

Instructions for Form Disclosure Statement

BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. This small business chapter 11 disclosure statement form is promulgated pursuant to § 433 of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. This form may be used in cases where the debtor (whether an individual or an artificial entity) is a small business debtor within the meaning of § 101(51D) of the Code. This form provides a format for disseminating to parties in interest information about the plan of reorganization in a debtor's small business chapter 11 case, so that those parties can make reasonably informed judgments whether to accept, reject or object to the plan. Because the relevant legal requirements for and effects of a plan's confirmation may vary depending on the nature of the debtor, and because the details of any proposed reorganization necessarily vary, this form is intended to provide a format for disclosure, rather than a specific prescription for the language or content of a disclosure statement in any particular case. The form highlights the factual and legal disclosures required by § 1125 of the Code in connection with the plan's confirmation. It is not intended to restrict the plan's proponent from providing additional information where that would be useful.
2. Proponents are encouraged to present material information in as clear a fashion as possible, including, where feasible, in an accompanying executive summary, approved by the court, that highlights particular creditors' or interest holders' voting status and treatment under the plan.
3. Some language in this form appears in brackets. The bracketed language sometimes instructs the plan's proponent to provide certain information, and sometimes provides optional or alternative language that should be used when and where appropriate. Proponents should make the necessary insertions and/or delete inapplicable language.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

4. The introductory section describes the purpose of the disclosure statement, provides procedural information regarding confirmation of the plan, including where to obtain additional information, indicates whether particular claimants or interest holders will be entitled to vote on the plan, and details the procedures and deadlines for filing objections to confirmation of the plan. A copy of the plan should be attached to the debtor's disclosure statement as

Exhibit A. Where the proposed distribution to unsecured creditors and other classes can be succinctly summarized, describe that distribution in the second introductory paragraph.

5. In some cases, the court will approve the debtor's disclosure statement prior to solicitation of acceptance or rejection of the plan. See Rule 3017. In other cases, the court may conditionally approve the disclosure statement, and combine the hearing on the adequacy of disclosure and the hearing on confirmation of the plan into one hearing. See Rule 3017.1. Use the bracketed language as appropriate in subsections I.B. and I.C.

BACKGROUND SECTION

6. The second part of disclosure statement provides a history of the debtor's business, both before and during the debtor's bankruptcy case. In this section, the plan proponent should describe the debtor's business, the events that led to the filing of the debtor's bankruptcy petition, and the key events in the debtor's bankruptcy case, and identify the people who managed the debtor during the case and who will manage the debtor after the plan is confirmed. The proponent should disclose its intentions with regard to, and the status of, avoidance actions. If the debtor or proponent intends to bring an avoidance action against a particular creditor or equity interest holder, the disclosure statement should disclose this fact so that the creditor or equity interest holder can use that information to determine the value of its claim or interest when considering whether to accept or reject the plan. If the debtor or plan proponent is uncertain as to what avoidance actions might be brought, that fact should be disclosed as well, so that claimants and equity interest holders can take that information into account, as well, when considering whether to accept or reject the plan.
7. A schedule of the debtor's material assets, along with the basis for their valuation should be attached to the debtor's disclosure statement as Exhibit B. Under § 1116 of the Code, the debtor must also file its most recent prepetition financial statements with the petition. These financial statements should be attached to the debtor's disclosure statement as Exhibit C.
8. Sections 434 and 435 of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, and § 308 of the Code require the debtor to file periodic operating reports with the court. The most recent such reports, or a summary of the filed reports, should be attached to the debtor's disclosure statement as Exhibit D.

SUMMARY OF PLAN

9. The third part of the disclosure statement describes the treatment of various creditors and equity interest holders who will receive distributions under the plan. Because the treatment of certain claims, such as administrative expense claims, allowed under § 503 of the Code, and priority tax claims, allowed under §507(a)(8) of the Code, is statutorily specified, these claims are not placed into classes. Secured creditors are generally each placed in their own class, with the particular treatment specified for that class. Section 1129(a)(9)(D) of the Code provides that a secured tax claim which would otherwise meet the description of a priority tax claim under § 507(a)(8) of the Code is to be paid in the same manner and over the same period as prescribed in § 507(a)(8) of the Code. While it is not required, the proponent may, where applicable, wish to classify claims under § 507(a)(9) and (10) of the Code. Finally, the disclosure statement should describe the treatment of the general unsecured claimants and equity interest holders. An administrative convenience class may be created pursuant to § 1122(b) of the Code, and other classes of unsecured claims may be created to the extent permitted by applicable case law. Also, while the suggested language of the form contemplates that plan distributions will be in the form of monthly payments, other forms of consideration are permitted and this section of the disclosure statement should be modified to describe clearly the form(s), methods and timing of payments to be made under the particular plan.
10. The disclosure statement should also detail the sources of funds for payments to be made under the plan. These should include the sources of funds for payments to be made on the effective date of the plan (detailed in Exhibit F), and the source of payments that will be made over the life of the plan. The description should be supported by projections about the income and profitability of the debtor. The plan proponent must also fully describe post-confirmation management, as required by § 1129(a)(5) of the Code. The disclosure statement should also describe any risk factors that might influence the debtor's ability to complete the payments or affect the value of the distributions provided for under the plan. Also, the disclosure statement should list any material executory contracts that will be assumed pursuant to the plan, as well as any material contracts that will be rejected. To the extent possible, the tax consequences of the plan should also be summarized.

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES SECTION

11. The fourth part of the disclosure statement sets forth the procedures and requirements for confirmation. In this regard, the disclosure statement should inform creditors and equity interest holders of (1) which class they are in, (2) whether they are entitled to vote, and (3) the amount of their claim allowed for voting purposes. This may be accomplished in the disclosure statement itself or, as noted above, in a summary statement, approved by the court, and sent to

the parties in interest along with the disclosure statement. A liquidation analysis of the debtor should be attached to the disclosure statement as Exhibit E. As noted above, the sources of funds for payments to be made on the effective date of the plan should be detailed in Exhibit F, and projections about the profitability and cash flow of the debtor's business after confirmation should be attached to the disclosure statement as Exhibit G.

EFFECT OF PLAN CONFIRMATION

12. The fifth part of the disclosure statement describes the effect of plan confirmation. The language used here should be chosen with care, as the effect of confirmation differs depending on whether the debtor is an individual, partnership, or corporation, and on whether the debtor will continue in business post-confirmation or will, instead, be liquidated.
13. If the plan provides that, after its confirmation, property of the estate will vest in and be distributed by someone other than the debtor, the disclosure statement should identify any such property and the person in whom the property will vest.

OTHER PROVISIONS

14. Other provisions may be added in Part VI as desired and appropriate.