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LOCAL RULES AND CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CIVIL SUPERIOR COURT OF JUDICIAL DISTRICT 4B



Effective July 1, 2016

Charles H. Henry, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

Claire M. Davidoski, Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator Phone: (910) 478-3616 ext. 3

JUDICIAL DISTRICT 4B

(Onslow County)

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN

LOCAL CALENDARING RULES

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RULE 1: GENERAL RULES

- 1.1 The purpose of these Rules is to institute a case management plan for the Superior Court Division, 4B Judicial District, in compliance with Rule 40(a) of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure; and Rule 2(a) of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts; and to provide for the orderly, prompt and just disposition of civil matters. Unless otherwise noted, these rules are applicable to all civil sessions of Superior Court in Onslow County and supersede any previous calendaring rules.
- 1.2 The administration of the case management plan shall be delegated to, and under the control of, the Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator (TCC) in accordance with these rules and under the supervision of the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SRSCJ), 4B Superior Court District.

 [Amended effective July 1, 2016.]
- 1.3 These rules and procedures, and all amendments hereafter, shall be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court for Onslow County. A copy of these rules, forms and any subsequent change or additions shall be posted to the internet by the TCC. These rules and procedures may be found by going to www.nccourts.org.
- 1.4 The Clerk shall provide a case number for each action filed and shall place the case number upon the complaint, summons and all subsequent filings.
- 1.5 Appeals from a decision of the TCC shall be directed to the SRSCJ or the judge presiding over the Civil Term of which the case is calendared.

RULE 2: CALENDARING OF CASES FOR TRIAL [Trial Scheduling Notice (TSN) and Final Trial Calendar (FTC)]

- 2.1 After 120 days from the date of filing, the TCC shall send a TSN (attachment 1) to all counsel of record and/or any unrepresented party having been served in the case (by US mail or by placing it in counsel's personalized courthouse box).
 - A. All counsel and/or unrepresented party shall select (or request) a trial date prior to the deadline specified in the TSN.
 - B. All counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall also select a mediator, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7A-38.1(h), using Form AOC-CV-812 "Designation of Mediator" (attachment 2).
 - C. In the event counsel and/or any unrepresented party fail to select a trial date and/or designate a mediator, then the TCC may make such selection.
 - D. A Discovery Scheduling Order (DSO) (attachment 3) shall be issued by the TCC after a trial date has been selected. Deadlines in all cases shall be as follows (unless the SRSCJ allows an amended DSO, or the parties execute a Consent DSO):
 - 1. Written discovery 60 days (prior to trial)

- 2. Expert witness disclosure 60 days
- 3. Discovery depositions 30 days
- 4. Completion of discovery (except bene esse depositions) 30 days
- 5. Completion of mediation -30 days
- 6. Dispositive motions 15 days
- 7. Close of pleadings 15 days
- 2.2 Four weeks prior to each civil session, a FTC shall be published by the TCC. The FTC shall be distributed to counsel by posting on the web at www.nccourts.org. (Click on "Court Calendars" at top right; click on "Court Calendar" at left; click on "Civil Calendars"; select "Onslow County"; click "Submit Query"; click on the appropriate session; click on the appropriate trial calendar listed under Superior Court.) Distribution to any served, but unrepresented party, shall be by US mail.
- 2.3 Cases shall appear on the FTC, oldest-numbered first; and listed after cases designated peremptory, or given statutory priority.
- 2.4 In the event a case is not reached at the session requested, counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall select another trial date. If counsel and/or any unrepresented party fail to so select, the TCC will calendar the case on the next published FTC.
- 2.5 If a case is settled after placement on any FTC, counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall notify the TCC (within 24 hours of settlement) and advise who will prepare and present judgment and/or dismissal, and when (no later than 30 days from advising the TCC of settlement, except for good cause shown, as determined by the SRSCJ or TCC); and shall also notify the parties appearing in the next case on the FTC as soon as possible. [Amended effective July 1, 2016.]

RULE 3: PRIORITY, PEREMPTORY, REMANDED, EXCEPTIONAL or COMPLEX BUSINESS (RULE 2.1) CASES and SPECIAL SESSIONS

- 3.1 Counsel shall, in writing, notify the TCC (as soon as practicable) that priority status and peremptory setting is requested for a case. The authority for such request shall be cited in such notification. Counsel shall copy all opposing counsel and/or any unrepresented party. Such request shall be in accordance with Rule 2(f) of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts.
- 3.2 The TCC, on his/her own motion, may grant priority status and peremptorily calendar a case, for good cause shown.
- 3.3 If a priority case is continued, a written request for a new peremptory setting shall be made to the TCC.
- 3.4 If a case is remanded from the Appellate Division to Superior Court, counsel shall notify the TCC, in writing, to calendar the case for hearing or trial. After such notice, the TCC shall calendar the case as soon as practicable, giving deference to scheduling requests from all counsel and/or any unrepresented party.

