summary judgment and refuse to consider a challenge to the earlier F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) dismissal. This creates a trap for all but the most wary, because at the time that the district court issues the order disposing of all remaining claims, a litigant may not know whether the district court will ever enter the separate document required by F.R.Civ.P. 58.

To remove this trap, a new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “In a civil case, a notice of appeal encompasses the final judgment, whether or not that judgment is set out in a separate document under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58, if the notice designates . . . an order that adjudicates all remaining claims and the rights and liabilities of all remaining parties. . . .”

Frequently, a party who is aggrieved by a final judgment will make a motion in the district court instead of filing a notice of appeal. Rule 4(a)(4) permits a party who makes certain motions to await disposition of those motions before appealing. But some courts treat a notice of appeal that designates only the order disposing of such a motion as limited to that order, rather than bringing the final judgment before the court of appeals for review. (Again, such an appeal might be brought before or after the judgment is set out in a separate document under F.R.Civ.P. 58.) To reduce the unintended loss of appellate rights in this situation, a new provision is added to Rule 3(c): “In a civil case, a notice of appeal encompasses the final judgment, whether or not that judgment is set out in a separate document under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58, if the notice designates . . . an order described in Rule 4(a)(4)(A).” This amendment does not alter the requirement of Rule 4(a)(4)(B)(ii) (requiring a notice of appeal or an amended notice of appeal if a party intends to challenge an order disposing of certain motions).

These two provisions are limited to civil cases. Similar issues may arise in a small number of criminal cases, and similar treatment may be appropriate, but no inference should be drawn about how such issues should be handled in criminal cases.

On occasion, a party may file a notice of appeal after a judgment but designate only a prior nonappealable decision that merged into that judgment. To deal with this situation, existing Rule 3(c)(4) is amended to provide that an appeal must not be dismissed for failure to properly designate the judgment if the notice of appeal was filed after entry of the judgment and designates an order that merged into that judgment. In this situation, a court should act as if the notice had properly designated the judgment. In determining whether a notice of appeal was filed after the entry of judgment, Rules 4(a)(2) and 4(b)(2) apply.

These new provisions are added as Rules 3(c)(4), 3(c)(5), and 3(c)(6), with the existing Rules 3(c)(4) and 3(c)(5) renumbered. In addition, to reflect these changes to the Rule, Form 1 is replaced by Forms 1A and 1B, and Form 2 is amended.

The proposed amendment to Rule 6 is a conforming amendment. No comments directed to Rule 6 were received, and the Committee requests final approval as published.

The NACDL also noted with approval a minor stylistic change to the forms as published and suggested more stylistic streamlining. The style consultants reviewed

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those suggestions, and the following revised forms are presented first in redline and then as the clean result:

Form 1A

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Judgment ~~or Order~~ of a District Court.

United States District Court for the \_\_\_\_\_  
District of \_\_\_\_\_  
File Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Plaintiff

v.

C.D., Defendant

Notice of Appeal

Notice is hereby given that \_\_\_\_\_ (here name all parties taking the appeal) \_\_\_\_\_, (~~plaintiffs~~) (~~defendants~~) in the above named case,\* hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit (from the final judgment) (~~from an order (describing it)~~) entered in this action on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the judgment was entered) the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

[**Note to inmate filers:** If you are an inmate confined in an institution and you seek the timing benefit of Fed. R. App. P. 4(c)(1), complete Form 7 (Declaration of Inmate Filing) and file that declaration ~~along~~ with this Notice of Appeal.]

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

Form 1B

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Judgment or an Appealable  
Order of a District Court.

United States District Court for the \_\_\_\_\_  
District of \_\_\_\_\_  
File Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Plaintiff

v.

C.D., Defendant

Notice of Appeal

Notice is hereby given that \_\_\_\_\_ (here name  
all parties taking the appeal) \_\_\_\_\_, (plaintiffs) (defendants) in the above named case,\*  
hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit (from the  
final judgment) (from an the order \_\_\_\_\_ (describing the order it))  
entered in this action on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the order was  
entered) the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**[Note to inmate filers:** If you are an inmate confined in an institution and you seek the timing benefit of Fed. R. App. P. 4(c)(1), complete Form 7 (Declaration of Inmate Filing) and file that declaration ~~along~~ with this Notice of Appeal.]

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

Form 2

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Decision of  
the United States Tax Court

United States Tax Court  
Washington, D.C.

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Petitioner

v.

Commissioner of Internal  
Revenue, Respondent

Notice of Appeal

Notice is hereby given that \_\_\_\_\_ (here name  
all parties taking the appeal)\* \_\_\_\_\_ hereby appeal to the United States Court of  
Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit from ~~(that part of)~~ the decision of this court entered in  
the above captioned proceeding on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the  
decision was entered) the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ (relating to \_\_\_\_\_).

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Counsel* Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

Form 1A

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Judgment of a District Court.

United States District Court for the \_\_\_\_\_  
District of \_\_\_\_\_  
Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Plaintiff

v.

C.D., Defendant

Notice of Appeal

\_\_\_\_\_ (name all parties taking the appeal)\*  
appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit from the final  
judgment entered on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the judgment was  
entered).

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**[Note to inmate filers:** *If you are an inmate confined in an institution and you seek the timing benefit of Fed. R. App. P. 4(c)(1), complete Form 7 (Declaration of Inmate Filing) and file that declaration along with this Notice of Appeal.*]

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

Form 1B

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From an Appealable Order of a District Court.

United States District Court for the \_\_\_\_\_  
District of \_\_\_\_\_  
Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Plaintiff

v.

C.D., Defendant

Notice of Appeal

\_\_\_\_\_ (name all parties taking the appeal)\*  
appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit from the order  
\_\_\_\_\_ (describe the order) entered on \_\_\_\_\_  
(state the date the order was entered).

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**[Note to inmate filers:** If you are an inmate confined in an institution and you seek the timing benefit of Fed. R. App. P. 4(c)(1), complete Form 7 (Declaration of Inmate Filing) and file that declaration ~~along~~ with this Notice of Appeal.]

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

Form 2

Notice of Appeal to a Court of Appeals From a Decision of  
the United States Tax Court

United States Tax Court  
Washington, D.C.

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

A.B., Petitioner

v.

Commissioner of Internal  
Revenue, Respondent

Notice of Appeal

\_\_\_\_\_ (name all parties taking the appeal)\*  
appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the \_\_\_\_ Circuit from the decision  
entered on \_\_\_\_\_ (state the date the decision was entered).

(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Attorney for* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

\* See Rule 3(c) for permissible ways of identifying appellants.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL  
RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE<sup>1</sup>**

1 **Rule 2005. Apprehension and Removal of Debtor to**  
2 **Compel Attendance for Examination.**

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 (c) CONDITIONS OF RELEASE. In determining  
5 what conditions will reasonably assure attendance or  
6 obedience under subdivision (a) of this rule or appearance  
7 under subdivision (b) of this rule, the court shall be governed  
8 by the relevant provisions and policies of title 18, U.S.C., §  
9 ~~3146(a) and (b)~~ 3142.

