

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

In re: _____ : **MISC. NO. 22-3006**

BIFURCATED CHAPTER 7 FEE AGREEMENTS :

**STANDING ORDER REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF BIFURCATED FEE
AGREEMENTS IN CHAPTER 7 CASES**

WHEREAS, many Chapter 7 debtors are unable to pay attorney fees in full prior to the filing of the case.

WHEREAS, this inability to pay fees often results in a lack of access to the bankruptcy system.

WHEREAS, bifurcated fee agreements are being used by counsel in this District to provide an option for these individuals to file without full payment of fees upfront.

WHEREAS, it is the duty of this Court to review said agreements for compliance with Rule 2016(b) and to determine the propriety and permissibility of such arrangements for representation of chapter 7 debtors.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. In all chapter 7 cases in which counsel has entered into a bifurcated fee agreement with Debtor(s), **no later than seven (7) days after the filing of the petition**, the Debtor's counsel shall file:

- a. a notice of the existence of the bifurcated fee agreement ("the Fee Agreement Notice");
- b. a copy of the pre-filing retainer agreement; and
- c. a copy of the post-filing retainer agreement.

2. After the filing of the Fee Agreement Notice and accompanying documents:
 - a. in the court's discretion, the court may schedule a hearing to review the agreement with counsel, the Debtor(s) and counsel for the United States Trustee; or
 - b. upon a request filed by the U.S. Trustee or the case Trustee, the court will schedule a hearing to review the agreement with counsel, the Debtor(s) and counsel for the United States Trustee.

BY THE COURT:

October 18, 2022



MAGDELINE D. COLEMAN
CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE