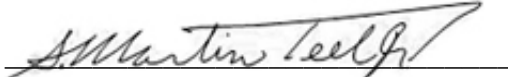


The order below is hereby signed.

Signed: November 25 2013



  
S. Martin Teel, Jr.  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In re )  
 )  
SHARON ELIZABETH RUSH, ) Case No. 13-00725  
 ) (Chapter 7)  
Debtor. )  
 ) Not for publication in  
 ) West's Bankruptcy Reporter

MEMORANDUM DECISION AND ORDER DENYING REQUEST  
FOR TEMPORARY WAIVER OF THE PREPETITION CREDIT COUNSELING  
REQUIREMENT AND TO SHOW CAUSE WHY CASE OUGHT NOT BE DISMISSED

The debtor requests a temporary waiver of the prepetition credit counseling requirement due to exigent circumstances. She explains: "I was planning on going to credit counseling but with the government shutdown we have had no income since then. I do plan on going in the near future." (Dkt. No. 3). For the reasons that follow, the request will be denied.

Section 109(h) requires all individuals filing for bankruptcy to obtain an individual or group briefing that outlines the opportunities for available credit counseling and assists the individual in performing a related budget analysis from an approved non-profit budget and credit counseling agency during the 180-day period preceding the date of the filing of the

individual's petition. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h)(1).

The court can waive this requirement temporarily if (i) the debtor certifies that there are exigent circumstances that merit a waiver of the credit counseling requirement, (ii) the debtor certifies that she requested credit counseling services from an approved non-profit budget and credit counseling agency before the debtor filed the petition, but was unable to obtain the necessary services within seven days of the request, and (iii) the court finds the certification satisfactory. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h)(3)(A). This exemption applies only for the first thirty days following the filing of the debtor's petition, although the court may grant a fifteen-day extension of the exemption for cause. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h)(3)(B).

The debtor has not described any exigent circumstances and this alone is sufficient to deny a waiver of the prepetition credit counseling requirement. The inability to pay does not qualify as an exigent circumstance, because credit counseling agencies are required to "provide services without regard to ability to pay the fee." 11 U.S.C. § 111(c)(2)(B).

Additionally, the debtor does not explain her requests for credit counseling services or why she was unable to obtain the necessary services within seven days of the request. Moreover, she fails to clarify why she had to file her petition prior to obtaining the required credit counseling.