**Committee Note**

The rule is amended to replace the reference to 18 U.S.C. § 3146(a) and (b) with a reference to 18 U.S.C. § 3142. Sections 3141 through 3151 of Title 18 were repealed by the Bail Reform Act of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-473, Title II, § 203(a), 98 Stat. 1979 (1984), and replaced by new provisions dealing with bail. The current version of 18 U.S.C. § 3146 deals not with conditions to assure attendance or appearance, but with penalties for failure to appear. The topic of conditions is in 18 U.S.C. § 3142. Because 18 U.S.C. § 3142 contains provisions bearing on topics not

<sup>1</sup> New material is underlined in red; matter to be omitted is lined through.

included in former 18 U.S.C. § 3146(a) and (b), the rule is also amended to limit the reference to the “relevant” provisions and policies of § 3142.

1 **Rule 3007. Objections to Claims**

2 (a) TIME AND MANNER OF SERVICE

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 (2) *Manner of Service.*

5 (A) The objection and notice shall be served  
6 on a claimant by first-class mail to the person  
7 most recently designated on the claimant's  
8 original or amended proof of claim as the  
9 person to receive notices, at the address so  
10 indicated; and

11 \* \* \* \* \*

12 (ii) if the objection is to a claim of an  
13 insured depository institution as  
14 defined in section 3 of the Federal  
15 Deposit Insurance Act, in the manner  
16 provided in Rule 7004(h).

17 \* \* \* \* \*

### **Committee Note**

Subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii) is amended to clarify that the special service method required by Rule 7004(h) must be used for service of objections to claims only on insured depository institutions as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1813. Rule 7004(h) was enacted by Congress as part of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994. It applies only to insured depository institutions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and does not include credit unions, which are instead insured by the National Credit Union Administration. A credit union, therefore, may be served with an objection to a claim according to Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)—by first-class mail sent to the person designated for receipt of notice on the credit union’s proof of claim.

1 **Rule 7007.1. Corporate Ownership Statement**

2 (a) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE. Any  
3 nongovernmental corporation that is a party to an adversary  
4 proceeding, other than the debtor, ~~or a governmental unit,~~  
5 shall file ~~two copies of~~ a statement that identifies any parent  
6 corporation and any publicly held corporation, ~~other than a~~  
7 ~~governmental unit, that directly or indirectly~~ that owns 10%  
8 or more of any class of the corporation's equity interests, its  
9 stock or states that there ~~are no entities to report under this~~  
10 ~~subdivision~~ is no such corporation. The same requirement  
11 applies to a nongovernmental corporation that seeks to  
12 intervene.

13 (b) TIME FOR FILING; SUPPLEMENTAL  
14 FILING. ~~A party shall file the~~ The corporate ownership  
15 statement shall: ~~required under Rule 7007.1(a)~~  
16 (1) be filed with ~~its~~ the corporation's first  
17 appearance, pleading, motion, response, or other  
18 request addressed to the court; and

19 (2) be supplemented whenever the  
20 information required by this rule changes A  
21 ~~party shall file a supplemental statement~~  
22 ~~promptly upon any change in circumstances~~  
23 ~~that this rule requires the party to identify or~~  
24 ~~disclose.~~

#### Committee Note

The rule is amended to conform to recent amendments to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8012, Fed. R. App. P. 26.1., and Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1. Subdivision (a) is amended to encompass nongovernmental corporations that seek to intervene. Stylistic changes are made to subdivision (b) to reflect that some statements will be filed by nonparties seeking to intervene.

1 **Rule 9036. Notice and Service ~~Generally~~ by Electronic**  
2 **Transmission**

3 (a) IN GENERAL. This rule applies ~~Whenever~~  
4 these rules require or permit sending a notice or serving a  
5 paper by mail or other means, ~~the clerk, or some other~~  
6 ~~person as the court or these rules may direct,~~ may send the  
7 notice to ~~or serve the paper on~~

8 (b) NOTICES FROM AND SERVICE BY THE  
9 COURT.

10 (1) Registered Users. The clerk may send  
11 notice to or serve a registered user by filing the notice  
12 or paper ~~it~~ with the court's electronic-filing system.

13 (2) All Recipients. For any recipient, the  
14 clerk may send notice or serve a paper ~~Or it may be sent~~  
15 ~~to any person by other~~ electronic means that the person  
16 recipient consented to in writing, including by  
17 designating an electronic address for receipt of notices.

18 But these exceptions apply:

19           (A) if the recipient has registered an  
20           electronic address with the Administrative Office  
21           of the United States Courts' bankruptcy-noticing  
22           program, the clerk shall send the notice to or serve  
23           the paper at that address; and

24           (B) if an entity has been designated by the  
25           Director of the Administrative Office of the  
26           United States Courts as a high-volume paper-  
27           notice recipient, the clerk may send the notice to  
28           or serve the paper electronically at an address  
29           designated by the Director, unless the entity has  
30           designated an address under § 342(e) or (f) of the  
31           Code.

32           (c) NOTICES FROM AND SERVICE BY AN  
33           ENTITY. An entity may send notice or serve a paper in the  
34           same manner that the clerk does under (b), excluding  
35           (b)(2)(A) and (B).

36            (d) COMPLETING NOTICE OR SERVICE. ~~In~~  
37   ~~either of these events,~~ Electronic ~~service or notice~~ or service  
38   is complete upon filing or sending but is not effective if the  
39   filer or sender receives notice that it did not reach the person  
40   to be served. It is the recipient's responsibility to keep its  
41   electronic address current with the clerk.

42            (e) INAPPLICABILITY. This rule does not apply  
43   to any ~~pleading or other~~ paper required to be served in  
44   accordance with Rule 7004.

#### **Committee Note**

The rule is amended to take account of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' program for providing notice to high-volume paper-notice recipients. Under this program, when the Bankruptcy Noticing Center ("BNC") has sent by mail more than a designated number of notices in a calendar month (initially set at 100) from bankruptcy courts to an entity, the Director of the Administrative Office will notify the entity that it is a high-volume paper-notice recipient. As such, this "threshold notice" will inform the entity that it must register an electronic address with the BNC. If, within a time specified in the threshold notice, a notified entity enrolls in Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing with the BNC, it will be sent notices electronically at the address maintained by the BNC upon a start date determined by the Director. If a notified entity does not timely enroll in Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing, it

will be informed that court-generated notices will be sent to an electronic address designated by the Director. Any designation by the Director, however, is subject to the entity's right under § 342(e) and (f) of the Code to designate an address at which it wishes to receive notices in chapter 7 and chapter 13 cases, including at its own electronic address that it registers with the BNC.

The rule is also reorganized to separate methods of electronic noticing and service available to courts from those available to parties. Both courts and parties may serve or provide notice to registered users of the court's electronic-filing system by filing documents with that system. Both courts and parties also may serve and provide notice to any entity by electronic means consented to in writing by the recipient. Only courts may serve or give notice to an entity at an electronic address registered with the BNC as part of the Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing program.

The title of the rule is revised to more accurately reflect the rule's applicability to methods of electronic noticing and service. Rule 9036 does not preclude noticing and service by physical means otherwise authorized by the court or these rules.

