IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION: "DIV"
CASE NO.: 50-20XX-CA-000000-XXXX-MB

         Plaintiff/Petitioner

vs.

         Defendant/Respondent.
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/

**UNIFORM DIFFERENTIATED CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER**

**AND ORDER SETTING TRIAL**
(DCMSNT)

**THIS MATTER** is a Circuit Civil case calling for a non-jury trial (or streamlined jury by stipulation or court order). Pursuant to Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.250(a)(1)(B) and 2.545(b), and Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Administrative Order 3.110 (as amended), **Plaintiff/Petitioner is directed to serve this Order** **upon each Defendant/Respondent with the initial Complaint/Petition and Summons**.

It is hereby **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that this case is designated to the **STREAMLINED TRACK** for time to disposition. The deadlines and procedures set forth in this Order will be strictly enforced unless changed by court order.

Consistent with the Professionalism Expectations of the Florida Supreme Court and the Florida Bar, the parties and counsel are expected to govern themselves at all times with a spirit of cooperation, professionalism and civility. They are expected to accommodate each other whenever reasonably possible and eliminate disputes by reasonable agreements. Self-Represented/*Pro Se* Litigants (i.e., those without counsel) are held to the same procedural and legal obligations as are imposed upon counsel.

1. **SCHEDULING**

**A. Calendar Call**

**YOU MUST APPEAR FOR A MANDATORY CALENDAR CALL on *insert date at insert time***. The parties must be ready to try the case by that date. The actual trial period begins on the docket associated with this Calendar Call date as provided in Divisional Instructions or by court order.

Calendar Call may be conducted in person, via Zoom or by e-calendar. All parties are instructed to review the Court’s Divisional Instructions for specific procedures at www.15thcircuit.com/divisions.

At the Calendar Call, the Court may conduct a final case management conference. Attorneys who appear for Calendar Call must be prepared on all pending matters and have authority to make representations to the Court and enter into binding agreements concerning motions, issues, and scheduling. These include issues raised by the parties’ Pre-Trial Stipulation; trial procedures; jury selection procedures; jury instructions and objections; and the need for any special equipment, courtroom facilities, or interpreters. An appearing attorney must be prepared to advise the Court of all attorneys’ availability for trial and future hearings as necessary.

**This Order serves as notice to the parties that failure to attend Calendar Call will result in an Order of Dismissal without prejudice, or entry of default, without further notice or hearing. *See* Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200(j)(6).**

**B. Case Management Deadlines**

The following deadlines strictly apply unless otherwise modified by the Court:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **EVENTS** | **COMPLETION DEADLINE** |
| 1. | Service of Complaint | 120 days from filing; service under extension is only by court order. |
| 2. | Answer and/or initial motions/objections directed to the pleadings (i.e. to dismiss or strike)  | **20 days after service**  |
| 3. | Initial Discovery Disclosures | **60 days after service**  |
| 4. | Amendment of pleadings/Adding parties | 160 days from date of filing |
| 5. | Resolution of all motions/objections directed to the pleadings and pleadings closed | 180 days from date of filing |
| 6. | Disclosure of Expert Witness(es) | 120 days before Calendar Call |
| 7. | Disclosure of Rebuttal Experts | 100 days before Calendar Call |
| 8. | Inspections, Expert Witness Depositions and Compulsory Examinations completed | 80 days before Calendar Call |
| 9. | File Witness & Exhibit Lists | 60 days before Calendar Call |
| 10. | Completion of Discovery relating to Summary Judgment and *Daubert* Motions | 80 days before Calendar Call |
| 11. | File and Serve Motion(s) for Summary Judgment and *Daubert* Motions | 70 days before Calendar Call |
| 12. | File Rebuttal Witness Lists | 50 days before Calendar Call |
| 13. | Completion of All Discovery | 40 days before Calendar Call |
| 14. | Pre-Trial Meet & Confer | 30 days before Calendar Call |
| 15. | File all Pre-Trial Motions (i.e. Motions in Limine) | 30 days before Calendar Call |
| 16. | Deadline for Mediation  | 10 days before Calendar Call |
| 17. | Deposition Designations  | 10 days before Calendar Call |
| 18. | File Joint Pre-Trial Stipulation | 10 days before Calendar Call |
| 19. | Deadline to hear ALL Motions  | 5 days before Calendar Call |
| 20. | Jury Instructions and Verdict Form | 3 days before Calendar Call |
| 21. | Calendar Call/Trial Ready Date | Calendar Call date- 14 months from date of filing |
| 22. | Trial Period | Begins on the docket associated with the above Calendar Call date, as provided in Divisional Instructions or by court order.  |

