NORTH CAROLINA

2023 DEC 29 P 12: 10

ENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION JUDICIAL DISTRICT 25

CABARRUS COUNTY

CABARRUS CO., C.S.C.

IN RE: LOCAL RULES OF PRACTICE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOR SUPERIOR CIVIL CASES 23 - 00

The following case management plan for the management of civil matters in the Superior Court of Judicial District 25 ("Local Rules of Practice for Superior Civil Cases") has been adopted by the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge as required by the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts adopted by the Supreme Court of North Carolina and pursuant to the inherent authority of the Court to establish and enforce local rules for the efficient management of cases.

SO ORDERED, this the 29 of December 2023 to be effective January 1, 2024.

Martin B. McGee

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

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LOCAL RULES OF PRACTICE FOR SUPERIOR CIVIL CASES

JUDICIAL DISTRICT 25 - CABARRUS COUNTY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE MARTIN B. (MARTY) McGEE

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1.0 GENERAL RULES

- 1.1 The purpose of these rules is to institute a case management plan for the Superior Court Division, Judicial District 25, in compliance with Rule 40(a), North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 2(a), General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts and to provide for the orderly, prompt and just disposition of civil matters without unnecessary appearances and expense.
- 1.2 These rules are also to modernize communication and make clear that counsel should work together to seek resolutions before involving the Court. Electronic communication is preferred by the Court over mail, fax, and other paper communication. When seeking extensions of discovery deadlines, scheduling motions, setting trial dates, and seeking continuances, counsel should always attempt to reach agreement with opposing counsel before unilaterally seeking a decision from the Court.
- 1.3 The Clerk of Superior Court ("the Clerk") will maintain a supply of the printed rules available upon request. These rules and appendices are also available online at www.nccourts.gov.
- 1.4 The administration of the case management plan shall be delegated to, and under the control of, the Superior Court Judicial Support Staff (JSS) in accordance with these rules and under the supervision of the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SRSCJ), Superior Court Judicial District 25.
- 1.5 Counsel and unrepresented parties are under a continuing obligation to provide their current email address to the JSS. Email is the preferred method of communication. Email to and from JSS (Megan.Trivette@nccourts.org & Julie.k.Via2@nccourts.org) shall constitute good service.
- 1.6 These rules are not complete in every detail and will not cover all situations. If the rules do not cover a specific situation, the JSS is authorized to act after consultation with the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge or Judge presiding during a session in which the particular case is before the Court.
- 1.7 ADMINISTRATIVE/NON-JURY WEEKS. All administrative motion and non-jury matters will be scheduled the first full week of each month beginning on the first Monday at 10:00 a.m. There will be no calendar call and all participants are asked to sign on at your scheduled time only. You should communicate by email to the Court Coordinator (CC) (Julie.k.Via2@nccourts.org) your scheduling preferences for these matters. Our Court will do its best to accommodate your choice. Those that do not respond will be given an assigned time slot without further input from counsel. The Administrative Final Calendar with Scheduling will be posted one week prior to the start of the session. The Court will not conduct hybrid hearings (some in-person some remote). With good cause, any party may petition in writing for an in-person hearing. Absent extraordinary circumstances, any request for an in-person hearing must be made five business days prior to the scheduled session.
- 1.8 JURY TRIAL WEEKS. All jury trial matters will be scheduled on the second full week of each month and all cases will be called according to the order they appear on the jury trial calendar unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The parties must submit a pre-trial order by WEDNESDAY prior to their trial date. The proposed order should include the anticipated duration of the trial.

Jury trials will begin on Monday at 10:00 a.m. There will be no calendar call. All pre-trial conferences will be held via WEBEX TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO TRIAL.

1.9 The primary principle of our Local Rules is that every case shall have a scheduled court date shortly after 120 days of commencement of the action. After 120 days, our Judicial Support Staff will begin the scheduling process. If any party has been served, the case moves forward. If no party has been served, then the case will be scheduled to review service and determine if publication is appropriate, if the matter should be dismissed for failure to prosecute, or some other action should be taken.

A Calendar Request shall be simultaneously filed with the Clerk with any motion and a copy of the same shall be provided to the Court Coordinator.

Nearly all cases should be resolved in twelve months with condemnation, medical malpractice, and especially complex cases mostly being resolved within eighteen months. If the parties wish to expedite the scheduling of their case, then they should request the same from the Court Coordinator. If a case fails to have a scheduled date at any time after 120 days of filling, then counsel or pro se parties shall so inform the Judicial Support Staff.

2.0 CALENDARING OF CASES FOR TRIAL [Scheduling Notice and Final Trial Calendar (FTC)]

- 2.1 After 120 days from the date of filing, or after 365 days from the date of filing in a condemnation action, the JSS shall send an Order for Mediated Settlement Conference in Superior Court and Trial Calendar Notice (AOC-CV-811) to all counsel of record and/or any unrepresented party having been served in the case to seek input regarding selection of a mediator. If the parties do not believe the trial date selected by the Court is reasonable, then they should immediately propose a new trial date and an explanation for the proposed date.
 - a. All counsel and/or any unrepresented party should also select a mediator, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7A-38.1(h), using the Designation of Mediator form (AOC-CV-812) (APPENDIX A).
 - b. Failure to submit a Designation of Mediator form within 21 days after receipt of the same will be considered a waiver of the opportunity to select a mediator. This form may be submitted by a single party if, after repeatedly requesting to confer regarding these matters, the opposing counsel/party has failed to respond. Attorneys and parties who fail to submit will be bound by the mediator selected by the Court.
 - c. Any party served after the AOC-CV-811 form has been filed are bound by the same and have notice of what is included in the file. As a courtesy, the parties should inform any late served party of any filed AOC-CV-811 and AOC-CV-812 forms.

- d. Deadlines in all cases shall be as follows:
 - 1. Written discovery 60 days prior to trial
 - 2. Expert witness disclosure
 - Plaintiff's Expert 90 days prior to trial
 - Defendant's Expert 60 days prior to trial
 - Plaintiff's Rebuttal Expert 30 days prior to trial
 - 3. Discovery depositions 60 days prior to trial
 - 4. Completion of discovery (except bene esse depositions) 60 days prior to trial
 - 5. Completion of mediation 45 days prior to trial
 - 6. Dispositive motions The civil admin session at least 30 days prior to trial date.

If the trial date moves, then these discovery deadlines are automatically adjusted accordingly.

- 2.2 Not less than three weeks prior to each civil session, a Final Trial Calendar (FTC) shall be published by the CC. The FTC shall contain all trials and motions scheduled for the session. 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 "Cabarrus 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. The Court may in its discretion enter an updated calendar to be posted on www.nccourts.gov.
- 2.3 Attorneys may search cases on published calendars using the Civil Calendar Attorney Query by Bar Number tool at www.nccourts.gov. To ensure accuracy of this tool, attorneys must provide the Clerk of Superior Court with information regarding withdrawals, notice of appearance, and substitution of counsel in specific cases. Filings must include the North Carolina State Bar number for each attorney of record. Only attorneys active with the North Carolina State Bar and who have a valid North Carolina State Bar identification number may use this search tool.
- 2.4 The North Carolina Court Calendar subscription service is available to anyone for civil Superior Court cases set for hearing on published calendars in Cabarrus County at the following web address: http://wwwl.aoc.state.nc.us/www/calendars/Civil.jsp?county=CABARRUS.
- 2.5 Cases shall appear on the FTC, oldest-numbered first, and listed after cases designated peremptory, or given statutory priority. Attorneys should proceed on the assumption that all cases on the Trial Calendar will be tried at the scheduled session unless resolved by consent order or dismissal. When there is more than one ongoing civil session of court, a case may be called for trial by any presiding judge.
- 2.6 In the event a case is not reached at the session requested, counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall select another trial date by forwarding the same to the JSS within 5 business days of the end of the session. If counsel and/or any unrepresented party fail to so select, the JSS will calendar the case on the next published FTC.
- 2.7 If a case is settled after placement on any FTC, counsel and/or any unrepresented party shall notify the CC (within 24 hours of settlement) using APPENDIX F and advise who will prepare and present judgment and/or dismissal, and shall also notify the parties appearing in the next case on the FTC as soon as possible. Rule 2(g) of the Superior and District Court Rules.

3.0 CALENDARING OF MOTIONS

- 3.1 The CC shall calendar motions for hearing.
- 3.2 Unless the Court calendars the matter on its own, all motions filed with the Court must be accompanied by a Calendar Request that shall be filed with the Clerk. (APPENDIX C). No case shall be placed on a calendar unless that Calendar Request has been served on all parties. All Calendar Requests shall be submitted to the CC via email. 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 file stamped Calendar Request must be received by the CC at least 10 days prior to the requested session. Motion requests received within 10 days of the requested session will be added to the motions calendar at the CC'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. Failure to provide the CC a copy of the Calendar Request may result in the case not being calendared. If a Calendar Request is not filed and submitted to the CC, then the CC shall schedule the matter for the next available administrative session.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 In order to remove a motion before the session begins, the moving party must notify the CC, in writing via email, but only after obtaining the consent of all counsel and/or any unrepresented party.
- 3.6 Failure to duly calendar a motion under these rules shall not be used as a basis for a continuance from a future trial calendar.

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

- 4.1 Counsel shall, in writing, notify the JSS (as soon as practicable) using APPENDIX D 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.
- 4.2 The Court, on its own motion, may grant priority status and peremptorily calendar a case, for good cause shown.
- 4.3 If a priority case is continued, a written request for a new peremptory setting shall be made to the JSS using APPENDIX E.

- 4.4 If a case is remanded from the Appellate Division to Superior Court, counsel shall immediately notify the CC, in writing, to calendar the case for hearing or trial. After such notice, the CC shall calendar the case as soon as practicable, giving deference to scheduling requests from all counsel and/or any unrepresented party.
- 4.5 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 Court Manager.
- 4.6 Special Sessions. Parties wishing to set a case for trial at a special session shall notify the JSS and opposing counsel or unrepresented party in writing. The JSS 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 JSS shall make all appropriate arrangements for conduct of special sessions.
- 4.7 Upon refiling a case previously dismissed pursuant to Rule 41, the plaintiff shall provide a copy of the new complaint to the JSS, along with a reference to the first case number.
- 4.8 Removal to Federal Court. When a party removes a case to Federal Court, counsel for that party shall contemporaneously provide a copy of the pleading to that effect to the Clerk of Superior Court and the Court Manager. Upon receipt of the notice of removal to Federal Court, the Clerk of Superior Court is to close the file.
- 4.9 Cases Initiated Other Than By Complaint. Upon initiating any matter in civil Superior Court by the filing of any pleading which is not a Complaint, (i.e., Will Caveat, Administrative Appeal, Certiorari, any Post Judgment Motions or Other Filings), the party so initiating shall immediately provide a copy of this pleading along with a filed calendar request to the CC via email.

5.0 CONDEMNATION CASES

- 5.1 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 180 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.
- 5.2 Under this Rule 5, if necessary, counsel for property owners and/or any unrepresented property owner shall provide the JSS with notice of a request for appointment of commissioners.
- 5.3 If the Commissioner's report is appealed from (and a jury trial demanded) the Clerk and the appealing party shall, within 10 business days, serve the JSS with notice of entry of the appeal and transfer to the superior court civil docket.
- 5.4 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.

5.5 If commissioners are appointed and their report is appealed from (and a jury trial demanded), the Clerk and the appealing party shall, within 10 business days, serve the JSS with notice of entry of the appeal and transfer to the superior court civil docket.

6.0 CONTINUANCE POLICY

- 6.1 Any motion to continue must be submitted to the SRSCJ for signature before filing using AOC-CV-221 "Motion and Order for Continuance of Civil Superior Cases" (APPENDIX H). Opposing counsel and/or pro se parties must be notified of the motion to continue prior to the delivery of the motion to the JSS. No continuance shall be granted solely because all parties agree. Motions to continue a case set for trial are generally disfavored and will not be granted, absent good cause shown.
- 6.2 Any motion to continue must be in writing and contain the following information:
 - a. Caption and file number of the case;
 - b. Session at which the case is set;
 - c. The basis for the motion;
 - d. The number of times the case has previously been continued;
 - e. A certification that the moving party conferred, or attempted in good faith to confer, with all opposing counsel and unrepresented parties before filing the motion, and a statement of whether the motion is opposed; and
 - f. A proposed session within 90 days for the rescheduling of the case.
- 6.3 Timing. A motion to continue must be filed no later than 5 days before the first day of the session of court in which the case is set. Motions to continue filed thereafter will <u>not</u> be considered until the calling of the calendar, except where the motion reflects extreme hardship or extraordinary circumstances. Parties who are moving to continue a case set for trial should be prepared to move forward with trial in the event the motion to continue is denied. Before the date of trial, only the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge or his/her designee may rule on a motion to continue a case set for trial. The Court Manager shall have authority to act on behalf of the SRSCJ. Any decision of the JSS can be appealed in writing to the SRSCJ within 24 hours.
- 6.4 Objections to motions to continue must be in writing and submitted to the JSS within 3 days of receipt of the motion to continue. Objections not made within 3 days are considered waived.
- 6.5 If a case is not reached for motions, trial or mistried, counsel and unrepresented parties may submit an agreed-upon date for rescheduling to the JSS no later than close of business on the first Friday following the session of court in which the case was originally set. If counsel and unrepresented parties fail to submit such an agreed-upon date, the case shall be reset by the CC.

7.0 MEDIATION

7.1 N.C.G.S. § 7A-38.1, Mediated Settlement Conferences in Superior Court Civil Actions, and the Rules Implementing Statewide Mediated Settlement Conferences in Superior Court Civil Actions, shall govern mediation procedures.

- 7.2 The Mediated Settlement Conference should be completed at least forty-five (45) days before trial. A request for extension should be made in writing using AOC-CV-835 "Motion and Order Extending Completion Date for Mediation Settlement Conference or Other Settlement Procedure" (APPENDIX E). The mediation deadline, however, moves automatically with the trial date.
- 7.3 Litigants are encouraged to timely select a mediator who is appropriate for the case. If the parties do not agree on a mediator, the Court will appoint one.

8.0 CALENDAR CALL, REMOTE HEARINGS AND BRIEFS

- 8.1 Unless otherwise directed by the Court, there shall be no calendar calls as matters will be scheduled in advance by the CC.
- 8.2 Duly calendared cases shall be called in the order which they appear, unless otherwise determined by the Presiding Judge or the CC.
- 8.3 If a calendar call is required by the Court, then Rule 2(e), Superior and District Court Rules, shall control the appearance of attorneys at calendar call. However, it is expected that all attorneys of record or unrepresented parties with cases calendared for motion or trial will be present at the convening of court for the calendar call and will remain in the courtroom or its immediate proximity unless excused by the Presiding Judge. Attorneys residing outside the 25 Judicial District accepting employment to represent clients in the 25 Judicial District must arrange their schedules to be present when their cases are calendared. Conflicts such as seminars, appellate courts, and vacations must be worked out with the JSS and the SRSCJ before the case is calendared for trial and the calendar published. Attorney cooperation is essential to the proper functioning of our court system. The Court wants to work with the attorneys and make their jobs as easy and convenient as possible and the Court expects the attorneys to respond by being punctual and prepared at the scheduled time.
- 8.4. As a general rule, the Court will conduct motions hearings not involving live testimony remotely using WebEx. As provided in Rule 1.7 above, motions will be scheduled by the CC for a time certain. Counsel and pro se parties should use their best efforts to estimate the duration of the hearing and list the same on the Calendar Request. For good cause, counsel and pro se parties may petition for an in-person hearing as provided in Rule 1.7. Motions involving live testimony should be conducted in-person and the CC should be notified if the motion involves the same.

Remote hearings can be connected to by the use of WebEx at: https://nccourts.webex.com/meet/cabacr5.sh or by telephone by dialing 1-415-655-0001 and using Access Code: 146 473 4278. Participants should sign into the hearing 15 minutes prior to the schedule time for the hearing.

Remote hearings are open to the public.

8.5 All briefs, responses, memorandums and supporting cases, or any other materials intended to be used in oral argument or submitted to the Court may only be submitted to the CC via email by 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday prior to the hearing of the motion. Parties should not incur the expense of mailing briefs. Materials that have not been submitted by email may not be accepted by the Court unless the presiding Judge decides otherwise. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5(d), briefs and memoranda provided to the Court may not be filed with the Clerk unless ordered by the Court.

8.6 All hearing materials delivered to the Court in accordance with this Rule shall be delivered to counsel for the opposing party or any unrepresented party by hand-delivery, email, facsimile, express delivery or mail, such that the opposing counsel receives the materials no later than three business days before the hearing date. If any hearing materials to which this rule applies are not served on opposing counsel within the time and the manner specified herein, the Court may continue the hearing for a reasonable period of time, proceed with the hearing without considering the untimely served materials, or take such other action as justice requires.

9.0 INACTIVE OR DELINQUENT CASES

- 9.1 Inactive cases do not require monitoring, calendaring, or review. If approved by the Court, a case may be declared inactive by the filing of a consent motion with the CC, executed by, and served upon, all counsel of record and/or any unrepresented party. Upon filing, the SRSCJ may order the Clerk of Superior Court to close and remove the case from the Court's active docket (APPENDIX I).
- 9.2 The Court may 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.
- 9.3 Cases or motions scheduled for trial or hearing which are removed due to consent or settlement shall be considered delinquent if the order, judgment or dismissal is not submitted or filed within thirty (30) days after the case is settled ("delinquent cases").
- 9.4 Cases or motions scheduled and heard by the Judge or by Jury shall be considered delinquent if the order or judgment is not submitted within thirty (30) days after the hearing, unless otherwise directed by the presiding Judge.
- 9.5 The Court Manager shall identify those orders, judgments or dismissals which are delinquent, pursuant to Rule 9.3 and 9.4 above and bring them to the attention of counsel/unrepresented parties. After such notice, cases remaining delinquent may be dismissed at the discretion of the SRSCJ or presiding Judge. The Court may alternatively order such sanctions or impose such penalties as deemed appropriate and allowed by law.
- 9.6 At any appropriate time, the JSS may prepare a Clean-Up Calendar for cases in which no progress has been noted. The Clean-Up Calendar may contain any cases which, in the opinion of the JSS, may be a proper subject of inquiry as to their status, and may include, without limitation, cases in which no service has been obtained or any case that does not appear to be moving towards disposition. If not dismissed as provided in Rule 9.5 above, delinquent cases may also be placed on a Clean-Up Calendar.
- 9.7 In lieu of placing a case on a cleanup calendar, the Court may seek a written Joint Response Status Update Form (APPENDIX K). Failure to timely respond will result in the case being calendared. On the Calendared date, all parties as well as their lawyers shall be present at the hearing to inquire into the status of the case.

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE TRIAL ISSUES

- 10.1 Rule 7, Superior and District Court Rules, shall control pre-trial conferences and pre-trial orders. A pre-trial order is required in each jury trial case. Pre-trial orders shall be in substance as shown in the form attached to the General Rules of Practice for Superior and District Courts. Pre-trial orders are due by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the session at which the trial is scheduled. A copy of the same shall be emailed to the CC by the due date and a printed copy shall be presented to the presiding Judge on the day of trial.
- 10.2 If counsel intends to submit exhibits to the jury, it is the best practice to have individual copies of the same for each juror or be prepared to present the exhibits electronically.
- 10.3 Counsel should submit proposed jury instructions to the Court as soon as possible.
- 10.4 Counsel should make sure that all audio/visual tools and equipment work properly before being offered.
- 10.5 If a trial notebook is submitted to the Court, counsel should submit a copy of the same to the Court Reporter for ease in referencing the materials. The same applies to expert witness reports.

11.0 BANKRUPTCY

- 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 "Notice of Bankruptcy Stay," (APPENDIX G) accompanied by a file-stamped copy of the "Certificate of Bankruptcy Filing" or "Stay of Proceeding" from the bankruptcy court having jurisdiction. A copy of the motion shall be served by email to the Court Manager. Upon receipt, the Court Manager shall prepare an "Inactive Order" (APPENDIX I), stating the reason for closing the case.
- 11.2 Upon completion of the bankruptcy proceedings or the lifting of the stay, any party may seek to reopen the case by filing an appropriate motion.

12.0 MISCELLANEOUS

- 12.1 Medical Malpractice Cases. The rules regarding medical malpractice cases are contained in Administrative Order 22-05, which is available on the Court's website.
- 12.2 Pro Hac Vice. Motions to be admitted Pro Hac Vice must be accompanied by the fee required by the North Carolina General Statutes, together with an appropriate affidavit that the attorney seeking Pro Hac Vice status is a member in good standing in every jurisdiction in which the attorney is licensed to practice, has not been disciplined in any of the jurisdictions where the attorney is licensed to practice, has never had a Pro Hac Vice status revoked by law tribunal, and is not the subject of any pending disciplinary proceedings. Local counsel shall sign an affirmation that he/she will comply with Rules 5.5 (c)(4) and 5.5 (e)(5) of the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct of the North Carolina State Bar. Motions not accompanied by the fee will be denied without notice. Should a motion not accompanied by the fee be inadvertently allowed, the Order allowing the admission will be revoked without notice.

- 12.3 Notice of Appearance. Any attorney filing a Notice of Appearance, Substitution of Counsel, or similar document, shall provide a copy to the JSS when the motion is filed.
- 12.4 Service. A party filing a lawsuit is expected to promptly undertake reasonable efforts to obtain personal service on all defendants. If service is not obtained within five (5) months after undertaking reasonable efforts, the party shall seek service by publication. Failure to undertake reasonable efforts to obtain service or to prevent summonses from expiring will result in dismissal for failure to prosecute.

If any party to the lawsuit has been served, then the Court Manager shall send AOC-CV-811. Cases shall not be delayed for lack of reasonable efforts to serve all parties.