**Fill in this information to identify your case:**

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

\_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

Case number (If known): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter you are filing under:

Check if this is an amended filing

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12
- Chapter 13

Official Form 101

**Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy**

04/20

The bankruptcy forms use *you* and *Debtor 1* to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*—and in joint cases, these forms use *you* to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, “Do you own a car,” the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

**Part 1: Identify Yourself**

	About Debtor 1:	About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):
<b>1. Your full name</b>  Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport).  Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.	_____ First name  _____ Middle name  _____ Last name  _____ Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)	_____ First name  _____ Middle name  _____ Last name  _____ Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)
<b>2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years</b>  Include your married or maiden names.	_____ First name  _____ Middle name  _____ Last name  _____ First name  _____ Middle name  _____ Last name	_____ First name  _____ Middle name  _____ Last name  _____ First name  _____ Middle name  _____ Last name

3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)

XXX - XX - \_\_\_\_\_
OR
9 XX - XX - \_\_\_\_\_

XXX - XX - \_\_\_\_\_
OR
9 XX - XX - \_\_\_\_\_

4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years

Include trade names and doing business as names

About Debtor 1:

I have not used any business names or EINs.

Business name

Business name

EIN

EIN

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

I have not used any business names or EINs.

Business name

Business name

EIN

EIN

5. Where you live

Number Street

City State ZIP Code

County

If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number Street

P.O. Box

City State ZIP Code

If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:

Number Street

City State ZIP Code

County

If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.

Number Street

P.O. Box

City State ZIP Code

**6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy**

Check one:

- Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.
- I have another reason. Explain.  
(See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

- Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.
- I have another reason. Explain.  
(See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case**

**7. The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under**

Check one. (For a brief description of each, see *Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Form 2010)). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12
- Chapter 13

**8. How you will pay the fee**

- I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.
- I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).
- I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.

**9. Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?**

- No
- Yes. District \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_ Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY
- District \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_ Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY
- District \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_ Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

10. Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?

No

Yes. Debtor Relationship to you District When Case number, if known

Debtor Relationship to you District When Case number, if known

11. Do you rent your residence?

No. Go to line 12.

Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you?

No. Go to line 12.

Yes. Fill out Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You (Form 101A) and file it as part of this bankruptcy petition.

Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor

12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?

No. Go to Part 4.

Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

Name of business, if any

Number Street

City State ZIP Code

Check the appropriate box to describe your business:

- Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
None of the above

13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and are you a small business debtor or a debtor as defined by 11 U.S.C. § 1182(1)?

For a definition of small business debtor, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor or a debtor choosing to proceed under Subchapter V so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor or you are choosing to proceed under Subchapter V, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).

- No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.
No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.
Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11, I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code, and I do not choose to proceed under Subchapter V of Chapter 11.
Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11, I am a debtor according to the definition in § 1182(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, and I choose to proceed under Subchapter V of Chapter 11.

**Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention**

14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?

No

Yes. What is the hazard?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?*

Where is the property?

Number                      Street \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling****15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.**

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

**About Debtor 1:**

You must check one:

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:

**Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

**Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

**Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

You must check one:

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:

**Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

**Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

**Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

**Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes**

16. What kind of debts do you have?

16a. **Are your debts primarily consumer debts?** *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as “incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose.”

- No. Go to line 16b.
- Yes. Go to line 17.

16b. **Are your debts primarily business debts?** *Business debts* are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.

- No. Go to line 16c.
- Yes. Go to line 17.

16c. State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts.

17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?

No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.

Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?

- Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?
  - No
  - Yes

18. How many creditors do you estimate that you owe?

- |                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-49    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99   | <input type="checkbox"/> 5,001-10,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999 |  |  |

19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion        |

20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion        |

**Part 7: Sign Below**

For you

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 1

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**For your attorney, if you are represented by one**

**If you are not represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.**

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Attorney for Debtor Date  
MM / DD / YYYY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State ZIP Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact phone Email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bar number State

**For you if you are filing this bankruptcy without an attorney**

**If you are represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.**

The law allows you, as an individual, to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, but **you should understand that many people find it extremely difficult to represent themselves successfully. Because bankruptcy has long-term financial and legal consequences, you are strongly urged to hire a qualified attorney.**

To be successful, you must correctly file and handle your bankruptcy case. The rules are very technical, and a mistake or inaction may affect your rights. For example, your case may be dismissed because you did not file a required document, pay a fee on time, attend a meeting or hearing, or cooperate with the court, case trustee, U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or audit firm if your case is selected for audit. If that happens, you could lose your right to file another case, or you may lose protections, including the benefit of the automatic stay.

You must list all your property and debts in the schedules that you are required to file with the court. Even if you plan to pay a particular debt outside of your bankruptcy, you must list that debt in your schedules. If you do not list a debt, the debt may not be discharged. If you do not list property or properly claim it as exempt, you may not be able to keep the property. The judge can also deny you a discharge of all your debts if you do something dishonest in your bankruptcy case, such as destroying or hiding property, falsifying records, or lying. Individual bankruptcy cases are randomly audited to determine if debtors have been accurate, truthful, and complete. **Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned.**

If you decide to file without an attorney, the court expects you to follow the rules as if you had hired an attorney. The court will not treat you differently because you are filing for yourself. To be successful, you must be familiar with the United States Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the local rules of the court in which your case is filed. You must also be familiar with any state exemption laws that apply.

Are you aware that filing for bankruptcy is a serious action with long-term financial and legal consequences?

- No
- Yes

Are you aware that bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime and that if your bankruptcy forms are inaccurate or incomplete, you could be fined or imprisoned?

- No
- Yes

Did you pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help you fill out your bankruptcy forms?

- No
- Yes. Name of Person \_\_\_\_\_

Attach *Bankruptcy Petition Preparer's Notice, Declaration, and Signature* (Official Form 119).

By signing here, I acknowledge that I understand the risks involved in filing without an attorney. I have read and understood this notice, and I am aware that filing a bankruptcy case without an attorney may cause me to lose my rights or property if I do not properly handle the case.

**x**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 1

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**x**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 2

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### **Committee Note**

The form is amended in response to the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281. That law provides a new definition of “debtor” for determining eligibility to proceed under subchapter V of chapter 11. Line 13 of the form is amended to reflect that change. This amendment to the Code will terminate one year after the date of enactment of the CARES Act.

**Fill in this information to identify your case:**

Debtor 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
(If known)

**Check one box only as directed in this form and in Form 122A-1Supp:**

- 1. There is no presumption of abuse.
- 2. The calculation to determine if a presumption of abuse applies will be made under *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2).
- 3. The Means Test does not apply now because of qualified military service but it could apply later.

Check if this is an amended filing

**Official Form 122A-1**

**Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income**

04/20

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for being accurate. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. Include the line number to which the additional information applies. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). If you believe that you are exempted from a presumption of abuse because you do not have primarily consumer debts or because of qualifying military service, complete and file *Statement of Exemption from Presumption of Abuse Under § 707(b)(2)* (Official Form 122A-1Supp) with this form.

**Part 1: Calculate Your Current Monthly Income**

1. **What is your marital and filing status?** Check one only.

- Not married.** Fill out Column A, lines 2-11.
- Married and your spouse is filing with you.** Fill out both Columns A and B, lines 2-11.
- Married and your spouse is NOT filing with you. You and your spouse are:**
  - Living in the same household and are not legally separated.** Fill out both Columns A and B, lines 2-11.
  - Living separately or are legally separated.** Fill out Column A, lines 2-11; do not fill out Column B. By checking this box, you declare under penalty of perjury that you and your spouse are legally separated under nonbankruptcy law that applies or that you and your spouse are living apart for reasons that do not include evading the Means Test requirements. 11 U.S.C. § 707(b)(7)(B).