- 3.5 The designation of any case as "Exceptional" or "Complex Business" shall be in accordance with Rule 2.1 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts. A copy of any such request shall be served upon the TCC.
- 3.6 Special Sessions. Parties wishing to set a case for trial at a special session shall notify the TCC and opposing counsel or unrepresented party in writing. The TCC shall determine which cases are appropriate for trial at special sessions. Factors which shall be considered include, but are not limited to, anticipated length of trial, emergencies such as witness health, complexity of issues and severe scheduling difficulties of attorneys and/or essential witnesses. The TCC shall make all appropriate arrangements for conduct of special sessions.

RULE 4: CONDEMNATION CASES

- 4.1 Condemnation actions brought pursuant to Article 9, Chapter 136, Condemnation, or by a **public condemnor** pursuant to Chapter 40A, *Eminent Domain*, shall be presumed ready for trial 100 days after an answer has been filed (unless sooner noticed for trial) or unless commissioners are appointed pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 136-109 prior to that time.
- 4.2 Under this **RULE 4**, if necessary, counsel for property owners and/or any unrepresented property owner shall provide the TCC with notice of a request for appointment of commissioners (on an approved form provided by the TCC's office (attachment 4)).
- 4.3 If the Commissioner's report is appealed from (and a jury trial demanded), the Clerk shall, within 10 business days, serve the TCC with notice of entry of the appeal and transfer to the superior court civil docket.
- 4.4 Condemnation actions brought by a **private condemnor** pursuant to Chapter 40A, *Eminent Domain*, shall be presumed ready for trial upon transfer to the superior court docket.
- 4.5 If commissioners are appointed and their report is appealed from (and a jury trial demanded), the Clerk shall, within 10 business days, serve the TCC with notice of entry of the appeal and transfer to the superior court civil docket.

RULE 5: CONTINUANCES

- 5.1 The continuance of a calendared case shall be granted only pursuant to Rule 40 of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, upon good cause shown and upon such changes and conditions as justice may require.
- The TCC, under the supervision of the SRSCJ, shall have exclusive authority to continue a calendared case prior to the first day of the civil session. Counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall not request a continuance from the Presiding Judge prior to the first day of the civil session, unless that request is deferred by the SRSCJ to the trial judge.

- 5.3 A request for continuance (attachment 5) must be received by the TCC, as well as opposing counsel and/or any unrepresented party, in writing, at least 10 days prior to the first day of the civil session.
- A request for continuance shall state the specific reason(s) for the request and the proposed new trial date. Counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall make their best efforts to agree upon a new trial date. The TCC shall honor the requested date, if practicable.
- Any opposing counsel and/or unrepresented party may, in writing, consent or object to a request for continuance. Any objection not received within 5 business days from the date of mailing the request shall be deemed waived.
- 5.6 The TCC shall, in writing, promptly rule on any request for continuance. Counsel and/or any unrepresented party may, by written motion, appeal the ruling of the TCC to the SRSCJ or to the Presiding Judge. Such motion shall state specifically that the request for continuance was originally denied by the TCC in addition to any other reason.
- 5.7 Absent permission from all adverse parties and/or any unrepresented party, any *ex parte* request for continuance is improper and shall not be allowed, except for good cause shown.

RULE 6: MOTIONS

- 6.1 The TCC shall calendar all motions for hearing.
- 6.2 All motions filed with the Court must be accompanied by a calendar request for a motion hearing (attachment 6). Counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall file a written "Notice of Hearing" (NOH) with the Clerk in compliance with the minimum statutory requirements provided in the *North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure*. In order to appear on the published calendar, a calendar request for a motions hearing must be received by the TCC's office at least 10 days prior to the requested session. Motions requests received within 10 days of the requested session will be added to the motions calendar at the TCC's discretion if all counsel and/or any unrepresented party waive the minimum statutory notice requirement provided in the *North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure*.
 - [Amended effective July 1, 2016.]
- 6.3 The NOH and calendar request shall specify the name and address of all counsel and/or any unrepresented party. A copy of the NOH shall be served upon all opposing counsel and/or any unrepresented party, and shall serve as due notice.
- Approximately one week prior to the session, duly noticed motions shall appear on a printed calendar, distributed to counsel by posting on the web at www.nccourts.org. (See directions, RULE 2.2). Distribution to any served, but unrepresented party, shall be by US mail.

