SIGNED this 24th day of October 2005.

**Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge** 

Ronald B. King

**United States Bankruptcy Judge** 

Únited States Bankruptcy Judge

Frank R. Monroe

**United States Bankruptcy Judge** 

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS **AUSTIN DIVISION**

#### STANDING ORDER FOR CHAPTER 13 CASE ADMINISTRATION FOR AUSTIN DIVISION

The Bankruptcy Judges for the Western District of Texas for the Austin Division have determined that the following procedures are necessary for the efficient and orderly administration of Chapter 13 cases:

#### 1. ADOPTION OF CHAPTER 13 PLAN FORMAT:

Attached as Exhibit #1 to this Standing Order is a Chapter 13 Plan Form which shall be used by all Chapter 13 debtors in cases filed after the effective date of this Order. *The form plan* may be revised periodically. The Clerk shall make available to the public the Chapter 13 Plan Form.

The current form plan is additionally a Motion to Value Collateral and a Motion to Avoid Liens under 11 U.S.C. Section 522. Objections to the Valuation or Lien Avoidance feature of the Plan/Motion must be in writing and filed no later than ten (10) days prior to confirmation. All other confirmation objections must be filed no later than ten (10) days prior to the confirmation

hearing date.

#### 2. BAR DATE FOR FILING SECURED CLAIMS:

A proof of claim by a secured creditor, other than a governmental agency, is timely filed by the creditor not later than ninety (90) days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors called under Section 341 of the Code.

#### 3. TRUSTEE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CLAIMS:

After the deadline for filing proofs of claims has passed, the Chapter 13 Trustee (hereinafter, "Trustee,") shall file a Recommendation Concerning Claims and serve a copy upon the Debtor, Debtor's counsel, all creditors and other parties in interest. No order will be entered approving the Recommendation Concerning Claims. Instead, if no objection or other response is timely filed, then the Recommendation Concerning Claims shall be binding upon all creditors and other parties in interest, and the Trustee is authorized to make disbursements according to the provisions of the Recommendation without further order of the Court. Claims not filed by the deadline to file proofs of claim shall be deemed disallowed and will not be paid by the Trustee except as otherwise allowed in the Recommendation Concerning Claims or other Orders of the Court.

If an objection or other response to the Recommendation Concerning Claims is timely filed, the Trustee may nonetheless make distribution in accordance with the provisions of the Recommendation, except with respect to the claim that is subject of the response or objection. The Trustee shall reserve funds attributable to the challenged claim until the allowance or treatment of the claim has been resolved. If, as a result of the claim resolution, there is a greater or lesser amount of money available for distribution to other creditors, the Trustee may adjust the payments to creditors accordingly without having to file further Recommendation Concerning Claims.

The Recommendation Concerning Claims must prominently display the following

notice:

THIS PLEADING REQUESTS RELIEF THAT MAY BE ADVERSE TO YOUR INTERESTS.

NO HEARING WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THIS RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CLAIMS (OR ITS TREATMENT OF ANY CLAIM) UNLESS A WRITTEN RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SERVICE.

A TIMELY RESPONSE IS NECESSARY FOR A HEARING TO BE HELD. IF NO RESPONSE IS TIMELY FILED, THE TREATMENT OF CLAIMS REFLECTED IN THIS RECOMMENDATION SHALL BE DEEMED APPROVED BY THE COURT WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING OR ORDER.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, THE TRUSTEE'S RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CLAIMS SHALL SET A BAR DATE FOR OBJECTING TO CLAIMS, FOR CONTESTING THE VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF LIENS, AND FOR CHALLENGING THE PRIORITY OF CLAIMS. THE BAR DATE SHALL BE THE TWENTIETH (20<sup>TH</sup>) DAY AFTER THE SERVICE OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF CLAIMS AS SHOWN IN THE CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE ATTACHED HERETO. ANY OBJECTION, MOTION, OR ADVERSARY PROCEEDING CONTESTING THE VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF ANY CLAIM REFLECTED IN THIS RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CLAIMS MAY NOT BE FILED AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE BAR DATE EXCEPT UPON LEAVE OF COURT, AFTER MOTION REQUESTING SUCH LEAVE, AND UPON NOTICE OF HEARING TO THE CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE, THE DEBTOR, THE DEBTOR'S COUNSEL AND ALL PARTIES IN INTEREST.