**Fill in the average monthly income that you received from all sources, derived during the 6 full months before you file this bankruptcy case.** 11 U.S.C. § 101(10A). For example, if you are filing on September 15, the 6-month period would be March 1 through August 31. If the amount of your monthly income varied during the 6 months, add the income for all 6 months and divide the total by 6. Fill in the result. Do not include any income amount more than once. For example, if both spouses own the same rental property, put the income from that property in one column only. If you have nothing to report for any line, write \$0 in the space.

	Column A Debtor 1	Column B Debtor 2 or non-filing spouse
2. <b>Your gross wages, salary, tips, bonuses, overtime, and commissions</b> (before all payroll deductions).	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. <b>Alimony and maintenance payments.</b> Do not include payments from a spouse if Column B is filled in.	\$ _____	\$ _____
4. <b>All amounts from any source which are regularly paid for household expenses of you or your dependents, including child support.</b> Include regular contributions from an unmarried partner, members of your household, your dependents, parents, and roommates. Include regular contributions from a spouse only if Column B is not filled in. Do not include payments you listed on line 3.	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. <b>Net income from operating a business, profession, or farm</b>	<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>
Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	– \$ _____	– \$ _____
Net monthly income from a business, profession, or farm	\$ _____	\$ _____
	Copy here →	\$ _____
6. <b>Net income from rental and other real property</b>	<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>
Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	– \$ _____	– \$ _____
Net monthly income from rental or other real property	\$ _____	\$ _____
	Copy here →	\$ _____
7. <b>Interest, dividends, and royalties</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____

Column A Debtor 1	Column B Debtor 2 or non-filing spouse
----------------------	--

8. Unemployment compensation

Do not enter the amount if you contend that the amount received was a benefit under the Social Security Act. Instead, list it here: ↓

For you ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For your spouse ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ _____	\$ _____
----------	----------

9. Pension or retirement income. Do not include any amount received that was a benefit under the Social Security Act. Also, except as stated in the next sentence, do not include any compensation, pension, pay, annuity, or allowance paid by the United States Government in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services. If you received any retired pay paid under chapter 61 of title 10, then include that pay only to the extent that it does not exceed the amount of retired pay to which you would otherwise be entitled if retired under any provision of title 10 other than chapter 61 of that title.

\$ _____	\$ _____
----------	----------

10. Income from all other sources not listed above. Specify the source and amount. Do not include any benefits received under the Social Security Act; payments made under the Federal law relating to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); payments received as a victim of a war crime, a crime against humanity, or international or domestic terrorism; or compensation, pension, pay, annuity, or allowance paid by the United States Government in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services. If necessary, list other sources on a separate page and put the total below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\$ _____	\$ _____
\$ _____	\$ _____
+ \$ _____	+ \$ _____

Total amounts from separate pages, if any.

11. Calculate your total current monthly income. Add lines 2 through 10 for each column. Then add the total for Column A to the total for Column B.

\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
				Total current monthly income

Part 2: Determine Whether the Means Test Applies to You

12. Calculate your current monthly income for the year. Follow these steps:

12a. Copy your total current monthly income from line 11. Copy line 11 here → \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Multiply by 12 (the number of months in a year). x 12

12b. The result is your annual income for this part of the form. 12b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

13. Calculate the median family income that applies to you. Follow these steps:

Fill in the state in which you live. [ ]

Fill in the number of people in your household. [ ]

Fill in the median family income for your state and size of household. 13. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To find a list of applicable median income amounts, go online using the link specified in the separate instructions for this form. This list may also be available at the bankruptcy clerk's office.

14. How do the lines compare?

14a.  Line 12b is less than or equal to line 13. On the top of page 1, check box 1, *There is no presumption of abuse.* Go to Part 3. Do NOT fill out or file Official Form 122A-2.

14b.  Line 12b is more than line 13. On the top of page 1, check box 2, *The presumption of abuse is determined by Form 122A-2.* Go to Part 3 and fill out Form 122A-2.

**Part 3: Sign Below**

By signing here, I declare under penalty of perjury that the information on this statement and in any attachments is true and correct.

**x**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 1

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

**x**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 2

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

If you checked line 14a, do NOT fill out or file Form 122A-2.

If you checked line 14b, fill out Form 122A-2 and file it with this form.

**Fill in this information to identify your case:**

Debtor 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
(if known)

Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 122B

**Chapter 11 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income**

04/20

You must file this form if you are an individual and are filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 11. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. Include the line number to which the additional information applies. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).

**Part 1: Calculate Your Current Monthly Income**

1. **What is your marital and filing status?** Check one only.

- Not married.** Fill out Column A, lines 2-11.
- Married and your spouse is filing with you.** Fill out both Columns A and B, lines 2-11.
- Married and your spouse is NOT filing with you.** Fill out Column A, lines 2-11.

**Fill in the average monthly income that you received from all sources, derived during the 6 full months before you file this bankruptcy case.** 11 U.S.C. § 101(10A). For example, if you are filing on September 15, the 6-month period would be March 1 through August 31. If the amount of your monthly income varied during the 6 months, add the income for all 6 months and divide the total by 6. Fill in the result. Do not include any income amount more than once. For example, if both spouses own the same rental property, put the income from that property in one column only. If you have nothing to report for any line, write \$0 in the space.

<i>Column A</i> <b>Debtor 1</b>	<i>Column B</i> <b>Debtor 2</b>
------------------------------------	------------------------------------

2. **Your gross wages, salary, tips, bonuses, overtime, and commissions** (before all payroll deductions). \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Alimony and maintenance payments.** Do not include payments from a spouse if Column B is filled in. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. **All amounts from any source which are regularly paid for household expenses of you or your dependents, including child support.** Include regular contributions from an unmarried partner, members of your household, your dependents, parents, and roommates. Include regular contributions from a spouse only if Column B is not filled in. Do not include payments you listed on line 3. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Net income from operating a business, profession, or farm**

	<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>	
Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____	\$ _____	
Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	- \$ _____	- \$ _____	
Net monthly income from a business, profession, or farm	\$ _____	\$ _____	<b>Copy here →</b>
			\$ _____ \$ _____

6. **Net income from rental and other real property**

	<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>	
Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____	\$ _____	
Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	- \$ _____	- \$ _____	
Net monthly income from rental or other real property	\$ _____	\$ _____	<b>Copy here →</b>
			\$ _____ \$ _____

Column A Debtor 1	Column B Debtor 2
----------------------	----------------------

- |  |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
| 7. <b>Interest, dividends, and royalties</b> | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| 8. <b>Unemployment compensation</b>          | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |

Do not enter the amount if you contend that the amount received was a benefit under the Social Security Act. Instead, list it here:..... ↓

For you ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For your spouse..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
| 9. <b>Pension or retirement income.</b> Do not include any amount received that was a benefit under the Social Security Act. Also, except as stated in the next sentence, do not include any compensation, pension, pay, annuity, or allowance paid by the United States Government in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services. If you received any retired pay paid under chapter 61 of title 10, then include that pay only to the extent that it does not exceed the amount of retired pay to which you would otherwise be entitled if retired under any provision of title 10 other than chapter 61 of that title. | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
|--|----------|----------|

- |  |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
| 10. <b>Income from all other sources not listed above.</b> Specify the source and amount. Do not include any benefits received under the Social Security Act; payments made under the Federal law relating to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); payments received as a victim of a war crime, a crime against humanity, or international or domestic terrorism; or compensation, pension, pay, annuity, or allowance paid by the United States Government in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services. If necessary, list other sources on a separate page and put the total below. | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____  | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____  | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |

Total amounts from separate pages, if any.      + \$ \_\_\_\_\_      + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. <b>Calculate your total current monthly income.</b><br>Add lines 2 through 10 for each column.<br>Then add the total for Column A to the total for Column B. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">\$ _____</div> | + | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">\$ _____</div> | = | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">\$ _____</div> |
|  |   |   |   |   | <b>Total current monthly income</b>   |

**Part 2: Sign Below**

By signing here, under penalty of perjury I declare that the information on this statement and in any attachments is true and correct.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 1

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 2

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

**Fill in this information to identify your case:**

Debtor 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
(If known)

**Check as directed in lines 17 and 21:**

According to the calculations required by this Statement:

- 1. Disposable income is not determined under 11 U.S.C. § 1325(b)(3).
- 2. Disposable income is determined under 11 U.S.C. § 1325(b)(3).
- 3. The commitment period is 3 years.
- 4. The commitment period is 5 years.

Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 122C-1

**Chapter 13 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income and Calculation of Commitment Period**

04/20

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for being accurate. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. Include the line number to which the additional information applies. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).

**Part 1: Calculate Your Average Monthly Income**

1. **What is your marital and filing status?** Check one only.
- Not married.** Fill out Column A, lines 2-11.
  - Married.** Fill out both Columns A and B, lines 2-11.

**Fill in the average monthly income that you received from all sources, derived during the 6 full months before you file this bankruptcy case.** 11 U.S.C. § 101(10A). For example, if you are filing on September 15, the 6-month period would be March 1 through August 31. If the amount of your monthly income varied during the 6 months, add the income for all 6 months and divide the total by 6. Fill in the result. Do not include any income amount more than once. For example, if both spouses own the same rental property, put the income from that property in one column only. If you have nothing to report for any line, write \$0 in the space.

	Column A Debtor 1	Column B Debtor 2 or non-filing spouse								
2. <b>Your gross wages, salary, tips, bonuses, overtime, and commissions</b> (before all payroll deductions).	\$ _____	\$ _____								
3. <b>Alimony and maintenance payments.</b> Do not include payments from a spouse.	\$ _____	\$ _____								
4. <b>All amounts from any source which are regularly paid for household expenses of you or your dependents, including child support.</b> Include regular contributions from an unmarried partner, members of your household, your dependents, parents, and roommates. Do not include payments from a spouse. Do not include payments you listed on line 3.	\$ _____	\$ _____								
5. <b>Net income from operating a business, profession, or farm</b>	<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;"><b>Debtor 1</b></td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;"><b>Debtor 2</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Gross receipts (before all deductions)</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$ _____ \$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Ordinary and necessary operating expenses</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">- \$ _____ - \$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Net monthly income from a business, profession, or farm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$ _____ \$ _____</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>	Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____ \$ _____	Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	- \$ _____ - \$ _____	Net monthly income from a business, profession, or farm	\$ _____ \$ _____
<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>									
Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____ \$ _____									
Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	- \$ _____ - \$ _____									
Net monthly income from a business, profession, or farm	\$ _____ \$ _____									
	\$ _____	\$ _____								
6. <b>Net income from rental and other real property</b>	<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;"><b>Debtor 1</b></td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;"><b>Debtor 2</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Gross receipts (before all deductions)</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$ _____ \$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Ordinary and necessary operating expenses</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">- \$ _____ - \$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Net monthly income from rental or other real property</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$ _____ \$ _____</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>	Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____ \$ _____	Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	- \$ _____ - \$ _____	Net monthly income from rental or other real property	\$ _____ \$ _____
<b>Debtor 1</b>	<b>Debtor 2</b>									
Gross receipts (before all deductions)	\$ _____ \$ _____									
Ordinary and necessary operating expenses	- \$ _____ - \$ _____									
Net monthly income from rental or other real property	\$ _____ \$ _____									
	\$ _____	\$ _____								

	Column A Debtor 1	Column B Debtor 2 or non-filing spouse
<b>7. Interest, dividends, and royalties</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>8. Unemployment compensation</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____
Do not enter the amount if you contend that the amount received was a benefit under the Social Security Act. Instead, list it here: ..... ↓		
For you .....	\$ _____	
For your spouse .....	\$ _____	
<b>9. Pension or retirement income.</b> Do not include any amount received that was a benefit under the Social Security Act. Also, except as stated in the next sentence, do not include any compensation, pension, pay, annuity, or allowance paid by the United States Government in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services. If you received any retired pay paid under chapter 61 of title 10, then include that pay only to the extent that it does not exceed the amount of retired pay to which you would otherwise be entitled if retired under any provision of title 10 other than chapter 61 of that title.	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>10. Income from all other sources not listed above.</b> Specify the source and amount. Do not include any benefits received under the Social Security Act; payments made under the Federal law relating to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); payments received as a victim of a war crime, a crime against humanity, or international or domestic terrorism; or compensation, pension, pay, annuity, or allowance paid by the United States Government in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services. If necessary, list other sources on a separate page and put the total below.	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total amounts from separate pages, if any.	+ \$ _____	+ \$ _____
<b>11. Calculate your total average monthly income.</b> Add lines 2 through 10 for each column. Then add the total for Column A to the total for Column B.	\$ _____	+ \$ _____
	=	\$ _____
		Total average monthly income
<b>Part 2: Determine How to Measure Your Deductions from Income</b>		
<b>12. Copy your total average monthly income from line 11.</b> .....		\$ _____
<b>13. Calculate the marital adjustment.</b> Check one:		
<input type="checkbox"/> You are not married. Fill in 0 below.		
<input type="checkbox"/> You are married and your spouse is filing with you. Fill in 0 below.		
<input type="checkbox"/> You are married and your spouse is not filing with you.		
Fill in the amount of the income listed in line 11, Column B, that was NOT regularly paid for the household expenses of you or your dependents, such as payment of the spouse's tax liability or the spouse's support of someone other than you or your dependents.		
Below, specify the basis for excluding this income and the amount of income devoted to each purpose. If necessary, list additional adjustments on a separate page.		
If this adjustment does not apply, enter 0 below.		
_____	\$ _____	
_____	\$ _____	
_____	+ \$ _____	
Total .....	\$ _____	Copy here → _____

14. Your current monthly income. Subtract the total in line 13 from line 12. \$

15. Calculate your current monthly income for the year. Follow these steps:

15a. Copy line 14 here \$

Multiply line 15a by 12 (the number of months in a year). x 12

15b. The result is your current monthly income for the year for this part of the form. \$

16. Calculate the median family income that applies to you. Follow these steps:

16a. Fill in the state in which you live.

16b. Fill in the number of people in your household.

16c. Fill in the median family income for your state and size of household. \$

To find a list of applicable median income amounts, go online using the link specified in the separate instructions for this form. This list may also be available at the bankruptcy clerk's office.

17. How do the lines compare?

17a. Line 15b is less than or equal to line 16c. On the top of page 1 of this form, check box 1, Disposable income is not determined under 11 U.S.C. § 1325(b)(3). Go to Part 3. Do NOT fill out Calculation of Your Disposable Income (Official Form 122C-2).

17b. Line 15b is more than line 16c. On the top of page 1 of this form, check box 2, Disposable income is determined under 11 U.S.C. § 1325(b)(3). Go to Part 3 and fill out Calculation of Your Disposable Income (Official Form 122C-2). On line 39 of that form, copy your current monthly income from line 14 above.

