THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 3.09

STANDING CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER IN COUNTY AND CIRCUIT CIVIL CASES

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(b) requires the court to assign civil cases to one of three case management tracks not later than 120 days after the action commences; and

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(d)(2) requires the court to issue a case management order that specifies the projected or actual trial period based on the case track assignment; and

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(d) further provides that the case management order must also set deadlines that are differentiated based on whether the case is streamlined, general, or complex and must be consistent with the time standards specified in Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.250(a)(1)(B), it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. The presiding judge in each civil case shall actively manage all civil cases and shall strictly comply with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545(a), (b) and (e).

2. This order applies to all civil actions except those listed in Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(a).

3. A system of differentiated case management shall be utilized in civil cases, which requires designation of each case as one of the following: complex, streamlined, or general.

4. Complex civil cases shall be designated pursuant to the criteria in Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.201. Upon such designation, complex civil cases shall proceed as provided in that rule.

5. Pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(b)(2), streamlined cases are those that reflect some mutual knowledge about the underlying facts, have limited needs for discovery, well-established legal issues related to liability and damages, few anticipated dispositive pretrial motions, minimal documentary evidence, and an anticipated trial length of no more than 3 days.

6. General cases are all other actions that do not meet the criteria for streamlined or complex.

7. In each civil case, the standing civil case management order (attached hereto as Appendix A) shall be signed by the plaintiff and filed in the court file along with the complaint. The plaintiff shall cause the standing order to be served, along with the complaint, on each named defendant. The Clerk shall not accept a civil case for filing without submission of the signed standing order.

8. Deadlines established herein shall be strictly enforced.

This Order replaces and supersedes Administrative Order 3.09 (V2), "Standing Case Management Order in County and Circuit Civil Cases," dated January 9, 2025, and effective January 20, 2025.

The effective date of this Order is January 20, 2026.

ORDERED on this 12th day of January 2026.

W. E. Davis

William E. Davis, Chief Judge

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

STANDING CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

[Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200]

THIS ACTION is before the court for case management pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200. Therefore, it is **ADJUDGED** that:

1. This case is provisionally designated as a general civil case.
2. **TRIAL DATE**: This Order establishes a projected date for a non-jury trial on the first regular trial term taking place one year from a) the date of initial process on the last defendant or b) 120 days after commencement of the action, whichever occurs first. This Order establishes a projected date for a jury trial as the first regular trial term taking place eighteen months from a) the date of initial process on the last defendant or b) 120 days after commencement of the action, whichever occurs first. The presiding judge will enter an order scheduling pretrial conference and trial for a date certain after scheduling a case management conference. The trial term dates for each civil division are published on the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court website at https://circuit8.org/court-calendars/master-calendars/. In county court cases, any case redesignated by the trial court as a streamlined case, in cases where the parties request it, or in any other case the trial court deems it appropriate, the trial date may be adjusted to take place sooner. Judges shall apply a firm continuance policy allowing continuances only for good cause shown.
3. **SERVICE OF COMPLAINTS**: Service of complaints should be completed within 120 days of filing. *See* Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.070(j).
4. **SERVICE UNDER EXTENSIONS:** For good cause shown, deadlines for extensions to serve process upon defendants shall be at the discretion of the trial judge. *See* Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.070(j).

5. **ADDING NEW PARTIES:** Requests for the addition of new parties shall be filed within 180 days of filing the complaint.
6. **COMPLETION OF FACT DISCOVERY:** Fact discovery shall be completed 75 days prior to the trial date.
7. **COMPLETION OF EXPERT DISCOVERY:** Expert discovery shall be completed 75 days prior to the trial date.
8. **FILING AND SERVICE OF MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT:** Motions for summary judgment shall be filed and served a minimum of 90 days prior to the pretrial conference and shall be scheduled for hearing immediately upon filing.
9. **FILING AND RESOLUTION OF ALL OBJECTIONS TO PLEADINGS:** Objections to pleadings shall be filed and resolved a minimum of 30 days prior to the pretrial conference.
10. **FILING AND RESOLUTION OF ALL PRETRIAL MOTIONS**: All pretrial motions shall be filed and resolved a minimum of 30 days prior to the pretrial conference.
11. **GOOD FAITH CONFERRAL FOR MOTIONS:** Prior to filing ANY motion, counsel filing the motion shall confer with opposing counsel in a good faith attempt to resolve the motion. The term "confer" requires a substantive conversation between counsel in person, by telephone, or by video communication technology in a good faith effort to resolve the motion and does not envision an exchange of ultimatums by fax, e-mail, or letter. Counsel who merely attempt to confer have not conferred for purposes of this Order. The motion shall contain a good faith statement reflecting the date and time of the conference with opposing counsel. A statement that counsel attempted to confer with opposing counsel is insufficient unless the good faith statement details the date and time of at least three attempts to confer that occurred within the one-month period immediately prior to the filing of the motion. Failure to comply with

these requirements may result in an appropriate sanction, including denial of a motion without prejudice. The purposeful evasion of communication under these requirements may result in an appropriate sanction.

12. **COMPLETION OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**: The parties shall conclude either non-binding arbitration or mediation at least 90 days prior to the trial date.

13. Deadlines established herein shall be strictly enforced unless changed by court order. *See* Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(e). Lawyers must strictly comply with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(a), which requires lawyers to conclude litigation as soon as it is reasonably and justly possible to do so. This order may be modified when the case is scheduled for trial. Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.440.

ORDERED on this 12th day of January 2026.

W. E. Davis

William E. Davis, Chief Judge on behalf of all presiding Eighth Circuit civil judges

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have read and will comply with the foregoing standing order and shall cause it to be filed and served, contemporaneously with the complaint, on all named defendants.

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Plaintiff or Plaintiff's Counsel Date