#### 4. OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS:

Objections to proofs of claim must be in writing and filed no later than twenty (20) days after service of the Trustee's Recommendation Concerning Claims.

#### 5. MOTIONS TO VALUE PROPERTY INDEPENDENT OF THE PLAN:

Motions to value property or to avoid a lien may be filed as part of the debtor's plan as provided in Section III of the Plan Form. Any request by the debtor to value property of the estate

or to avoid a lien under Section 522(f), independent of the plan, must be in writing and filed no later than twenty days after service of the Trustee's Recommendation Concerning Claims.

## 6. <u>RESPONSES TO OBJECTIONS TO CLAIM;</u> RESPONSES TO MOTIONS TO VALUE PROPERTY:

Responses to objections to claims and motions to value property must be filed by the deadline provided in the notice included in such motion pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014. If no such notice is included, no response is necessary and the objection to claim shall be set for hearing.

#### 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN OF REORGANIZATION:

The last date that a debtor may seek to amend its plan of reorganization is not later than 30 days prior to the date scheduled for hearing on the confirmation of the plan. The Court will only consider de minimis, nonsubstantive, or technical amendments to the plan at the confirmation hearing.

#### 8. SERVICE OF THE PLAN AND PRE-CONFIRMATION AMENDMENTS:

- (a) Whether or not the plan is filed with the Chapter 13 petition at the commencement of the case, the debtor shall be responsible for serving the plan on all creditors.
- (b) Whenever a Chapter 13 plan is amended prior to confirmation, the debtor shall serve the amended plan on all creditors, parties in interest and the Trustee within two business (2) days after filing with the Court.
- (c) A certificate of service must be filed with the Clerk of the Court reflecting service of any plan or amended plan and should indicate service was made pursuant to L. Rule 9013.

# 9. <u>DEBTOR'S DUTY TO FACILITATE NOTICE REGARDING DOMESTIC SUPPORT OBLIGATION:</u>

In order to facilitate the expedient notice to domestic support claim holders and the applicable state agency provided for in 11 U.S.C. §1302, debtor shall, at the same time the schedules are filed, provide to the Trustee the names and current addresses and telephone numbers of all persons to whom debtor owes a domestic support obligation. At the same time debtor shall provide to the Trustee the name, address, and telephone number of the state child support enforcement agencies as set forth under Section 1302(d)(1)(A)(i) for the states in which the persons to whom debtor owes a domestic support obligation resides.

#### 10. ADEQUATE PROTECTION PAYMENTS BY THE CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE:

Pursuant to Section 1326(a)(1)(C) and the provisions of the proposed plan, the Trustee shall commence making payments in the first disbursement following the filing of a claim by a creditor holding an allowed claim secured by personal property to the extent the claim is attributable to the purchase of such property by the debtor for that portion of the obligation that becomes due after the order for relief. Such payments are deemed to provide adequate protection pursuant to Section 1326, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. From the disbursements so made, the Chapter 13 Trustee shall be allowed compensation and expenses at the rate set by the United States Trustee.

#### 11. MOTIONS FOR RELIEF FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY:

Unless the Court orders otherwise, the Trustee shall cease disbursements on a claim sixty (60) days after an Order for Relief from the Stay or Notice of Termination of Stay is entered OR once the Trustee receives a Notice of Repossession or Foreclosure, whichever is earlier. The creditor retains the right to file an amended unsecured deficiency claim, but such claim must be filed

no later than ninety (90) days from the date of the entry of the Order for Relief from the Stay unless the Court orders otherwise.

#### 12. ATTORNEYS' DUTIES AND COMPENSATION:

An attorney representing a debtor under Chapter 13 shall be the attorney of record in the bankruptcy case from the filing of the petition for relief under Chapter 13, if signed by the attorney, or from the filing of a notice of appearance until the close or dismissal of the case (including disposition of motions to reinstate), unless relieved from representation by order of the Court obtained pursuant to Motion and notice under Local Rule 9013.

The Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas may determine and maintain a standard benchmark fee for routine non-business Chapter 13 cases, and a standard benchmark fee for routine business Chapter 13 cases.