If service has not been obtained on any defendant within 120 days of filing, then the JSS shall schedule the matter to review service.

- 12.5 Voluntary Dismissals. If a party files a voluntary dismissal of a case, claim, or party and the case is on a calendar within ten (10) days of the dismissal, the party filing the dismissal shall immediately deliver a filed copy to each opposing party and to the CC on the date the dismissal is filed, by facsimile, hand-delivery or email.
- 12.6 Order Submission Form. All draft orders prepared by counsel on behalf of the Court shall be submitted with a completed Order Submission Form to the CC unless otherwise directed by the presiding Judge (APPENDIX J). The draft order shall be first submitted to all counsel and/or unrepresented parties in the action with notice to respond within 10 days to any objections to the form of the order. Thereafter, the draft should be submitted to the CC with any proposed revisions or confirmation that the draft was approved as to form. If there is no response, then that should be noted on the Order Submission Form when it is submitted. The CC shall be responsible for forwarding the draft order to the presiding Judge unless the presiding Judge directs otherwise.
- 12.7 Secured Leave. Pursuant to Rule 26 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts, attorneys may designate periods of secure leave. Attorneys appearing in cases pending before the civil Superior Court of Cabarrus County must submit their Notice of Secure Leave (Appendix L) to the Clerk of Superior Court's office. It is not necessary to provide an additional copy to the SRSCJ or JSS, and doing so is disfavored. Notices of Secure Leave should be sent to the following Address:

Clerk of Superior Court Attn: Civil Division

PO Box 70 Concord, NC 28026

Secured leave designations are not filed in the court files and should not contain a case number. The CC will enter the information into a database used to track periods of secure leave. While this provision relates to secured leave periods for lawyers involved in civil superior cases, it is also not necessary to provide forms to the SRSCJ or JSS related to criminal matters. The Clerk forwards all Notices of Secured Leave filed with him to the CC. Of course, notice to the District Attorney should

be provided as set forth in Rule 26 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts.

Policy and procedures described herein are not exclusive. In extraordinary circumstances, the time limitations for notification of designated weeks may be waived by the Court when attorneys have been faced with particular or unusual situations. Furthermore, attorneys shall be able to make other requests to be excused from appearing before the Court for personal and professional reasons.

- 12.8 Motions to Withdraw. Motions to withdraw must include a certificate of service showing service on the client from whom representation is being withdrawn. The motion also must indicate whether all parties consent or if any party opposes the motion. The motion and proposed order must set forth the name and address of substitute counsel, or if not known, the current address of the party from whom representation is being withdrawn. No action will be taken on a motion and proposed order that does not include this information. If the motion to withdraw is granted, the withdrawing attorney must serve a copy of the signed order on the CC.
- 12.9 Guidelines for Resolving Scheduling Conflicts. Rule 3.1 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts should be followed. Unless necessity requires, it is unacceptable for counsel to point out conflicts to the Court without providing the Court ample time to resolve the same. Rule 3.1(b) requires counsel to "promptly give written notice" when the attorney learns of a scheduling conflict.
- 12.10 Conferences. The Court welcomes the opportunity to conduct scheduling or pre-trial conferences when the parties think doing so would be helpful. To request a conference, either in court, in chambers, or by telephone, please contact the JSS by email. The Court also resolves the right to request conferences.
- 12.11 Rule 12 and Professional Courtesy. Rule 12 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts shall be strictly enforced. Counsel and unrepresented parties should treat others as they want to be treated.
- 12.12 Cases Under Advisement. Attorneys or unrepresented parties should notify the CC of cases that have been heard and taken under advisement when a period of more than 90 days has passed since the hearing without a ruling. The CC shall then contact the presiding Judge to seek an update the parties of when an anticipated decision will be forthcoming.
- 12.13 Transcripts/Electronic Recordings of Court Proceedings. Requests for transcripts of court proceedings shall be made to the Resident Court Reporter of Judicial District 25. If a court proceeding was electronically recorded, a request for the recording shall be made to the Clerk. An electronic recording of the hearing and a list of persons authorized and approved to prepare a transcript will be provided.
- 12.14 Effective Date. These rules shall be effective January 1, 2024.

SO ORDERED, this the 29 of December 2023 to be effective January 1, 2024.