Part 3: Calculate Your Commitment Period Under 11 U.S.C. § 1325(b)(4)

18. Copy your total average monthly income from line 11. \$

19. Deduct the marital adjustment if it applies. If you are married, your spouse is not filing with you, and you contend that calculating the commitment period under 11 U.S.C. § 1325(b)(4) allows you to deduct part of your spouse's income, copy the amount from line 13.

19a. If the marital adjustment does not apply, fill in 0 on line 19a. - \$

19b. Subtract line 19a from line 18. \$

20. Calculate your current monthly income for the year. Follow these steps:

20a. Copy line 19b. \$

Multiply by 12 (the number of months in a year). x 12

20b. The result is your current monthly income for the year for this part of the form. \$

20c. Copy the median family income for your state and size of household from line 16c. \$

21. How do the lines compare?

Line 20b is less than line 20c. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, on the top of page 1 of this form, check box 3, The commitment period is 3 years. Go to Part 4.

Line 20b is more than or equal to line 20c. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, on the top of page 1 of this form, check box 4, *The commitment period is 5 years*. Go to Part 4.

**Part 4: Sign Below**

By signing here, under penalty of perjury I declare that the information on this statement and in any attachments is true and correct.

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 1

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 2

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

If you checked 17a, do NOT fill out or file Form 122C-2.

If you checked 17b, fill out Form 122C-2 and file it with this form. On line 39 of that form, copy your current monthly income from line 14 above.

### **Committee Note**

Official Forms 122A-1, 122B, and 122C-1 are amended in response to the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281. That law modifies the definition of “current monthly income” in §101(10A) and the definition of “disposable income” in §1325(b)(2) to exclude “payments made under the Federal law relating to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).” Each form is modified to expressly exclude these amounts from line 10. These amendments will terminate one year after the date of enactment of the CARES Act.

**Fill in this information to identify the case:**

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

\_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

Case number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Check if this is an amended filing

**Official Form 201**

**Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy**

04/20

If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write the debtor's name and the case number (if known). For more information, a separate document, *Instructions for Bankruptcy Forms for Non-Individuals*, is available.

1. Debtor's name \_\_\_\_\_

2. All other names debtor used in the last 8 years \_\_\_\_\_

Include any assumed names, trade names, and *doing business* as names \_\_\_\_\_

3. Debtor's federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Debtor's address

Principal place of business

Mailing address, if different from principal place of business

Number Street \_\_\_\_\_

Number Street \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City State ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

City State ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Location of principal assets, if different from principal place of business

County \_\_\_\_\_

Number Street \_\_\_\_\_

City State ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

5. Debtor's website (URL) \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Type of debtor**

- Corporation (including Limited Liability Company (LLC) and Limited Liability Partnership (LLP))
- Partnership (excluding LLP)
- Other. Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Describe debtor's business**

A. *Check one:*

- Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
- Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
- Railroad (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(44))
- Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
- Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
- Clearing Bank (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 781(3))
- None of the above

B. *Check all that apply:*

- Tax-exempt entity (as described in 26 U.S.C. § 501)
- Investment company, including hedge fund or pooled investment vehicle (as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 80a-3)
- Investment advisor (as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 80b-2(a)(11))

C. NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) 4-digit code that best describes debtor. See <http://www.uscourts.gov/four-digit-national-association-naics-codes> .

\_\_\_\_ \_

**8. Under which chapter of the Bankruptcy Code is the debtor filing?**

*Check one:*

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 9
- Chapter 11. *Check all that apply:*

A debtor who is a "small business debtor" must check the first sub-box. A debtor as defined in § 1182(1) who elects to proceed under subchapter V of chapter 11 (whether or not the debtor is a "small business debtor") must check the second sub-box.

- The debtor is a small business debtor as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D), and its aggregate noncontingent liquidated debts (excluding debts owed to insiders or affiliates) are less than \$2,725,625. If this sub-box is selected, attach the most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).
- The debtor is a debtor as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 1182(1), its aggregate noncontingent liquidated debts (excluding debts owed to insiders or affiliates) are less than \$7,500,000, **and it chooses to proceed under Subchapter V of Chapter 11**. If this sub-box is selected, attach the most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return, or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).
- A plan is being filed with this petition.
- Acceptances of the plan were solicited prepetition from one or more classes of creditors, in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 1126(b).
- The debtor is required to file periodic reports (for example, 10K and 10Q) with the Securities and Exchange Commission according to § 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. File the *Attachment to Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy under Chapter 11* (Official Form 201A) with this form.
- The debtor is a shell company as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rule 12b-2.

- Chapter 12

**9. Were prior bankruptcy cases filed by or against the debtor within the last 8 years?**

No

Yes. District \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_ Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

If more than 2 cases, attach a separate list.

District \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_ Case number \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

**10. Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a business partner or an affiliate of the debtor?**

No

Yes. Debtor \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

List all cases. If more than 1, attach a separate list.

District \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Case number, if known \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Why is the case filed in this district?**

*Check all that apply:*

Debtor has had its domicile, principal place of business, or principal assets in this district for 180 days immediately preceding the date of this petition or for a longer part of such 180 days than in any other district.

A bankruptcy case concerning debtor's affiliate, general partner, or partnership is pending in this district.

**12. Does the debtor own or have possession of any real property or personal property that needs immediate attention?**

No

Yes. Answer below for each property that needs immediate attention. Attach additional sheets if needed.

**Why does the property need immediate attention?** *(Check all that apply.)*

It poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety.

What is the hazard? \_\_\_\_\_

It needs to be physically secured or protected from the weather.

It includes perishable goods or assets that could quickly deteriorate or lose value without attention (for example, livestock, seasonal goods, meat, dairy, produce, or securities-related assets or other options).

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Where is the property?**

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Is the property insured?**

No

Yes. Insurance agency \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Statistical and administrative information**

**13. Debtor's estimation of available funds**

Check one:

- Funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors.
- After any administrative expenses are paid, no funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors.

**14. Estimated number of creditors**

- |                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-49    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99   | <input type="checkbox"/> 5,001-10,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999 |  |  |

**15. Estimated assets**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion        |

**16. Estimated liabilities**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion        |

**Request for Relief, Declaration, and Signatures**

**WARNING --** Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime. Making a false statement in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

**17. Declaration and signature of authorized representative of debtor**

The debtor requests relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I have been authorized to file this petition on behalf of the debtor.

I have examined the information in this petition and have a reasonable belief that the information is true and correct.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of authorized representative of debtor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

---

**18. Signature of attorney**

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of attorney for debtor

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bar number

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

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### **Committee Note**

The form is amended in response to the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281. That law provides a new definition of “debtor” for determining eligibility to proceed under subchapter V of chapter 11. Line 8 of the form is amended to reflect that change. This amendment to the Code will terminate one year after the date of enactment of the CARES Act.

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE  
OF THE  
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

DAVID G. CAMPBELL  
CHAIR

REBECCA A. WOMELDORF  
SECRETARY

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JOHN D. BATES  
CIVIL RULES

RAYMOND M. KETHLEDGE  
CRIMINAL RULES

DEBRA A. LIVINGSTON  
EVIDENCE RULES

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable David G. Campbell, Chair  
Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

**FROM:** Honorable Dennis R. Dow, Chair  
Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules

**DATE:** May 18, 2020

**RE:** Report of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules

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**I. Introduction**

The Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules met virtually via WebEx on April 2, 2020. The draft minutes of that meeting are attached.

