

Committee Note

Official Form 113 is new and is the required plan form in all chapter 13 cases, except to the extent that Rule 3015(c) permits the use of a Local Form. Except as permitted by Rule 9009, alterations to the Official Form are not permitted. As the form explains, spaces for responses may be expanded or collapsed as appropriate, and sections that are inapplicable do not need to be reproduced. Portions of the form provide multiple options for provisions of a debtor's plan, but some of those options may not be appropriate in a given debtor's situation or may not be allowed in the court presiding over the case. Debtors are advised to refer to applicable local rulings. Nothing in the Official Form requires confirmation of a plan containing provisions inconsistent with applicable law.

Part 1. This part sets out warnings to both debtors and creditors. For creditors, if the plan includes one or more of the provisions listed in this part, the appropriate boxes must be checked. For example, if Part 8 of the plan proposes a provision not included in, or contrary to, the Official Form, that nonstandard provision will be ineffective if the appropriate check box in Part 1 is not selected.

Part 2. This part states the proposed periodic plan payments, the estimated total plan payments, and sources of funding for the plan. Section 2.1 allows the debtor or debtors to propose periodic payments in other than monthly intervals. For example, if the debtor receives a paycheck every week and wishes to make plan payments from each check, that should be indicated in § 2.1. If the debtor proposes to make payments according to different "steps," the amounts and intervals of those payments should also be indicated in § 2.1. Section 2.2 provides for the manner in which the debtor will make regular payments to the trustee. If the debtor selects the option of making payments pursuant to a payroll deduction order, that selection serves as a request by the debtor for entry of the order. Whether to enter a payroll deduction order is determined by the court. See Code § 1325(c). If the debtor selects the option of making payments other than by direct payments to the trustee or by a payroll deduction order, the alternative method (*e.g.*, a designated third party electronic funds transfer program) must be specified. Section 2.3 provides

for the treatment of any income tax refunds received during the plan term.

Part 3. This part provides for the treatment of secured claims.

The Official Form contains no provision for proposing preconfirmation adequate protection payments to secured creditors, leaving that subject to local rules, orders, forms, custom, and practice. A Director's Form for notice of and order on proposed adequate protection payments has been created and may be used for that purpose.

Section 3.1 provides for the treatment of claims under Code § 1322(b)(5) (maintaining current payments and curing any arrearage). For the claim of a secured creditor listed in § 3.1, an estimated arrearage amount should be given. A contrary arrearage or current installment payment amount listed on the creditor's timely filed proof of claim, unless contested by objection or motion, will control over the amount given in the plan.

In § 3.2, the plan may propose to determine under Code § 506(a) the value of a secured claim. For example, the plan could seek to reduce the secured portion of a creditor's claim to the value of the collateral securing it. For the secured claim of a non-governmental creditor, that determination would be binding upon confirmation of the plan. For the secured claim of a governmental unit, however, a contrary valuation listed on the creditor's proof of claim, unless contested by objection or motion, would control over the valuation given in the plan. *See* Bankruptcy Rule 3012. Bankruptcy Rule 3002 contemplates that a debtor, the trustee, or another entity may file a proof of claim if the creditor does not do so in a timely manner. *See* Bankruptcy Rules 3004 and 3005. Section 3.2 will not be effective unless the appropriate check box in Part 1 is selected.

Section 3.3 deals with secured claims that under the so-called "hanging paragraph" of § 1325(a)(5) may not be bifurcated into secured and unsecured portions under Code § 506(a), but it allows for the proposal of an interest rate other than the contract rate to be applied to payments on such a claim. A contrary claim amount listed on the creditor's timely filed proof of claim, unless contested by

objection or motion, will control over the amount given in the plan. If appropriate, a claim may be treated under § 3.1 instead of § 3.3.

In § 3.4, the plan may propose to avoid certain judicial liens or security interests encumbering exempt property in accordance with Code § 522(f). This section includes space for the calculation of the amount of the judicial lien or security interest that is avoided. A plan proposing avoidance in § 3.4 must be served in the manner provided by Bankruptcy Rule 7004 for service of a summons and complaint. *See* Bankruptcy Rule 4003. Section 3.4 will not be effective unless the appropriate check box in Part 1 is selected.

Section 3.5 provides for elections to surrender collateral and requests for termination of the stay under § 362(a) and § 1301 with respect to the collateral surrendered. Termination will be effective upon confirmation of the plan.

Part 4. This part provides for the treatment of trustee's fees and claims entitled to priority status. Section 4.1 provides that trustee's fees and all allowed priority claims (other than those domestic support obligations treated in § 4.5) will be paid in full. In § 4.2, the plan lists an estimate of the trustee's fees. Although the estimate may indicate whether the plan will be feasible, it does not affect the trustee's entitlement to fees as determined by statute. In § 4.3, the form requests a statement of the balance of attorney's fees owed. Additional details about payments of attorney's fees, including information about their timing and approval, are left to the requirements of local practice. In § 4.4, the plan calls for an estimated amount of other priority claims. A contrary amount listed on the creditor's proof of claim, unless changed by court order in response to an objection or motion, will control over the amount given in § 4.4. In § 4.5, the plan may propose to pay less than the full amount of a domestic support obligation that has been assigned to, or is owed to, a governmental unit, but not less than the amount that claim would have received in a chapter 7 liquidation. *See* §§ 1322(a)(4) and 1325(a)(4) of the Code. This plan provision requires that the plan payments be for a term of 60 months. *See* § 1322(a)(4).

Part 5. This part provides for the treatment of unsecured claims that are not entitled to priority status. In § 5.1, the plan may propose to pay nonpriority unsecured claims in accordance with several options. One or more options may be selected. For example, the plan could propose simply to pay unsecured creditors any funds remaining after disbursements to other creditors, or it could also provide that a defined percentage of the total amount of unsecured claims will be paid. In § 5.2, the plan may propose to cure any arrearages and maintain periodic payments on long-term, nonpriority unsecured debts pursuant to § 1322(b)(5) of the Code. In § 5.3, the plan may provide for the separate classification of nonpriority unsecured claims (such as co-debtor claims) as permitted under Code § 1322(b)(1).

Part 6. This part provides for executory contracts and unexpired leases. An executory contract or unexpired lease is rejected unless it is listed in this part. If the plan proposes neither to assume nor reject an executory contract or unexpired lease, that treatment would have to be set forth as a nonstandard provision in Part 8.

The Official Form contains no provision on the order of distribution of payments under the plan, leaving that to local rules, orders, custom, and practice. If the debtor desires to propose a specific order of distribution, it must be contained in Part 8.

Part 7. This part defines when property of the estate will revert in the debtor or debtors. One choice must be selected—upon plan confirmation, upon entry of discharge the case, or upon some other specified event. This plan provision is subject to a contrary court order under Code § 1327(b).

Part 8. This part gives the debtor or debtors the opportunity to propose provisions that are not otherwise in, or that deviate from, the Official Form. All such nonstandard provisions must be set forth in this part and nowhere else in the plan. This part will not be effective unless the appropriate check box in Part 1 is selected. *See* Bankruptcy Rule 3015(c).

Part 9. The plan must be signed by the attorney for the debtor or debtors. If the debtor or debtors are not

represented by an attorney, they must sign the plan, but the signature of represented debtors is optional. In addition to the certifications set forth in Rule 9011(b), the signature constitutes a certification that the wording and order of Official Form 113 have not been altered, other than by including any nonstandard provision in Part 8.