IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT OF FLORIDA, SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FLAGLER, PUTNAM, ST. JOHNS AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

UNIFORM CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

NOTICE: The deadlines referenced in this Order will be strictly enforced.

This Case Management Order is issued in accordance with Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200 and Administrative Order(s) of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court. The deadlines referenced herein apply in conjunction with the trial date specified in the Order Setting Trial.

A. CASE DESIGNATION

All civil cases will be assigned a designation as follows: Civil cases in which trials by jury are demanded are designated as "General," except those cases in which all defendants have been defaulted. Civil cases designated as "Complex" pursuant to Rule 1.201, Fla. R. Civ. P., are exempted from the requirements of this Order and will follow the procedures outlined in the Rule. All other civil cases are designated as "Streamlined." Parties may move for redesignation in accordance with Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200 (c)(1). Civil actions specified in Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200(a)(1-18) are likewise exempted from the requirements of this order.

B. PROJECTED TRIAL PERIOD

The projected trial period for "General" cases will be no later than eighteen (18) months from case filing. The projected trial period for "Streamlined" cases will be no later than twelve (12) months from case filing. The parties may move the Court to fix a trial period on or before the projected trial period. For cases in which no trial order has been issued, the parties seeking affirmative relief must notify the Court no later than seventy-five (75) days before the expiration of the projected trial period that no trial order has been issued.

C. SERVICE OF PROCESS

Plaintiff(s) are required to serve each defendant with initial process and pleading no later than one hundred twenty (120) days from case filing as provided in Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.070(j). Proof of service of process is to be promptly filed with the Clerk of Court. Motions for extension of time to complete service of process must be filed no later than ten (10) days prior to the expiration of the initial time allotted for service. The motions must specify the reasons why service could not be performed within 120 days and what attempts had been made at service during that period. In its discretion, the presiding judge may grant the plaintiff(s) an additional ninety (90) days to serve any remaining defendant(s). After the expiration of the time for service, including any extensions, any unserved defendant(s) may be dismissed from the action without further notice.

D. ADDING NEW PARTIES

The deadline for adding new parties to an action is 120 days after the completion of service of process on the initial defendants in cases designated as "General" and 90 days after the completion of service of process on the initial defendants in cases designated as "Streamlined." Parties may not be added to actions after these deadlines absent a showing of good cause.

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E. OBJECTIONS TO PLEADINGS

Motions objecting to pleadings must be called up for hearing no later than 120 days after the filing of the motion. Motions objecting to pleadings not called up for hearing within the time specified herein, absent a showing of good cause, may be deemed waived or abandoned.

F. DISCOVERY/DISCLOSURE DEADLINES

All discovery is to be completed according to the following schedule:

Action or Event	General	Streamlined
Mandatory Initial Disclosures	As provided in Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.280(a)	As provided in Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.280(a)
Disclosure of expert witnesses	120 days before docket sounding for parties seeking affirmative relief; 90 days before docket sounding for parties not seeking affirmative relief	90 days before docket sounding for parties seeking affirmative relief; 60 days before docket sounding for parties not seeking affirmative relief
Disclosure of fact witnesses	60 days before docket sounding	60 days before docket sounding
Service of written discovery requests	45 days before docket sounding	45 days before docket sounding
Completion of all discovery	10 days before docket sounding	10 days before docket sounding

G. DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS

Dispositive motions must be filed and served no later than 120 days prior to the scheduled or projected trial period for "General" cases and 90 days prior to the scheduled or projected trial period for "Streamlined." cases. Motions for summary judgment and responses in opposition must comply with the deadlines set forth in Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.510. Movants must promptly call up dispositive motions for hearing, but no sooner than the time specified in Rule 1.510. Replies to responses in opposition to dispositive motions are only permitted upon leave of Court.

H. EXPERT WITNESS MOTIONS

Expert witness-related motions or objections (e.g., *Daubert* motions) must be filed no later than 60 days prior to the start of the scheduled or projected trial period for "General" cases and forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the specified or projected trial period for "Streamlined" cases.

I. PRETRIAL MOTIONS

All pretrial motions, other than dispositive motions and motions directed at expert witnesses, must be filed no later than thirty (30) days prior to the trial date. Pretrial motions filed within 30 days of trial will not be considered if predicated on matters the movant knew or should have known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at least 30 days prior to the trial date. Compliance by counsel (not staff) with the conferral requirements in Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.202 is required. Failure to comply with conferral requirements may result in summary denial of motions. Because of busy court calendars, hearing time may not be available to consider motions filed close to the deadline. The inability of a party to obtain hearing time will generally not constitute grounds for a continuance of the trial.

J. MEDIATION

Unless excused by the Court or excluded pursuant to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.710(b), mediation is to be conducted in all cases. Mediation must be concluded, and a report filed prior to docket sounding.

K. EXTENSIONS/MODIFICATIONS OF DEADLINES

The deadlines specified herein will be strictly enforced unless modified by Court order. The parties may submit an agreed order to extend disclosure and/or discovery deadlines; however, all remaining deadlines will remain in place absent a Court order. Continuances of deadlines are strongly discouraged.

L. SERVICE OF THIS ORDER

Plaintiff is required to serve a copy of this Order on all other parties and file a notice of service with the Clerk within 30 days of the date of its issuance.

DONE AND ORDERED in Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia counties.

Leah R. Case
Chief Judge

Effective: January 1, 2025
Adopted: December 2024