In a routine chapter 13 case, the following services shall be included in the benchmark fee:

- A. all conferences with debtor(s);
- B. preparation of Petition, Schedules, Statement of Financial Affairs, Plan and amendments thereto;
- C. attendance at §341 First Meeting of Creditors;
- D. attendance at Confirmation and Discharge hearings (including reset confirmation hearings); and
- E. preparation of routine motions, which shall be deemed to include the following:
  - 1. requests for moratorium (whether by motion or by administrative procedure);
  - 2. motions to waive pay order;
  - 3. motions to pay filing fees in installments;

- 4. objections to claims, and motions to value or avoid lien..
- F. Notwithstanding the foregoing subparagraph E, an attorney may, for cause shown, request additional fees for the services listed. If so, the attorney must make the request for fees for additional services as set out below. Counsel shall not condition representation upon payment of an additional fee.

An attorney in a Chapter 13 case may only request and obtain an award of fees for additional services beyond those specified above by court order, on motion, notice, and opportunity for hearing. Such request may be by separate motion, or in the motion which constitutes the additional services. Any such request for additional fees shall be set forth in the caption of the pleading (and in the form of order submitted), shall number the request in the caption and in the body of the motion, shall set forth the total fees requested to date (including the benchmark fee awarded and any additional fees previously awarded or pending), the basis for the request, and shall be served on all parties in the case. No request for fees for filing a responsive pleading for the debtor can be contained in such responsive pleading. A separate Motion for fees is required.

Furthermore, the debtor's attorney may not demand or receive fees from the debtor for such representation without a separate Motion and Order.

Attorney's fees will be disbursed according to the provisions of the plan. The plan must specifically state the monthly amount to be disbursed in attorney's fees.

Unless specifically ordered otherwise by the Court upon motion, notice and opportunity for hearing, such monthly amount shall not exceed \$500 for the first disbursement following confirmation, and then \$100 per month thereafter.

# 13. <u>CERTIFICATION REGARDING POST-PETITION DOMESTIC SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS AND TAX RETURNS</u>

No later than 20 days prior to the first scheduled confirmation hearing, the debtor shall file an affirmation pursuant to F.R.C.P. 43(d) which affirms that (1) the debtor has paid all amounts that are required to be paid under a domestic support obligation, and that first become payable after the date of the filing of the petition if the debtor is required by a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to pay such domestic support obligations as required by Section 1325 (a)(8) and (2) the debtor has filed all applicable Federal, State, and local tax returns as required by Section 1308, pursuant to Section 1325(a)(9).

In the case of a debtor who is required by a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to pay a domestic support obligation, debtor shall also file with the Court the certification required by 11 U.S.C. Section 1328(a) within 20 days after the completion by the debtor of all payments under the Plan.

# 14. <u>APPLICATIONS TO INCUR CONSUMER DEBT;</u> REQUESTS FOR MORATORIUM:

The debtor <u>shall not</u> incur consumer debt without written approval of either the Court or the Trustee.

The debtor's attorney (or the debtor, if not represented by counsel) SHALL make written application to the Trustee for approval to incur consumer debt. The debtor's attorney shall not file the application with the Clerk. If approved by the Trustee, the Trustee shall file the approval with the clerk. If not approved by the Trustee within ten days, the debtor's attorney may then file with the clerk a motion to incur consumer debt and the motion shall contain as an attachment the Trustee's denial of the application to incur debt.

Additional attorney's fees incurred as a result of an application to incur debt may be paid through the Chapter 13 plan and the plan base shall be increased accordingly.

The Trustee shall have authority to grant one sixty (60) day moratorium, in the Trustee's discretion; no motion, notice or other Court approval shall be required, but the circumstances shall be documented in the Trustee's records. Further suspensions of Chapter 13 plan payments require motions, which must be served on the Trustee, all creditors, and parties-in-interest.

## 15. <u>DISPOSITION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX REFUNDS IN CHAPTER 13</u> <u>CASES:</u>

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is authorized to apply any tax refunds of debtors to the payment of any tax obligations due and owing by the debtors, regardless of whether such tax obligations or tax refunds arose before or after the filing of the case, so long as such tax claims are entitled to priority status under 11 U.S.C. §507(a). The base balance of the plan will not be reduced by reason of any IRS offset.