At the meeting, the Advisory Committee gave its final approval to amendments to four rules that were published for comment last August. The amendments are to Rules 2005 (Apprehension and Removal of Debtor to Compel Attendance for Examination), 3007 (Objections to Claims), 7007.1 (Corporate Ownership Statement), and 9036 (Notice and Service Generally).

\* \* \* \* \*

The action items are organized as follows:

## Excerpt from the May 18, 2020 Report of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules

### A. Items for Final Approval

(A1) Rules published for comment in August 2019—

- Rule 2005;
- Rule 3007;
- Rule 7007.1; and
- Rule 9036.

\* \* \* \* \*

## II. Action Items

### A. Items for Final Approval

*(A1) Rules published for comment in August 2019.*

The Advisory Committee recommends that the Standing Committee approve and transmit to the Judicial Conference the proposed rule amendments that were published for public comment in August 2019 and are discussed below. Bankruptcy Appendix A includes the rules that are in this group.

**Action Item 1. Rule 2005 (Apprehension and Removal of Debtor to Compel Attendance for Examination).** The proposed amendment to Rule 2005(c) replaces the current reference to “the provisions and policies of 18 U.S.C. § 3146(a) and (b)” —sections that have been repealed—with a reference to “the relevant provisions and policies of 18 U.S.C. § 3142” —the section that now deals with the topic of conditions of release. The only mention of the proposed change in the comments received in response to publication was a supportive statement from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (“NCBJ”). Accordingly, the Advisory Committee unanimously approved the amendment as published.

**Action Item 2. Rule 3007 (Objections to Claims).** Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)(ii) requires service of an objection to a claim “on an insured depository institution[] in the manner provided by Rule 7004(h).” Some bankruptcy judges have questioned whether “insured depository institution” under Rule 7004(h) includes credit unions as well as banks, a question that the Advisory Committee previously decided in the negative, and whether the meaning of “insured depository institution” is the same under Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)(ii) as under Rule 7004(h)

Rule 7004 governs service of a summons and complaint in adversary proceedings, and Rule 9014(b) makes Rule 7004 applicable to service of a motion initiating a contested matter. Rule 7004(b) provides generally for service by first class mail, in addition to the methods of service specified by Civil Rule 4(e)-(j). Rule 7004(b), however, is made subject to an exception set out in subdivision (h). The latter provision states:

(h) SERVICE OF PROCESS ON AN INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION. Service on an insured depository institution (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) in a contested matter or adversary

proceeding shall be made by certified mail addressed to an officer of the institution unless—

- (1) the institution has appeared by its attorney, in which case the attorney shall be served by first class mail;
- (2) the court orders otherwise after service upon the institution by certified mail of notice of an application to permit service on the institution by first class mail sent to an officer of the institution designated by the institution; or
- (3) the institution has waived in writing its entitlement to service by certified mail by designating an officer to receive service.

Rule 7004(h) was enacted by Congress as part of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-394, 108 Stat. 4106. Section 114 of that law declared that “Rule 7004 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure is amended” to add the text of new subdivision (h).

At the spring 2018 Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee concluded that Rule 7004(h) is not applicable to credit unions because, being insured by the National Credit Union Administration, credit unions do not fall within section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.<sup>1</sup> The Committee also decided not to take further action on Suggestion 17-BK-E, which sought an expansion of Rule 7004(h) to include credit unions.

Because of the limited scope of Rule 7004(h), other rule provisions that require service in the manner provided “by Rule 7004” allow service by first class mail under Rule 7004(b) on credit unions. These rules include Rules 3012(b) (request for a determination of the amount of a secured claim in a chapter 12 or 13 plan), 4003(d) (avoidance of a lien on exempt property in a chapter 12 or 13 plan), 5009(d) (motion for an order declaring a lien satisfied and released), 9011(c)(1) (motion for sanctions), and 9014(b) (motion initiating a contested matter).

The 2017 amendments to Rule 3007 were intended to clarify that objections to claims are generally not required to be served in the manner provided by Rule 7004. Instead, those objections may be served on most claimants by mailing them to the person designated on the proof of claim. But that rule is subject to two exceptions. The one relevant here is set forth in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii). It provides that “insured depository institutions” must be served “in the manner provided by Rule 7004(h).” The Advisory Committee added that exception in an effort to comply with the legislative mandate in Rule 7004(h) that such institutions be served by certified mail in contested matters and adversary proceedings.

The Advisory Committee subsequently realized that the promulgation of Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)(ii) failed to take account of the Bankruptcy Code definition of “insured depository

<sup>1</sup> Section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1813(c)(2), provides, “The term ‘insured depository institution’ means any bank or savings association the deposits of which are insured by the Corporation pursuant to this chapter.” The “Corporation” is the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. *Id.* at § 1811(a).

## Excerpt from the May 18, 2020 Report of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules

institution.”<sup>2</sup> The Code definition, which includes credit unions in addition to banks insured by the FDIC, is made applicable to the Bankruptcy Rules by Rule 9001. However, the Committee concluded that the definition does not change the scope of Rule 7004(h), because in the latter provision Congress expressly included a specific and narrower definition of insured depository institution—one defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. That specific reference in Rule 7004(h) overrides the more general definition in § 101(35).

The existence of a Code definition of insured depository institution does, however, affect the scope of Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)(ii). That provision does not say that service according to Rule 7004 is required; instead, it specifically requires service according to Rule 7004(h). And it applies to an “insured depository institution” without providing any special definition of that term. Accordingly, the § 101(35) definition applies, and credit unions are brought within the requirement that Rule 7004(h) service be made. That means that only under this one rule are credit unions required to receive service by certified mail.

The Advisory Committee proposed the amendment to Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)(ii) to eliminate the inclusion of credit unions by limiting the term “insured depository institution” to the meaning set forth in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. The underlying intent of the Advisory Committee in previously proposing the amendments to Rule 3007 was to clarify that Rule 7004 service is generally not required for objections to claims. The exception in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii) was included based on the belief that it was required by the congressionally imposed requirement of Rule 7004(h); there was no intent, however, to expand the scope of that heightened service requirement.

In response to publication of the amendment to Rule 3007(a)(2)(A)(ii), the only comment submitted was the general statement by the NCBJ that it “supports the amendments.” Accordingly, the Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Standing Committee give final approval to the rule as published.

**Action Item 3. Rule 7007.1 (Corporate Ownership Statement).** Continuing the advisory committees’ efforts to conform the various disclosure-statement rules to the amendments made to FRAP 26.1, which went into effect in December, the Advisory Committee proposed for publication conforming amendments to Rule 7007.1. Similar amendments to Rule 8012—the bankruptcy appellate disclosure-statement rule—have been sent to Congress. Rule 7007.1 requires corporate-ownership disclosure in the bankruptcy court and is proposed for amendment to parallel the relevant amendments to Civil Rule 7.1 that were also published last August. Like that rule, amended Rule 7007.1 would be made applicable to nongovernmental corporations seeking to intervene and would no longer require the submission of two copies of the statement.

Two comments were submitted in response to publication. The first, submitted by Aderant, suggested that the word “shall” be changed to “must” to conform to the wording of the parallel rules. The Advisory Committee concluded that this change should be made when the Part VII rules are restyled. In the meantime, the Bankruptcy Rules (other than Part VIII) are continuing to

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<sup>2</sup> Section 101(35) provides that the “term ‘insured depository institution’—(A) has the meaning given it in section 3(c)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; and (B) includes an insured credit union (except in the case of paragraphs (21B) and (33A) of this subsection).”

use “shall” rather than “must” so that the change can be made at the same time throughout the rules and not on a piecemeal basis.

