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## United States Trustee's Corner By: Jill Kelso, Orlando Office

## U.S. Trustee Program to Implement Virtual Section 341 Meetings of Creditors Nationwide

Pursuant to its authority under 11 U.S.C. §§ 341(a) and 343, Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2003, and other authorities, the U.S. Trustee Program ("USTP") will implement virtual section 341 meetings of creditors ("341 meetings") via Zoom for all chapter 7, 12, and 13 cases in all USTP jurisdictions.

These virtual 341 meetings via Zoom will be implemented on a rolling basis through early 2024. Debtors and other interested parties should follow the instructions provided in the 341 meeting notice they receive from the court, as well as additional instructions provided by the trustee assigned to the debtor's case, to determine the proper procedures for connecting to the meeting. Please refer to each district's USTP Local 341 Meeting Information page (set forth below for the Middle District of Florida).

The USTP's transition to video 341 meetings will foster greater participation, result in substantial cost and time efficiencies for debtors and creditors, and better ensure the efficiency and integrity of the bankruptcy system. Once implemented, the U.S. Trustee may approve alternative arrangements for 341 meetings when extenuating circumstances exist that preclude a debtor's attendance by video. In addition, in rare cases, the U.S. Trustee may determine that an in-person 341 meeting is necessary.

## Middle District of Florida Virtual 341 Meeting Information for Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Cases

The Middle District of Florida is implementing virtual 341 meetings for all chapter 7, 12, and 13 cases filed on or after September 1, 2023. These virtual 341 meetings will be held by video conference, which will be conducted through the Zoom platform, beginning on or after October 2, 2023.

To join the virtual 341 meeting, participants will need the Meeting ID, Passcode, and phone number if joining by audio only, assigned to the presiding trustee in the case. Individual Meeting IDs, Passcodes, phone numbers, and meeting links assigned to each trustee can be found at the following links:

- The Source: <u>http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/trstee/default.htm?id=1</u>
- USTP Information for Jacksonville and Orlando Divisions: https://www.justice.gov/ust-regions-r21/region-21-section-341-meetings-6
- USTP Information for Tampa and Fort Myers Divisions: <u>https://www.justice.gov/ust-regions-r21/region-21-section-341-meetings-0</u>

Detailed instructions for joining a virtual 341 Meeting via Zoom can be found here: <u>https://www.justice.gov/ust/page/file/1590011/download</u>

## **Telephonic Section 341 Meeting Information for Chapter 11 Cases**

Chapter 11 section 341 meetings of creditors will continue to be held telephonically until further notice. Information for joining the meeting can be found on section 6 (section 7 for subchapter V cases) of the Notice of Bankruptcy Case (Official Form 309) that you receive from the Bankruptcy Court.