Martin B. McGee

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Judicial District 25 - Cabarrus County

STATE OF	NORTH CAROLINA	File No.		
	County	In T	he General Court Of Justi Superior Court Division	ce
Name Of Plaintiff(s)		CONFERENCE AND TRIAL C	DIATED SETTLEM IN SUPERIOR CO ALENDAR NOTIC	URT E
Name Of Plaintiff's Atto	orney(s)	Conferences and Other Civil Actions	nd 2 of the Rules for Mediated Se Settlement Procedures in Superi	ettlement or Court
		Deadline For Completion Of Mediated	Settlement Conference	
		Trial Date		
Name Of Defendant(s)	VERSUS	Name And Address Of Other Intereste	ed Party(ies) And Possible Lienholder	rs
Nume of Boldings (4)				
Name Of Defendant's	Attomey(s)	Name And Address Of Attorney(s), If	Applicable	
ORDERED that Within twenty-or mediated settlen mediator within t Court Civil Action As an aid to med website located Settlement Conf A mediator select court-appointed billed in quarter be paid pursuan All parties and p remote technolo conference do n she will conduct parties and pers technology as hi person. The mediator sh conference shall	ith the Rules for Mediated Settlement Conferences this case be referred to a mediated settlement confine (21) days after the date of this Order, the parties ment conference. The plaintiff's attorney or any party wenty-one (21) days after the date of the Order. No not (visit www.nccourts.gov/documents/forms and type diator selection, the NC Dispute Resolution Commissat www.NCDRC.gov. Click on "Find a Mediator" on the erence Mediators (Superior Court)." You may search sted by agreement of the parties shall be compensated by agreements. The conference fee shall be paid as to Rule 7(b). The erence fee shall be paid as to Rule 7(b). The conference fee shall be paid as to Rule 7(b). The conference method and the mediator conferences only using remote technology, then the conference on an attendance method and the mediator so required to attend the conference do not agree so or her designated attendance method in the Mediator scompleted by the deadline for completion set for the Court within ten (10) days after the conference	rence, which shall be completed any, by agreement, select a conshall notify the Court of the selece shall be on AOC-CV-812, a in the form number or name) sion maintains a list of certified the left-hand menu of the home of for mediators by name, judic the left of the home of for mediators by name, judic the left of t	ed before the deadline showlertified mediator to conduct the election of a certified superior Designation Of Mediator In St. If superior court mediators on epage, then select "Mediated ital district, or keywords. ween the mediator and the path ediated settlement conferent didition, a \$175 administrative at the conference in person, used the conference or Information Directory that it dusing remote technology. If the mediator has not selected the conference shall be contained and unrepresented parall report the results on form	n above. neir court superior its rties. A ce, to be fee shall sing nd the he or if all d remote iducted in
Date	Name Of Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Or Designee (type	or print) Signature Of Senior Resident	Superior Court Judge Or Designee	SRSCJ Designe
State of the state	CALENDAF	ING NOTICE		
settlement shall Parties are notifi	optional, to be used at the discretion of the Senior R not delay other proceedings, including trial (Rule 3) ed of the following calendaring schedule adopted b	?)).]		
published calend Date For Hearing Of M	dar, should settlement not be reached.			

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA				File No.	
County					General Court Of Justice erior Court Division
Name Of Plaintiff(s)					
Name And Address Of Plaintiff's Attorney (or Pro Se Plaintiff's Address)					OF MEDIATOR IN RT CIVIL ACTION
Telephone No.		Fax No. (if applicable)	_		TICE: build check and fill out
Plaintiff's Attorney's Email A	ddress (or Pro S	 Se Plaintiff's Email Address)	1	only one of the two Sec	ctions, sign below , and dent Superior Court Judge
	VER	SUS		within 21 days after th	e date of the Order for
Name Of Defendant(s)				Mediated Settler and distribute copi	
Name And Address Of Defe	ndant's Attorne	v (or Pro Se Defendant's Address)	Trial Date	and Other Settlement Pro	s for Mediated Settlement Conferences cedures in Superior Court Civil Actions Date Of Order Referring Matter To Mediation
Telephone No.		Fax No. (if applicable)	Deadline For C	ompletion Of Mediated Settle	ement Conference
Defendant's Attorney's Emai	il Address (or P	ro Se Defendant's Email Address)	Tentative Trial	Date	
The above named	case was r	LECTION OF CERTIFIED MEDIAN eferred to a mediated settlement co se and is certified pursuant to the R	onference. Th	e parties have selecte	d the mediator named below who erences.
Name And Address Of Certif			Telephone No.		Fax No. (if applicable)
			Mediator's Ema	ail Address	
The parties and th	e mediator l	nave agreed upon the mediator's ra	ate of comper	nsation as follows: (spe	cify all terms of the compensation
www.NCDR by name or SECTION 2 - MO The above named The parties have be	RC.gov. Click of by judicial dis TION FOR Collected was represented the collected by the collected was represented by the collected by the collected was represented by the collected by the collected was represented by the collected by the colle	ection, the NC Dispute Resolution Compon "Find a Mediator" and then click on "strict. Once a mediator's name appears COURT APPOINTMENT OF MEDIA eferred to a mediated settlement contact to agree upon the selection of a mediated their conference.	Mediated Settle on your screer ATOR onference.	ement Conference Progra n, click on it for a complete	am." You may search for mediators e contact and availability listing.
Date	Name Of Att	orney (or Pro Se Party)		Signature Of Attorney (or Pr	o Se Party)
		Out of State		ludge or his/hor designed	