- In order to remove a motion before the session begins, the moving party must notify the TCC, in writing via fax, letter, or email, but only after obtaining the consent of all counsel and/or any unrepresented party.
- 6.6 Failure to duly calendar a motion under these rules shall not be used as a basis for a continuance from a future trial calendar.

RULE 7: CALENDAR CALL AND APPEARANCE OF ATTORNEYS

- 7.1 The Presiding Judge shall call the calendar beginning at 10:00 a.m., on the first day of the session, and thereafter as he/she may deem necessary.
- 7.2 Duly calendared cases shall be called in the order which they appear, unless otherwise determined by the Presiding Judge or the TCC.
- 7.3 Rule 2(e), General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts, shall control the appearance of attorneys at calendar call.

RULE 8: DELINQUENT CASES

- When any case on a published calendar is settled, dismissed, ends in a jury verdict, or ends in a judge's order, after 15 business days from the close of the session if Rule 2.5 (above) has not been complied with, the case shall be deemed delinquent. The Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator shall periodically review all delinquent cases and make dispositional recommendations to the SRSCJ.

 [Amended effective July 1, 2016.]
- 8.2 The SRSCJ may take appropriate action to clear the docket of delinquent and/or inactive cases.

RULE 9: PRE-TRIAL PROCEDURE

9.1 Rule 7 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts shall control pre-trial conferences and pre-trial orders.

RULE 10: ADMINISTRATIVE CALENDARS

- 10.1 The TCC shall, as necessary, prepare and schedule administrative calendars (during jury and non-jury sessions) in order for the SRSCJ, or the Presiding Judge, to review the status of any delinquent, complex, aged, or non-disposed case. The judge shall have discretion to summarily resolve any issue which caused the case to appear on such administrative calendar.
- 10.2 The TCC shall send administrative calendars (by US mail or by placing it in counsel's courthouse box) to all counsel of record and/or any unrepresented party.

RULE 11: BANKRUPTCY CASES

11.1 Counsel of record for any party and/or any unrepresented party who has filed a petition for relief under the United States Bankruptcy Code, shall file with the Clerk of Superior Court a filed stamped copy of a "Certificate of Bankruptcy Filing" or "Stay of Proceeding" from the bankruptcy court having jurisdiction. A copy of the motion shall be served on the TCC (or sent by US mail). Upon receipt, the TCC shall prepare an "Order to Close the File" (attachment 7), stating the reason for closing the case. Nothing shall prohibit a case from being re-opened, at any time, for good cause shown.

RULE 12: INACTIVE CASES

- 12.1 Inactive cases do not require monitoring, calendaring, or review. A case may be declared inactive by filing a Consent Motion with the TCC, executed by, and served upon, all counsel of record and/or any unrepresented party. Upon filing, the SRSCJ (by the TCC) shall order the Clerk of Superior Court to close and remove the case from the county's active docket (attachment 8).
- 12.2 The TCC shall also petition the court, from time to time, to declare as inactive, certain cases that are on appeal, in binding arbitration, removed to federal court, or in bankruptcy. Nothing shall prohibit a case from being reactivated, at any time, for good cause shown.

RULE 13: COURT ORDERED MEDIATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

- 13.1 N.C.G.S. § 7A-38.1, Mediated Settlement Conference in Superior Court Civil Actions, and the Rules Implementing Statewide Mediated Settlement Conferences in Superior Court Civil Actions, shall control mediation.
- 13.2 Cases filed in Superior Court, not otherwise exempted by the rules of the Supreme Court, shall be ordered to a Mediated Settlement Conference by issuance of the Trial Scheduling Notice. The deadline for the completion of such conference shall be 30 days prior to the calendared trial date.

SO ORDERED.

This is the 25th day of April 2016.