The balance of any income tax refund issued after petition date and before the debtor has made the final payment under the plan or the debtor's case is converted or dismissed, may be issued and delivered by the IRS directly to the Trustee. If the IRS returns the tax refund to the debtor, the debtor shall immediately forward the refund to the Trustee as additional disposable income, unless other use of such funds is approved by the Trustee or by the Court. The base amount of the plan shall be increased to include the amount of this additional receipt, less that amount of the tax refund returned by the Trustee to debtor or applied to any plan delinquency.

If the debtor is delinquent in plan payments the Trustee shall apply any such amount first to the delinquency.

The Trustee is hereby authorized to receive, endorse, deposit and apply to debtor's plan and any plan delinquency any tax refund issued to debtor by the IRS after the petition date and before the debtor has made the final payment under the plan, or the debtor's case is converted or dismissed.

#### 16. <u>SUMMARY DISMISSAL OF CASE:</u>

A Chapter 13 case may be summarily dismissed upon submission of an order by the Trustee for any one of the following causes:

- (a) Failure of the debtor to timely file a plan.
- (b) Failure of the debtor to timely file Schedules.
- (c) Unexcused failure of the debtor to appear at the scheduled meeting of creditors.
- (d) The debtor becomes sixty (60) days delinquent on payments under a confirmed plan.
- (e) Failure to comply with the provisions of a prior order which provides for such relief.
- (f) Failure to submit tax returns pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §521(e)(2).
- (g) Failure to submit payment advices pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §521(a)(1)(B)(iv).

#### 17. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>:

The provisions of this Order become effective for all Chapter 13 cases where the order for relief was entered on or after October 17, 2005.

The above procedures are hereby adopted for the Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas in the Austin Division.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

IN RE: 

\$ CASE NO. 
\$

§

# §

# $\frac{\textbf{DEBTOR(S)' CHAPTER 13 PLAN}}{\textbf{AND MOTIONS FOR VALUATION AND LIEN AVOIDANCE}} \quad \Box \quad AMENDED$

## **Plan Summary**

A.	The Debtor's Plan Payment months. The gro	is scheduled atss amount to be paid into	per month [ $\square$ Pay Order, the plan is	□ Direct Pay] for	
B.	value of the collateral and a	pproximately	special class and secured clain  % of the unsecured allowe of of claim to receive distribu	d claims. THIS PLAN	
C.	Value of non-exempt assets				
D.	Current monthly income	, - expense	s = available :	for plan	
E.	The total amount to be paid into the Plan shall be increased for tax refunds as set forth in the Standing Order for Chapter 13 Case Administration in this Division. These additional receipts shall be disbursed according to the provisions of the Plan.				
		<u>Plan Provi</u>	<u>sions</u>		
		I. Vesting of Estat	e Property		
(shall	Upon confirmation of the plant) remain as property of the		ate shall (shall not) vest in the natic stay of 11 U.S.C. §362.	Debtor(s), and shall	
	II. Execute	ory Contracts/Unexpired	l Leases/Contracts for Deed		
follow	Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §132: ing executory contracts, if any		Code, the Debtor(s) hereby e	lects to assume the	
follow	Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §132 ing executory contracts, if any		Code, the Debtor(s) hereby e	lects to reject the	
	III. Spe	ecific Treatment for Pay	ment of Allowed Claims		
1. DI	RECT PAYMENTS BY DEE	STOR TO CREDITORS	; SURRENDER OF COLL	ATERAL	
	A. Debtor shall pay the follo	owing creditors directly:			
Credito	or Name	Remarks	Debt Amount	Monthly Payment	

B. Debtor shall surrender the following collateral:

Creditor Name	Remarks	Debt Amount	Collateral Surrendered

#### 2. PAYMENTS BY TRUSTEE

**A.** Administrative Expenses (including Attorney's fees)

The Trustee may receive up to 10% of all sums disbursed, except on any funds returned to the debtor.

Creditor	Estimated Amount of Debt	Payment Method 1. Before 2. After 3. Along with Secured creditors	Remarks
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#### **B.** Arrearage Claims – Direct Pay Creditors

Creditor/Collateral	Est. Claim	Est . Value Of Collateral	Mo. Pmt or Method of Disbursement	Interest Rate	Anticipated Total to Pay	Other Treatment/ Remarks
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#### C. Secured Creditors; Adequate Protection Payments; MOTIONS TO VALUE COLLATERAL

The Trustee shall pay allowed secured claims, which require the filing of a proof of claim, to the extent of the value of the collateral or the amount of the claim, whichever is required by Bankruptcy Code Section 1325(a)(5), plus interest thereon at the rate specified in this Plan. Failure of the secured creditor to object to the proposed value will be deemed acceptance of the plan under Section 1325(a)(5)(A). Except for secured claims for which provision is made to pay the full amount of the claim notwithstanding the value of the collateral, the portion of any allowed claim that exceeds the value of the collateral shall be treated as an unsecured claim under Section III(2)(E).

