



PRESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON HEARINGS
Before Chief Judge Dales

Hon. Scott W. Dales
United States Bankruptcy Court
Western District of Michigan
Amended August 12, 2025

Unless otherwise stated in a hearing notice or order, all matters scheduled for hearing before Chief Judge Dales, whether during a motion day or non-motion day, will take place in-person in a courtroom in the location designated pursuant to LBR 1014, in the same fashion as before the COVID-19 public health emergency, albeit with appropriate public health safeguards.

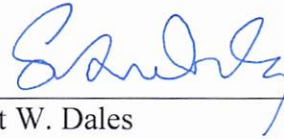
Chief Judge Dales will flexibly apply LBR 9017 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 43(a), notwithstanding the presumption that court proceedings should occur in person. The phrase “for good cause in compelling circumstances” within the meaning of Fed. R. Civ. P. 43(a) may include *bona fide* physical and mental health concerns related to the risk of infection, or contagious disease, but generally will not include counsel's or a party's distance from the courthouse.

Individuals seeking permission to attend a hearing through contemporary transmission from another location may send an email to SWD_Chambers@miwb.uscourts.gov, sufficiently in advance of the hearing for staff to make arrangements, if authorized. The email must identify the hearing at issue, the person requesting permission, the requester's phone number, and the reason for the request. The court may grant or deny permission in its discretion depending on the timing and circumstances of the request.

Chief Judge Dales, in his discretion and depending on local circumstances, may require all persons within the courtroom (including, but not limited to, attorneys, litigants, witnesses, visitors, employees, court security officers, or others) to (i) wear facial coverings (*e.g.*, masks) covering

mouth and nose; and (ii) practice social distancing, all in accordance with the advice and guidance of public health authorities. The Clerk will make masks available in the courtroom, as needed.

Dated: August 12, 2025



Scott W. Dales
Chief Judge