Charles H. Henry

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

4B Judicial District

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINACounty		File No In the General Court of Justice	
		Superior Court Division	
Name	e of Plaintiff(s)		
Name	of Plaintiff's Attorney(s)		
Name	VERSUS e of Defendant(s)	TRIAL SCHEDULING NOTICE (TSN) Local Rule 2.1	
Name	of Defendant's Attorney(s)	Local Rule 2.1	
<u>A.</u>	All counsel and/or any unrepresent malpractice case, contact the Superperemptory setting.	ed party shall select a trial date. If this is a medical rior Court TCC to schedule a special session and/or	
В.	Unless previously designated, all co a mediator, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § of Mediator." <i>This TSN serves as y</i>	ounsel and/or any unrepresented party shall also select 7A-38.1(h), using Form AOC-CV-812 "Designation to are order to mediated settlement."	
C.	designate a mediator prior to the de Court Coordinator shall make such \$150 per hour. The parties shall be of the settlement conference unless	anrepresented party fail to select a trial date and/or radline specified below, then the Superior Court Trial selection. The rate for a Court appointed mediator is required to pay the mediator's fee at the conclusion otherwise ordered by the Court. In addition, a \$150 uant to Rule 7.B of the Rules Implementing Statewide Superior Court Civil Actions.	
D.	The continuance of a calendared cas	e shall be granted only for good cause shown.	
E.	address, fax, or email below. Please	to the Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator at the circle your preferred trial date and submit this form, ignation of Mediator," to the Superior Court TCC on	
	DEADLINE FOR SELEC	TION:	

PLEASE CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING 20xx TRIAL DATES:

Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator 625 Court Street Jacksonville, NC 28540

Phone: (910) 478-3616, ext .3 Fax: (910) 478-3617

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA		File No.		
County		In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division		
Name Of Plaintiff(s)		Superior Court Division		
Name And Address Of Plaintiff's Attorney (Or Pro Se Plaintiff's Address)		DESIGNATION OF MEDIATOR IN SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL ACTION		
Telephone No. FAX No. (if applicable)				
Plaintiff's Attorney's Email Address	(Or Pro Se Plaintiff's Email Address)	NOTICE: Plaintiff's attorney should check and fill out		
		only one of the two Sections, sign below, and		
	VERSUS	return to the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge		
Name Of Defendant(s)		within 21 days after the date of the Order for		
		Mediated Settlement Conference		
Name And Address Of Defendant's	Attorney (Or Pro Se Defendant's Address)	and distribute copies as noted below		
		G.S. 7A-38.1; Rule 2 of Mediated Settlement Confe		
		Trial Date Date Of Order Referring Matter To M		
		0 # 5 0 1 # 200		
elephone No.	FAX No. (if applicable)	Deadline For Completion Of Mediated Settlement Conference		
Defendant's Attorney's Email Addres	os (Or Pro Se Defendant's Email Address) OF SELECTION OF CERTIFIED MED	Tentative Trial Date ATOR BY AGREEMENT		
SECTION 1 - NOTICE The above named case has agreed to serve in	OF SELECTION OF CERTIFIED MED was referred to a mediated settlement this case and is certified pursuant to the	Tentative Trial Date		
SECTION 1 - NOTICE The above named case has agreed to serve in	OF SELECTION OF CERTIFIED MED was referred to a mediated settlement this case and is certified pursuant to the	ATOR BY AGREEMENT conference. The parties have selected the mediator named below Rules Of Mediated Settlement Conferences.		
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Original-File Copy-Senior Resident Superior Court Judge or his/her designee Copy-Plaintiff Copy-Defendant Copy-Mediator

	OR	DER OF APPOINTMEN	T Comment of the Comm		
following certified	mediator to conduct the mediated set	(21) days after this case wat tlement conference.	or the parties having failed to notify the Court of their as ordered to mediation, the Court appoints the		
Name And Address Of Certified Mediator		Telephone No.	Telephone No.		
		FAX No. (if applical	ole)		
Mediator's Email Address					
NOTICE TO MEE	NA TOP				
the completion dead is completed.	is and unrepresented parties of the time an Illine set forth above, and the mediator shall	d location of the conference. T I report the results of the confe	aking arrangements for the conference and giving timely the mediated settlement conference shall be completed by rence to the Court within ten (10) days after the conference		
Date	Name Of Senior Resident Superio	r Court Judge (Type Or Print)	Signature Of Senior Resident Superior Court Judge		
	CER	RTIFICATE OF SERVICE			
served on the abo	ve-selected mediator and the parties a	It the addresses below by r	ion of Mediator in the Superior Court Civil Action was placing a copy of the same in the United States Mail, if in the spaces below. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)		
Name And Address Of Me	diator	Name And Address	Of Party Or Attorney		
Name And Address Of Pa	rty Or Attorney	Name And Address	Of Party Or Attorney		
Name And Address Of Pa	rty Or Attorney	Name And Address	Of Party Or Attorney		
Name And Address Of Pai	ty Or Attorney	Name And Address	Of Party Or Attorney		
Date	Name Of Party (Type Or Print)	Signature	Of Party or Party's Attorney		