In the first disbursement following the filing of a claim by a creditor holding an allowed claim secured by personal property, the Trustee shall commence making adequate protection payments in the amount set out below, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Such payments shall cease upon confirmation of the plan.

I			
	Creditor/Collateral	Adequate Protection Payment	Other Treatment/Remarks

The Debtor moves to value collateral described below in the amounts indicated. The Debtor(s) declares, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing values as stated in the above Motion and the Plan for the secured debt are true and correct and to the best of their knowledge represent the replacement value, pursuant to Section 506(a)(2), of the assets held for collateral.

	Debtor					Co-Debtor			
Objections to Valuation of collateral proposed by this the confirmation hearing date. If no timely objection a conjunction with confirmation of the plan. Following shall be made as follows:					objection is				
Creditor/Collateral Est. Clai		Est. Claii	Value Of Collateral	Monthly Payment-		Interest Rate	Anticipated Total to Pay		Other Treatment/ Remarks
	of the paym Section 132	nent of th 28. In ado pe retaine	nall retain their li e underlying debi dition, if this case ed by the creditor	t deter e is dis	mined under missed or co	r non-bankruptc onverted withou	y law t com	, or discharge u pletion of the pl	nder 11 U.S.C. an, such liens
Creditor			Estimated Amount of Debt		Payment Met 1. Before 2. After 3. Along with	hod  Secured creditors		Remarks	
	E. General Unsecured Creditors, [including claims fideed] Unless otherwise provided below, payments to shall be made on a pro rata basis as funds become avestimated that distribution to the general unsecured or Plan.  F. Cure claims on Assumed Executory Contracts, Contracts, Contracts, Contracts, Contracts, Contracts		ayments to coecome avail	reditors with all able after paymeditors will comn	owed ent of nence	general unsecu f other creditors in the ma	red claims		
Creditor			Estimated Amount Of Debt		Monthly Payr Method of Di		Re	narks	

## **Totals:**

Administrative Claims_	
Arrearage Claims	
Secured Claims	
Priority Claims	
Unsecured Claims	
Cure Claims	

#### G. Supplemental Plan Provisions

#### (a) MOTION TO AVOID LIENS UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 522(f)

Debtor moves to avoid the following liens that impair exemptions. Objections to Lien Avoidance as proposed in this plan must be filed no later than ten (10) days prior to the confirmation hearing date. If no timely objection is filed, the relief requested may be granted in conjunction with confirmation of the plan. (Debtor must list the specific exempt property said lien impairs and the basis of the lien, i.e. judicial, nonpurchase-money security interest, etc.)

Creditor	Property subject to lien	Amount of Lien to be Avoided	Remarks
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(b) The following are the Supplemental Plan Provisions:

None

#### IV. General Information

#### **Notice:** Local Rule 3002 provides, in part:

"Every Creditor filing a Proof of Claim in all cases shall transmit a copy with attachments, if any, to the Debtor's Attorney (or the Debtor if the Debtor is pro se) and the Trustee appointed in the case."

Creditors are hereby notified that WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE the Plan may be amended at the Meeting of Creditors. Any amendment may affect your status as a creditor. The Debtor's estimate of how much the Plan will pay, projected payments and estimates of the allowed claims may also change. The following information is an attempt to advise Creditors of the status of the case based on the information known at the time of its preparation. Any special concerns of a creditor may justify attendance at the Meeting of Creditors and such other action as may

		ng of objections to confirmation is ten days prior to the office of the United States Bankruptcy Clerk in
Respectfully submitted this	_ day of	
Debtor Address		Co-Debtor Address
Attorney for Debtor Address/Phone & Fax Number		
	Certificate of Ser	<u>rvice</u>
The Debtor(s) shall be responsible for se	rvice of the plan on t	he Trustee and all parties in interest.

ATTACH PROPOSED PAYMENT SCHEDULE, IF AVAILABLE.