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Two suggestions for the rules committee to consider:

(1) When a case converts from chapter 7 to chapter 13, there should not be the need for a new Form B22. If the issue is to decide on the required commitment period, there may already be enough information from the original Form B22. Otherwise, a short special chapter 13 form might avoid the confusion of debtors who think that they have filed all the necessary papers when they filed chapter 7.

(2) The national rules prohibit special masters in bankruptcy cases, including adversary proceedings - or so I read the rule. I assume this was put in after the 1978 Act for several reasons. (1) cost, (2) to prohibit district judges who previously appointed referees-in-bankruptcy to act as special masters from withdrawing the reference and then assigning the case to a special master, (3) to let the bankruptcy judge know that s/he had to do it and could not pawn it off on someone. Maybe these weren't the reasons at all, but I can't think of any others.

Anyway, it is worth thinking about removing or limiting that rule. There are some very complex chapter 11 cases and adversaries which really need a special master and can afford one. In fact it might save money, given the rates that attorneys charge.

Gen
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