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	File No
County	In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
Name of Plaintiff(s)	
Name of Plaintiff's Attorney(s)	
VERSUS Name of Defendant(s)	DISCOVERY SCHEDULING ORDER (DSO) Local Rule 2.1(D)
Name of Defendant's Attorney(s)	Bootal Rule 2.1(D)
 Written discovery – 60 days prior Expert witness disclosure – 60 da Discovery depositions – 30 days prior Completion of discovery (except Completion of mediation – 30 days Dispositive motions – 15 days prior Close of pleadings – 15 days prior TRIAL DATE: All calendared cases will be considered	d DSO, or the parties execute a Consent DSO): to trial lays prior to trial prior to trial bene esse depositions) – 30 days prior to trial lays prior to trial for to trial to trial ered ready for trial whether or not counsel appears for the ethe position of their case by contacting the Superior Court
Date of Order	Charles H. Henry Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	File No		
County	In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division		
Name of Plaintiff(s)			
VERSUS Name of Defendant(s)	REQUEST TO APPOINT COMMISSIONERS		
The undersigned attorney has on this dat commissioners in a condemnation action.	te filed a motion for the appointment of		
Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant	Date		
Copy mailed to:			
Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant	Date		
Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant	Date		
Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant	Date		

	Α	File No.		
County		In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division		
ame Of Plaintiff(s)				
VERSUS	М-	OTION AND	ORDER FOR CO	NTINUANCE
Name Of Defendant(s)		(CIVIL SUPERIOR CASES)		
INSTRUCTIONS: MOVING PARTY must completed to opposing counsel or unrepresed designee. Upon receipt, OPPOSING PARTY materials or his/her designee.	ented party prior to delivery	o Conior Donie	and Comparison O- 1	
evious Number Of Continuances Dat	e Case Filed		Calendared Trial Date	
pposing Counsel		Copy(ies) Distributed To Opposing Counsel(s)/Party(ies) By U.S. Mail Facsimile Hand Delivery Atty Box		
ason(s) For Continuance Request (attach additional sheet if r				
juested Reschedule Date Or Carryover Date	Name And	Address Of Movant		
guested Reschedule Date Or Carryover Date	Name And	Address Of Movant		
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		Address Of Movant		
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CALENDARING REQUEST

	TE OF NORTH CAROLINA LOW COUNTY			SUPERIOR COU	L COURT OF JUSTICE RT DIVISION
	Plaintiff(s)			Plaintiff's A	Attorney(s)
	VS				
	Defendant(s)	; j		Defendant	's Attorney(s)
1.	Please calendar for:	() Motion ()	Jury Tria	al () Nonjury Tria	al () Uncontested Divorce
2.	Court Session Requested:				
3.	Presiding Judge:				
4.	Nature of Action:				
5.	Estimated Time for Action:				
DATE		·		Atto	orney making request
cc:	Opposing Counsel:			(<u>)</u> Tel	ephone number
(31) da	Calendar requests for trial dates shays before the requested trial date. TCC at least ten (10) days before the	Calendaring re	equests fo	or motions should be	

MAIL TO OR FAX TO:
Superior Court Trial Court Administrator, Onslow County Courthouse, 625 Court Street, Jacksonville, NC 28540-4797 Telephone: (910) 478-3616, ext. 3 Fax: (910) 478-3617

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	File No
County	In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
Name of Plaintiff(s)	
VERSUS Name of Defendant(s)	ORDER TO CLOSE FILE
It appearing to the undersigned Judge that trial of the case will probably not be necessary, a declaring the case inactive and removing it from the And the following circumstances support	the trial docket; such conclusions:
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the from the trial docket, without prejudice to the right file if further action becomes appropriate or necess. This is the day of, 20	ssary.
CC:	Charles H. Henry Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	File No.
County	In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
Name of Plaintiff(s)	
VERSUS Name of Defendant(s)	DECLARATION OF INACTIVE STATUS
unrepresented party agree that it is in t	Judge by the attached consent that all counsel and/or any heir mutual best interest and will promote justice for the ctive and removed from the county's active docket.
Court and the action be removed from t	ED that this case file be closed by the Clerk of Superior the trial docket, without prejudice to the rights of counsel the court to re-open the file if further action becomes
This is the day of	, 20
	Charles H. Henry Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
CC:	