**Note: If the above deadlines fall on a weekend or holiday, please refer to Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. Rule 2.514.**

The parties are expected to actively manage the case and to confer early and often to ensure compliance with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and this order in timely resolving this case. **The parties are encouraged to file, meet, and make disclosures prior to the deadlines imposed above, in order to ensure compliance with the Rules requiring timely disposition of cases.**

The Court may, at any time, modify this Order by entry of: 1) an Amended Trial Order, 2) an Amended Case Management Order; or 3) any other Order intended to establish a modified case resolution schedule, any of which shall supersede the deadlines set forth in this Order. The Court reserves the authority to expedite the trial setting and amend pretrial deadlines accordingly. The Court further retains its discretion to modify any provision herein.

**C. Motions**

Unless court approval is required to set a particular motion for hearing, the parties must expeditiously set all contested motions for hearing. All non-dispositive motions, including motions directed to the pleadings, must be scheduled for hearing within **five (5) days** of filing. Parties shall schedule the hearing for the first vacancy on the Court’s docket when all parties are available. **Failure to schedule a hearing within five (5) days may result in the Court deeming the motion(s) abandoned without further notice or hearing.**

The moving party shall be the party responsible for securing the presence of a court reporter. The moving party shall advise all parties in writing in advance of the hearing or trial of the arrangements made, if any, for the presence of a court reporter, or shall advise all parties in advance of the hearing or trial that the moving party has chosen not to obtain a court reporter.

Before filing a non-dispositive motion, the movant must follow Rule 1.202 and Local Rule 4. Failure to comply with the requirements of Rule 1.202 and Local Rule 4 may result in sanctions against the non-compliant party.

The requirements of Rule 1.202 do not apply when the movant or the nonmovant is unrepresented by counsel (*pro se*).

**D. Extensions, Modifications and Continuances**

**Extensions of Deadlines Other than Trial/Calendar Call**: **All motions to extend deadlines must be filed prior to the deadline.** Untimely motions will be denied absent compelling circumstances and a showing of good cause.

The parties must strictly follow Rule 1.200(e) and Administrative Order 3.110 (as amended) when filing motions for extension or modification. If the parties agree, and the extension will not prevent the case from being trial ready by the original Calendar Call date, the parties may file a motion and submit for the Court’s consideration an agreed order or proposed Amended DCMO, as applicable under Rule 1.200(e)(1). The motion shall identify which deadlines are requested to be extended and the basis for the request. Each agreed order or Amended DCMO must contain agreed-upon dates for all remaining deadlines and confirm that the Calendar Call date remains as previously set. The Court will accept the amendment or direct the parties to set a DCM Conference. **Agreements to extend the dates for the filing of Summary Judgment and *Daubert* motions, and for completion of discovery, must be set for hearing, and the parties must be prepared to address how the proposed extension will not affect the Calendar Call date.**

**Motions to Continue Trial**: Motions to continue trial must strictly comply with Rule 1.460. **Motions to continue are disfavored and will rarely be granted and then only upon good cause shown. Successive continuances are highly disfavored. Lack of due diligence in preparing for trial is not grounds to continue the case.** Failure to timely complete discovery and/or file a motion for summary judgment shall not be grounds to continue the trial.

**E**. **DCM Conferences**

If any party is unable to meet the deadlines set forth in this Order for any reason, including unavailability of hearing time, the affected party must promptly set a DCM conference as described in Administrative Order 3.110 (as amended), identifying the hearing time requested and the pending motion(s). DCM conferences shall be scheduled through online scheduling (OLS) on either the Court’s: 1) DCM - Case Management Conference docket; or 2) Uniform Motion Calendar, in accordance with Divisional Instructions.

1. **UNIFORM PRE-TRIAL PROCEDURE**
	1. TIMELY SERVICE AND DEFAULTS

Parties must make reasonable efforts to ensure speedy service. Each return of service must be separately filed for each defendant. If service is not completed within ninety (90) days, an Order will be issued directing service by the **ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY (120) DAY DEADLINE**. Failure to comply will result in dismissal of the case or party for lack of service. Any motions to extend the deadline for service must specify why service could not have been effectuated, what has and is being done to effectuate service and request only that amount of additional time necessary.

If all defendants become defaulted, a Motion for Default Final Judgment along with supporting documentation must be filed within **thirty (30) days** of the last default and set for hearing at the next available hearing time.

