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CHE ALEXANDER
Clerk of Superior Court
Fulton County, Georgia

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

STANDING ORDER FOR CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT IN JUDGE EMADI'S DIVISION

26 EX 000865

JUDGE EMADI

STANDING ORDER FOR CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT FOR JUDGE EMADI'S DIVISION

The following deadlines and instructions shall govern all civil cases assigned to this docket:

SECTION 1. E-FILING NOTICE

Electronic filing (e-filing) is mandatory in Fulton County Superior Court. All parties shall create an account with eFileGA and add a service contact to this case to ensure consistent service of orders and other notices from the Court. Please visit www.odysseyefilega.com for account registration, information, and training.

SECTION 2. GENERAL

This Order shall guide the future progress of this case and inform attorneys and self-represented *(pro se)* litigants, collectively referred to as parties herein, of the Court's expectations and deadlines. All parties are responsible for understanding and following the instructions and procedures described herein without additional guidance from the Court.

SECTION 3. COMMUNICATING WITH THE COURT

The Court has chosen to communicate by email, whenever possible, for the sake of efficiency and economy. Please include your email address on all Court submissions. If you do not check your emails, please arrange to have them forwarded to someone in your

office who will be responsible for checking them and informing you of the messages/documents that have been sent. To *avoid ex parte* communications, submit all questions, explanations, and discussions concerning this case by email, with a copy to opposing counsel, to the Staff Attorney, Ms. Romero, at Rupal.Romero@fultoncountyga.gov. For this same reason and to prevent miscommunications, please avoid telephoning except in exceptional circumstances.

SECTION 4. DEADLINE EXTENSIONS, GENERALLY

Notify the Court immediately of any problem or dispute (e.g., discovery issues, witness unavailability, illness, or the late addition of parties or claims) that could delay the deadlines or hearing dates set by the Court. Modification of any deadline or hearing date *requires the Court's approval,* even if all parties consent to the change. Any requests for deadline extensions should be made as soon as the need arises and before the deadline expires. No continuances will be granted except for good cause shown.

SECTION 5. EARLY MOTIONS

"Early Motions" are defined as motions which are dispositive of some or all of the issues in the case and for which discovery is not needed. "Early Motions" include motions to dismiss, motions for more definite statement, and the like.

Pursuant to changes implemented by the 2025 Tort Reform Act, if a defendant files a pre-Answer motion pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-11-12(b), the deadline to file an Answer is postponed until 15 days after the Court rules on that motion.

Additionally, discovery is automatically stayed while any pre-Answer§ 9-11-12(b) motion is pending, up to 90 days. If the defendant files an Answer before the Court rules on the motion, the discovery stay is immediately lifted. If the Court does not rule on the motion within 90 days, either party may move to lift the stay of discovery.

SECTION 6. DISCOVERY

6.1 Discovery Deadlines

As discussed above, discovery is automatically stayed while any pre-Answer§ 9-11-12(b) motion to dismiss is pending. If the defendant files an Answer before the Court rules on the motion, the discovery stay is immediately lifted. If the court does not rule on the motion within 90 days, either party may move to lift the stay of discovery.

6.2 Expert Discovery

Upon a plaintiff's expert witness disclosure, the opposing party/parties shall have 30 days to depose that witness and provide their own expert disclosures, notwithstanding any discovery deadline. All parties, however, shall work in good faith to timely identify expert witnesses so that discovery is completed by the deadline set in the Case Management Order.

6.3 Discovery Responses - Boilerplate and General Objections

Objections to discovery requests must be stated with specificity. General or boilerplate objections are disfavored and may be disregarded by the Court unless accompanied by a specific explanation.

6.4 Electronically Stored Information (ESI}

The parties shall take reasonable steps to preserve relevant electronically stored information ("ESI"). The parties are encouraged to confer early regarding the scope, format, and preservation of ESI, including any issues related to accessibility, search terms, and privilege. In conducting ESI discovery, the parties are expected to act in conformance with the Sedona Principles[1] for electronic document production, including good faith cooperation, reasonableness, and proportionality. Absent prior agreement of the parties or further order of the Court, ESI shall be produced in reasonably usable form.

[1] The latest publication may be found at: https://www.thesedonaconference.org/publications.

If a party claims that ESI is not reasonably accessible due to undue burden or cost, that party shall identify the sources and provide a brief explanation. The Court may order cost-shifting or other relief as appropriate.

The inadvertent disclosure of privileged ESI shall not constitute a waiver if the producing party promptly notifies all parties of the claim and takes reasonable steps to rectify the error.

6.5 Discovery Disputes

Any motion seeking resolution of a discovery dispute shall be filed **within 90 days** from the date of the response or event (e.g., deposition) that is the subject of the motion, and in no event later than the close of discovery absent Court Order.

The motion must conform to the requirements of Uniform Superior Court Rules 6.4(A) and (B), including without limitation the requirement that the parties confer prior to the filing of a motion. If the good faith efforts to resolve the dispute are not successful, then at the time of filing the motion, "counsel shall also file a statement certifying that such conference has occurred and that the effort to resolve by agreement the issues raised failed." U.S.C.R. 6.4(8).

The motion shall be limited to no more than 10 pages, double spaced. Responses to the discovery motion shall be filed **within 1 week** of the filing of the discovery motion and shall be limited to no more than 10 pages, double spaced.

6.6 Discovery Extensions

Except where a request is made and good cause shown prior to the expiration of the discovery period, no extension of time for discovery or other discovery motions will be granted.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENTS TO PLEADINGS

The deadline for all amendments to pleadings is **the close of discovery.**

SECTION 8. MOTIONS

Except as otherwise provided in the Civil Practice Act or ordered by the Court, all motions, including dispositive motions such as motions for summary judgment and *Daubert* motions, must be filed **within 30 days after** the close of fact discovery.

