

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:

PROHIBITION ON RECORDING OR :
RETRANSMISSION OF VIDEO OR : MISC. PROC. #21-207
TELEPHONIC CONFERENCES AND :
HEARINGS :

STANDING ORDER

Restrictions on public gatherings imposed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the Court conducting its operations over the past year primarily by electronic means rather than by “in-person” courtroom proceedings. This has included the use of both telephonic and on-line audio/video methods of communications through such services as AT&T Teleconference Service, Court Call, ZOOM and Microsoft Teams, etc. (all such electronic means referred to hereinafter as “Electronic Proceedings”). While Electronic Proceedings were also used by the Court prior to the pandemic, it was on a much more limited scale. The recent dramatic increase in the utilization of Electronic Proceedings has highlighted a potential ambiguity in the longstanding prohibition against the recording of Court proceedings because it was based on the assumption of the proceeding being held within the Court’s physical premises. Accordingly, to clarify the prohibition, especially in light of the recognition that Electronic Proceedings will likely continue to be used to some extent even after the current pandemic has ended, this Standing Order is being issued.

AND NOW, this 22nd day of *March, 2021*, and in furtherance of the general policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States to prohibit the recording of federal court proceedings unless specifically authorized in a particular case, the policy of the District Court as set forth in *W.D. Pa. L.Civ.R. 83.1(C)(1)*, and of this Court, as set forth in *WD Pa. Bankr. Ct. General Order 2013-4* issued on May 30, 2013, it is hereby **ORDERED** that, *effective immediately*,

(1) For purposes of *General Order 2013-4* and its prohibition against all forms, means and manner of taking photographs, recording, broadcasting or televising from Court premises, every Electronic Proceeding conducted by the Court shall be deemed to be conducted in a room or facility occupied by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, regardless of the actual physical location of the presiding judge or any other participant.

(2) The recording or retransmission of any Electronic Proceeding of this Court by anyone other than the Court itself is strictly **PROHIBITED** unless specifically authorized by the presiding judge in advance.

(3) The knowing, willful and unexcused violation of the prohibition as set forth herein will subject the violator to sanctions for contempt by the presiding judge of such proceeding.



Carlota M. Böhm, Chief Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court