* 1. INITIAL DISCLOSURES

Within **sixty (60) days after service** on a defendant, and except as exempted by Rule 1.280(a)(2) or as ordered by the court, each party must, without awaiting a discovery request, provide to the other parties initial discovery disclosures in compliance with Rule 1.280(a), unless privileged or protected from disclosure.

* 1. EXHIBITS AND WITNESSES

No later than **sixty** (**60) days before Calendar Call**, each party shall file and exchange lists of all trial exhibits, names, and addresses of all trial witnesses. Each party’s witness list must include a brief description of the substance and scope of the testimony to be elicited from each witness. Both sides must cooperate in the scheduling of all witness depositions.

Each party’s exhibit list shall include each exhibit separately numbered and identified. Generic or prospective designations are not allowed (e.g. insurer’s file, documents to be produced, etc.). Each party shall provide for a reasonable time and place for the other parties to review and copy the exhibits.

* 1. EXPERT WITNESS DISCLOSURES

In addition to the names and addresses of each expert retained to formulate an expert opinion, as well as any hybrid fact/expert witnesses, no later than **one-hundred and twenty (120) days before Calendar Call**, the parties must provide:

* + 1. The subject matter about which the expert will testify;
		2. The opinions to which the expert will testify;
		3. A summary of the grounds and facts for each opinion; and
		4. A copy of the expert's curriculum vitae.

**Each expert will be limited to testifying only about those matters which have been fully disclosed.**

Parties shall furnish opposing counsel with two (2) alternative dates of availability of all expert witnesses for the purpose of taking their deposition. All parties shall cooperate in the scheduling of expert depositions.

The parties shall also provide answers to standard form expert interrogatories. All reports or other data compiled by each disclosed expert which are intended to be used by the expert and/or referred to during his/her deposition testimony shall be provided electronically to all opposing parties at least 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled deposition.

**Rebuttal/Responsive Experts**

No later than **one-hundred (100) days before Calendar Call**, the parties shall provide opposing counsel with a written list with the names and addresses of all rebuttal/responsive expert witnesses intended to be called at trial and only those rebuttal/responsive expert witnesses listed shall be permitted to testify. The parties shall also furnish opposing counsel with expert reports or summaries of all rebuttal/responsive expert witnesses’ anticipated testimony to the same extent as the expert disclosure requirement above.

Within **twenty (20)** **days** following this disclosure, the parties shall make their rebuttal/responsive experts available for deposition. The experts’ depositions may be conducted without further court order.

* 1. REBUTTAL FACT WITNESSES AND EXHIBITS

No later than **fifty (50) days before Calendar Call**, the parties must file and exchange lists of names and addresses of all rebuttal fact witnesses and lists of any rebuttal exhibits.

* 1. ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS, WITNESSES OR OBJECTIONS

At trial, the parties will be strictly limited to exhibits and witnesses previously disclosed absent agreement of the parties or order of the Court upon good cause shown. A party desiring to use an exhibit or witness discovered after counsel have conferred must immediately furnish the Court and other counsel with a description of the exhibit or with the witness’ name and address and the expected subject matter of the witness’ testimony, together with the reason for the late discovery of the exhibit or witness. Failure to reserve objections constitutes a waiver. Use of the exhibit or witness may be allowed by the Court for good cause shown.

* 1. DEPOSITION DESIGNATIONS

No later than **ten (10) days prior to Calendar Call**, each party must serve deposition designations, or portions of depositions, each intends to offer as testimony. No later than **eight (8) days prior to Calendar Call**, each opposing party is to serve any counter (or “fairness”) designations, together with objections to the depositions, or portions thereof, originally designated. No later than **five (5) days before** **Calendar Call**, each party must serve any objections to counter-designations served by an opposing party.

* 1. DISCOVERY COMPLETION

All discovery relating to Summary Judgment and *Daubert* motions must be completed no later than **eighty (80) days prior to Calendar Call.**

All discovery must be completed no later than **forty (40) days prior to Calendar Call**.

Rulings as to admission on late discovery will be made on a case by case basis. Absent unforeseeable, exigent circumstances, the failure to complete discovery is not grounds for a continuance.

* 1. COUNSEL MEETING AND PRE-TRIAL STIPULATION

Counsel or the parties, if not represented by counsel, shall meet in person at a mutually convenient time and place no later than **thirty (30) days before Calendar Call** to discuss settlement, simplify the issues, and stipulate to as many facts and issues as possible, and prepare a Pre-Trial Stipulation in accordance with this paragraph.