Except upon written permission of the Court, briefs and responsive briefs shall be limited to twenty-five (25} pages in length, excluding exhibits. Approval to exceed this page length may be requested informally by email.

If a motion or response brief is over forty-five (45} pages in length, *including exhibits,* it must be hand delivered or mailed to Chambers.

SECTION 9. PROPOSED ORDERS

Proposed orders may be emailed in Word format to the Staff Attorney, with opposing counsel included. Please also attach a copy of the filed motion.

SECTION 10. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The parties are expected to utilize a formal ADR process to resolve their disputes and will be allowed to choose the timing and manner of their efforts. If the parties choose to participate in mediation, the neutral must be registered with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. When the parties participate in ADR, they shall schedule mediation or arbitration so as not to delay discovery, motions, trial, or otherwise affect the progress of the litigation. A request for the Court to enter an Order directing this case to mediation through the Fulton County ADR Office shall be submitted in writing with a copy to opposing counsel. *Participation in ADR will not cause the continuance of any deadline set by the Court.*

SECTION 11. CONSOLIDATED PRE-TRIAL ORDERS

If a party files a jury demand, or if a party anticipates wanting a trial by jury, then the parties shall submit, by email, a fully consolidated pre-trial order directly to the Staff Attorney **no later than one week before** the trial calendar begins. No party may submit their own individual portions of the pre-trial order to the Court without written certification detailing their good-faith efforts to present the Court with a fully consolidated order.

SECTION 12. TRIAL AND TRIAL PREPARATION

Cases will be placed on a trial calendar which will be approximately four months after the close of fact discovery. Parties will receive a Notice of Trial approximately one month prior to the date of the trial calendar.

If counsel or parties would like trial to be taken down by the court reporter, they shall contact Ms. Sanders at c.eliseporting@outlook.com **no later than noon on the day prior** to start of trial to arrange for takedown.

12.1 Depositions Used at Trial

If the parties intend to rely on deposition testimony, they shall confer prior to trial and attempt to agree on the testimony to be presented. If they cannot agree on what portions of the deposition testimony should be excluded, they are instructed to jointly prepare a list of the page and line numbers at issue and provide it to the Court at the time they file their motions *in limine*, along with the relevant text from the deposition.

12.2 Voir Dire

The Court will prepare and read general voir dire questions to the jury prior to voir dire conducted by the parties. If the parties want voir dire taken down by the court reporter, Candice Sanders, they must contact Ms. Sanders **no later than noon on the day prior** to start

of voir dire to arrange for takedown.

12.3 Verdict Forms

The attorneys shall submit any proposed verdict forms to the Staff Attorney by email in Word format **no later than one week prior** to the beginning of the trial calendar.

12.4 Jury Charges

Each party shall list by title and pattern number the applicable pattern charges that they request be given, using the current pattern charges published by the Council of Superior Court Judges. (The pattern charges are updated January and July of each year}.

In addition, parties may request non-pattern charges, ***if there is no pattern charge that covers the issue.*** In requesting non-pattern charges, parties shall provide the cite to applicable statutory or case authority and shall provide a physical copy of the published case.

The Court will not give duplicative charges and will defer to pattern, rather than non-pattern, charges. Parties shall email proposed jury charges in Word version to the Staff Attorney **at least three business days before** the beginning of the trial calendar.

12.5 Exhibits & Demonstrative Evidence

All exhibits and demonstrative evidence shall be marked with exhibit labels and exchanged among the parties prior to the beginning of the trial of the case. The parties are instructed to work together and agree, at least as to authenticity, on all such exhibits where possible. In the event that over 100 exhibits are anticipated and in dispute, the parties must notify the court **at least one week in advance** of trial so that the Court can decide whether to schedule a pre-trial hearing.

12.6 Digital Submission of Exhibits.

Parties shall mark with exhibit labels and provide all documentary evidence to the court reporter in digital format at the time of tender, unless otherwise ordered by the court. Due to the size limits of eFileGa, parties are required to: (1) scan all exhibits individually and email them to the court reporter; or (2) scan all exhibits individually and place them on a disk for the court reporter. For oversized or non-paper exhibits, e.g., guns, poster boards, etc., parties may submit a digital photograph of the object marked with an exhibit sticker.

Regarding DVD/CD exhibits, parties shall provide the court reporter with the original and one copy of the DVD/CD. They will need to be contained in a hard case (e.g., jewel case). Questions may be addressed to Ms. Sanders at **c.eliseporting@outlook.com.**

12.7 Courtroom Technology

Superior Court of Fulton County has technology for displaying evidentiary materials in the courtroom. *See* www.fultonsuperiorcourtga.gov/court-technology for more information.

Please prepare for trial by contacting Court Technology Services at: sca.techsupport@fultoncountyga.gov **at least one week before** trial to make certain the evidence viewing equipment has the associated media player, drivers, and accessories necessary for you to make an effective presentation and that you are trained on use of the equipment before day one of trial. *The Court and Court staff are not available to give training on how to work the courtroom technology.*

SECTION 13. COURTROOM CONDUCT

All attorneys, parties, and *pro se* litigants are expected to conduct themselves with professionalism and civility in the courtroom.

The Court makes every effort to begin proceedings at the time set, and thus, promptness is expected from counsel, parties and witnesses. Parties shall arrange the schedule of the case to avoid unnecessary delay.

SECTION 14. SANCTIONS

The parties should note that sanctions for the failure to abide by Court orders or Georgia law, may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the striking of pleadings, entry of default, exclusion of evidence, and charging of costs against the offending party.

SO ORDERED THIS 29th DAY OF JULY, 2026.

Honorable David H. Emadi
Judge, Superior Court of Fulton County