

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOTICE REGARDING EMERGENCY FILINGS OF BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS IN THE OFFICES OF THE DISTRICT COURT IN WILLIAMSPORT AND SCRANTON

Within the next few weeks, the U. S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania will be implementing a new case management system (CM) in preparation for allowing bankruptcy petitions to be filed electronically over the Internet.

This system assigns new bankruptcy case numbers after all the case data is keyed into the program, unlike current practice whereby case numbers are assigned by Clerk's staff prior to data input.

As a result, new bankruptcy petitions may still be "filed" and will receive a FILED stamp in the Scranton and Williamsport offices of the District Clerk. However, these cases **will not be assigned a case number** until they are received in the Wilkes-Barre office of the Bankruptcy Clerk and the data entered into the system.

When a petition is received in Wilkes-Barre and the data entered into the system, a "Notice of Bankruptcy Filing" will be provided to the person who filed the petition. This Notice will contain: the name of the debtor and the case number; a watermarked seal of the Bankruptcy Court denoting the date and time that the petition was filed; a statement that the filing of the case "automatically stays certain actions against the debtor and the debtor's property."

A letter has been sent to all county Sheriff's Offices in the Middle District telling them of this change.

Date: March 10, 2003

Clerk,
U. S. Bankruptcy Court