It shall be the duty of Plaintiff’s counsel to see that the Pre-Trial Stipulation is drawn, executed by counsel for all parties, and filed with the Clerk no later than **ten (10) days prior to Calendar Call**. **UNILATERAL PRE-TRIAL STIPULATIONS ARE DISALLOWED, UNLESS APPROVED BY THE COURT AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING.** If a party does not receive a substantive response to a proposed Pre-Trial Stipulation after good faith effort, such party shall file a unilateral Pre-Trial Stipulation with a certification of all efforts that were made to confer with the opposing party. Counsel for all parties are charged with good faith cooperation in preparing the Pre-Trial Stipulation, and the parties shall make exhibits available for inspection and copying. Failure to cooperate in preparing the Pre-Trial Stipulation may result in striking pleadings, witnesses, or exhibits.

The Pre-Trial Stipulation must contain the following in separately numbered paragraphs:

* + 1. Names and contact information of attorneys to try case.
		2. A list of all pending motions requiring action by the Court. **Motions not listed are deemed abandoned or waived**.
		3. A statement of estimated trial time, including the total number of trial days anticipated, and the time needed per side for (1) jury selection, (2) opening arguments, (3) each case in chief, and (4) closing arguments.
		4. **Statement of the Facts:** A concise statement of the facts in an impartial, easily understandable manner which may be read to the jury.
		5. **Statement Facts and Agreed Rules of Law:** A list of any stipulated facts requiring no proof at trial and any agreed rules of law.
		6. **Statements of Disputed Law & Fact:** A statement of disputed issues of law and fact that are to be tried.
		7. **Witness Lists:** Parties must attach their previously filed Witness Lists, including rebuttal or impeachment witnesses. If any party objects to any witness, such objections must be stated in the Stipulation, setting forth the grounds with specificity. At trial, all parties will be strictly limited to witnesses properly and timely disclosed. Only those witnesses listed by NAME will be permitted to testify at trial.
		8. **Exhibit Lists:** Parties must attach their previously filed Exhibit Lists. All exhibits to be offered in evidence at trial must have been made available to opposing counsel for examination. Only those exhibits listed may be offered in evidence. If any party objects to the introduction of any such exhibit, such objection must be stated in the Pre-Trial Stipulation, setting forth the grounds with specificity. Demonstrative exhibits (e.g. PowerPoints, charts, enlargements of exhibits) to be used at a Jury Trial must be displayed to all counsel before being shown to the jury. All exhibits must be pre-marked and numbered consistent with Clerk guidelines.
		9. **Jury Instructions:** Counsel must identify all agreed-upon standard jury instructions and all special instructions. Any objections or disputed jury instructions must be attached and identified as to the party that proposed the instruction [indicated in redline/track changes]. Copies of all agreed-upon instructions or disputed instructions must be attached to the Stipulation as one document, redlined as necessary, along with copies of supporting statutory citations and/or case law.
		10. **Verdict Forms:** The jury verdict form must be attached and designated as agreed to or disputed.
		11. **Peremptory Challenges:** State the number of peremptory challenges for each party.
		12. Other agreements or issues for trial, if any.

Failure to file a Joint Pre-Trial Stipulation as provided above may result in Court-imposed sanctions, including dismissal or default without further notice of the Court.

* 1. MOTIONS

**Summary Judgment and *Daubert* Motions** must be filed at least **seventy (70) days before Calendar Call**. The parties shall confer regarding summary judgment motions to ensure discovery necessary for those motions is completed in advance of their filing.

**ALL MOTIONS** (including dispositive motions and motions in limine), deposition objections, and expert challenges must be filed, served and heard at least **five (5) days before Calendar Call**.

* 1. PRE-MARKING EXHIBITS

Prior to trial, each party is to mark for identification all exhibits in accordance with the guidelines of the Clerk of Court. Instructions and templates may be found at: [www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/departments/courts/evidence-guidelines/civil-evidence](http://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/departments/courts/evidence-guidelines/civil-evidence)).

* 1. ENLARGED JURY PANELS

Local Rules require advance approval of the Chief Judge and Jury Office for jury panels exceeding 31 jurors. **To ensure enough jurors are available, requests for enlarged jury panels must be resolved at least six (6) months before Calendar Call.** Failure to timely request an enlarged panel may result in Court-ordered sanctions, including a limitation on peremptory challenges.

* 1. INTERPRETERS

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, it shall be the responsibility of the party who needs the services of an interpreter, whether for a litigant or for a witness, to have a competent interpreter present in court.