The other comment was submitted by the NCBJ. It suggested that, rather than conforming to Civil Rule 7.1’s terminology “disclosure statement,” Rule 7007.1 should retain the terminology “corporate ownership statement.” It pointed out that “disclosure statement” is a bankruptcy term of art with a different meaning and that there are five other Bankruptcy Rule references to Rule 7007.1 that use the term “corporate ownership statement.”

The Advisory Committee agreed with the NCBJ and voted unanimously to approve Rule 7007.1 with the current title retained and the word “disclosure” in subdivision (b) changed to “corporate ownership.”

**Action Item 4. Rule 9036 (Notice and Service Generally).** For several years, the Advisory Committee has been considering possible amendments to the Bankruptcy Rules to increase the use of electronic noticing and service in the bankruptcy courts. One set of amendments to Rule 9036 went into effect on December 1, 2019. Proposed amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410 that were published along with the 2019 amendments to Rule 9036—authorizing creditors to designate an email address on their proofs of claim for receipt of notices and service—were held in abeyance by the Advisory Committee for further consideration. Additional amendments to Rule 9036 were published for public comment last August.

The recently published amendments to Rule 9036 would encourage the use of electronic noticing and service in several ways. The rule would recognize a court’s authority to provide notice or make service through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (“BNC”) to entities that currently receive a high volume of paper notices from the bankruptcy courts. In anticipation of the simultaneous amendments of Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410, it would also allow courts and parties to serve or provide notice to a creditor at an email address designated on its proof of claim. And it would provide a set of priorities for electronic noticing and service for situations in which a recipient had provided more than one electronic address to the courts.

Seven sets of comments were submitted regarding the proposed amendments to Rule 9036. Most of them were from clerks of court or their staff, and they expressed several concerns about the proposed amendments to Rule 9036, as well as to the earlier published amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410.

There was enthusiastic support for the program to encourage high-volume paper-notice recipients to register for electronic bankruptcy noticing. No comments expressed opposition to it or concerns about it.

Many clerks, however, expressed opposition to several other aspects of the proposed Rule 9036 amendments. In addition to individual commenters, commenters included the Bankruptcy Clerks Advisory Group, the Bankruptcy Noticing Working Group, and an ad hoc group of 34 clerks of court. The concerns fell into three categories: clerk monitoring of email bounce-backs; administrative burden of a proof-of-claim opt-in for email noticing and service; and the interplay of the proposed amendments to Rules 2002(g) and 9036.

*Clerk monitoring of email bounce-backs.* Proposed Rule 9036(d) provides that “[e]lectronic notice or service is complete upon filing or sending but is not effective if the filer or

## Excerpt from the May 18, 2020 Report of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules

sender receives notice that it did not reach the person to be served.” One clerk expressed concern that this provision imposes an administrative burden on the clerk’s office by requiring it to monitor undeliverable emails. He advocated for the addition of a sentence to subdivision (d) that would relieve clerks of that burden. No other comments raised this concern.

The Advisory Committee noted that the provision to which objection was raised is also included in the version of Rule 9036 that went into effect in December. The same provision is also in Rule 8011(c)(3), which became effective in 2018. In considering the provision in Rule 8011, the Advisory Committee spent considerable time discussing this provision, and it determined that all users of electronic noticing and service—clerks as well as parties—should be required to make effective service or noticing, which means continuing their efforts if they become aware that their prior attempt failed. The Advisory Committee voted not to change the language in question.

It did, however, decide that the other part of the comment’s suggestion—that an additional sentence be added that would make the electronic notice recipient responsible for maintaining and updating its electronic address with the bankruptcy clerk—would be helpful. That directive could reduce the number of bounce-backs. The Advisory Committee therefore voted to add the following sentence to the end of subdivision (d): “It is the recipient’s responsibility to keep its electronic address current with the clerk.”

*Administrative burden of allowing a creditor to opt-in to email noticing and service on its proof of claim.* This was the chief concern of the clerks and the Bankruptcy Noticing Working Group and was a concern that was expressed when the amendments to Rules 2002(g), 9036, and Form 410 were published in 2017. Without an automated process to retrieve email addresses in proofs of claim, clerks say that they will have to manually review every proof of claim to determine if the email box was checked and an email address was listed. According to one clerk, even automation will not solve all the problems because paper proofs of claim will still be filed, and they will contain errors and illegible entries that will require staff time to resolve. Several of the comments noted that the high-volume paper-notice program will produce significant savings for the courts, and that any savings resulting from low-volume users opting into email notice will be outweighed by administrative costs.

The proposal for email opt-in on proofs of claim would not be just for the benefit of the judiciary, which already has the Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing program. Instead, it was also intended to benefit parties, who could save mailing costs in serving creditors who opt into email notice. Because parties cannot be forced to accept electronic service and notice, an opt-in procedure seemed to be the best approach. And providing that opportunity in the proof of claim seemed the best mechanism to pursue since Rule 2002(g)(1)(A) already provides that “a proof of claim filed by a creditor . . . that designates a mailing address constitutes a filed request to mail notices to that address.” Under subdivision (g)(1) of that rule, notices required to be mailed to a creditor “shall be addressed as such entity . . . has directed in its last request filed in the particular case.” The amendment to Rule 2002(g) published in 2017 would expand that rule to include email addresses, and Rule 9036 would recognize transmission to that email address as a proper means of service or noticing.

In deciding not to go forward in 2018 with the amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Form 410 that would provide for opting into email service, the Advisory Committee accepted the concerns that were raised then by clerks about the lack of an automated means of retrieving the designated

email addresses. The Advisory Committee was told then that such automation would not be feasible until 2021. The decision in 2019 to propose the new amendments to 9036, with the anticipation that approval would also be sought for the Rule 2002(g) and Form 410 amendments, was made with the expectation that automation would be feasible by the amendments' December 1, 2021 effective date.

One clerk said, however, that even with automation, the burden on the clerk's office will still be too great because of the number of paper proofs of claim that will be filed. While the comment from the Bankruptcy Noticing Working Group suggested some ways that burden might be reduced, the Advisory Committee decided that the proof-of-claim check-box option should not be pursued. Deciding not to go forward with the proposed amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410, and deleting references to that option in Rule 9036, would allow the courts to receive the benefits of the high-volume paper-notice program, which is anticipated to result in significant savings to the judiciary, without imposing what many clerks perceive as an undue burden on them of having to review proofs of claim for email addresses. This approach does not provide any benefit to parties, however, because they will not have access to electronic addresses registered with the BNC, but it is anticipated that future improvements to CM/ECF will allow the entry of email addresses in a way that will be accessible to parties as well as to those within the court system. Language proposed by the Subcommittee in Rule 9036(b)(2) would allow for that future possibility. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee voted unanimously to approve the revised version of the published amendments to Rule 9036 that is set forth in the appendix.

*Interplay of the proposed amendments to Rules 2002(g) and 9036.* Given the Advisory Committee's recommendation not to go forward with the proposed amendments to Rule 2002(g) and Official Form 410, this concern raised by the comments is no longer an issue.

\* \* \* \* \*