* 1. JURY INSTRUCTIONS AND VERDICT FORM

A joint set of proposed jury instructions and a proposed verdict form must be provided to the court no less than **three (3) days before Calendar Call** in a printed form appropriate for submission to the jury and in Microsoft Word format.

If there is an objection to a proposed instruction, the instruction should be followed by the specific objection, a brief explanation, and a citation to legal authority. If an alternative or modified instruction is proposed, it should follow the instruction it is intended to replace.

* 1. UNIQUE QUESTIONS OF LAW

Prior to calendar call, counsel for the parties are directed to exchange and simultaneously submit to the Court appropriate memoranda with citations to legal authority in support of any unique legal questions that may reasonably be anticipated to arise during the trial.

1. **MEDIATION**
	1. MEDIATION REQUIRED
2. All parties are required to participate in mediation.
	* 1. The attendance of counsel who will try the case and representatives of each party with full authority to enter into a complete compromise and settlement is mandatory. If insurance is involved, an adjuster with authority up to the policy limits must attend.
		2. At least one week prior to a scheduled mediation conference, all parties are to file with the mediator a brief, written summary of the case containing a list of issues as to each party.
		3. All communications at the mediation conference are privileged consistent with Florida Statutes sections 44.102 and 90.408.
		4. The mediator has no power to compel or enforce a settlement agreement. If a settlement is reached, it is a responsibility of the attorneys or parties to reduce the agreement to writing and to comply with Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.730(b), unless waived.
	1. MEDIATION SCHEDULING

**The Plaintiff's attorney is responsible for scheduling mediation**. The parties should agree on a mediator. If they are unable to agree, any party may apply to the Court for appointment of a mediator in conformity with Rule 1.720 (j), Fla. R. Civ. P. The lead attorney or party must file and serve on all parties and the mediator a Notice of Mediation giving the time, place, and date of the mediation and the mediator's name.

* 1. COMPLETION OF MEDIATION BEFORE CALENDAR CALL

Completion of mediation prior to calendar call is a prerequisite to trial and must be completed no laterthan **ten (10) days prior to Calendar Call.** If mediation is not conducted, or if a party fails to participate in mediation, the Court may impose sanctions, including monetary sanctions, striking pleadings and witnesses, and dismissal or default without further notice of the Court.

* 1. OPPOSITION TO MEDIATION

Any party opposing mediation may proceed under Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.700(b).

1. **NON-COMPLIANCE**

**NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ANY PORTION OF THIS ORDER MAY RESULT IN THE STRIKING OF THE PLEADINGS, WITNESSES, OR EXHIBITS, ENTRY OF DEFAULT OR DISMISSAL WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THE COURT, OR IMPOSITION OF SUCH OTHER SANCTIONS AS IS JUST AND PROPER.**

**DONE AND ORDERED** in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida.

**COPIES TO:**

A copy of this Order has been furnished to the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff shall serve this Order to the Defendant(s) in compliance with Administrative Order 3.110 (amended).

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.207

**“If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact William Hutchings, Jr., Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Palm Beach County Courthouse, 205 North Dixie Highway West Palm Beach, Florida 33401; telephone number (561) 355-4380 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.”**

**“Si usted es una persona minusválida que necesita algún acomodamiento para poder participar en este procedimiento, usted tiene derecho, sin tener gastos propios, a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Tenga la amabilidad de ponerse en contacto con William Hutchings, Jr., 205 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401; teléfono número (561) 355-4380, por lo menos 7 días antes de la cita fijada para su comparecencia en los tribunales, o inmediatamente después de recibir esta notificación si el tiempo antes de la comparecencia que se ha programado es menos de 7 días; si usted tiene discapacitación del oído o de la voz, llame al 711.”**

**“Si ou se yon moun ki enfim ki bezwen akomodasyon pou w ka patisipe nan pwosedi sa, ou kalifye san ou pa gen okenn lajan pou w peye, gen pwovizyon pou jwen kèk èd. Tanpri kontakte William Hutchings, Jr., kòòdonatè pwogram Lwa pou ameriken ki Enfim yo nan Tribinal Konte Palm Beach la ki nan 205 North Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401; telefòn li se (561) 355-4380 nan 7 jou anvan dat ou gen randevou pou parèt nan tribinal la, oubyen imedyatman apre ou fin resevwa konvokasyon an si lè ou gen pou w parèt nan tribinal la mwens ke 7 jou; si ou gen pwoblèm pou w tande oubyen pale, rele 711.”**