Original-File Copy-Senior Resident Superior Court Judge or his/her designee Copy-Plaintiff Copy-Defendant Copy-Mediator (Over)

		ORDER OF A	PPOINTME	NT	4. 学生	
selection or nomination	orted their failure to agree of a mediator within twe ator to conduct the media	enty-one (21) days after	er this case w	or the par vas ordere	rties having fa ed to mediation	ailed to notify the Court of their on, the Court appoints the
Name And Address Of Certifie	d Mediator		Telephone No.			Fax No. (if applicable)
			Mediator's Ema	ail Address		
NOTICE TO MEDIATO	R: The mediator shall be re	esponsible for reserving	a place and m	aking arrai	ngements for th	e conference and giving timely
	notice to all attorneys a	nd unrepresented parties	of the time ar	nd location	of the confere	nce. The mediated settlement liator shall report the results of the
		npietea by the completion within ten (10) days afte				lator shall report the results of the
Date	Name Of Senior Resident Sup					t Superior Court Judge
		CERTIFICATE	OF SERV	ICE		
served on the above-se	elected mediator and the	parties at the address	ses below by	placing a	copy of the	perior Court Civil Action was same in the United States Mail, ttach additional sheets if necessary.)
Name And Address Of Mediate			Name And Ado			
Name And Address Of Party C	Dr Attorney		Name And Add	iress Of Pan	ly Or Attorney	
Name And Address Of Party C	Or Attorney		Name And Add	iress Of Pan	ty Or Attorney	
Name And Address Of Party Or Attorney			Name And Add	iress Of Pan	ty Or Attorney	
Date	Name Of Party (type or print)			Signature C	Of Party Or Party	s Attorney

NORTH CAROLINA CABARRUS COUNTY	IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CASE NO:
Plaintiff	
vs.	CALENDAR REQUEST
Defenda	nt
Please place the above captioned ma	atter on the Cabarrus County civil superior courtsession for:
Motion Type of Motion	
Trial Jury	Non-Jury
Estimated Length of Hearing:Nature of Case	
Address	y for Plaintiff Defendant:
•	ne:
Email Calendar Request to: Lindsay Daniels	s, Trial Court Coordinator
And a Copy to: (Give name and address of opposing counsel and/or unrepresented pages)	
This calendar request form shall constitute no Rules of Civil Procedure.	otice of hearing pursuant to Rule 7(b)(1) of the North Carolina
Appendix C	

NORTH CAROLINA	IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
CABARRUS COUNTY	SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
	CASE NO:
	Jury Non Jury
Plaintiff(s),	
vs.	PEREMPTORY SETTING REQUEST
Defendant(s).	
The undersigned attorney requests a perempto	ry setting for the above captioned case for the
following reasons:	
The estimated length of trial is days.	
Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant	Date
Copy mailed to:	
Copy maned to.	
Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant	Date
Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant	Date
This request for a peremptory setting is:	Denied Approved for:
	Senior Resident Superior Court Judge/TCC

Appendix D

STATE OF NORTH	CAROLINA	File No.				
	County	In The General Court Of Justice District Superior Court Division MOTION AND ORDER EXTENDING COMPLETION DATE FOR MEDIATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE OR OTHER SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE G.S. 7A-38.1, 7A-38.4A; Rule 3 of the Rules Implementing Statewide Mediated Settlement Conferences and Other Settlement Procedures in Superior Court Civil Actions; Rule 3 of the Rules Implementing Settlement Procedures in Equitable Distribution and Other Family				
Name Of Plaintiff(s) VE Name Of Defendant(s)	RSUS					
	MC	OTION	Part of the second of the seco			
To: Senior Resident Super	ior Court Judge District Court	t Judge				
Motion Filed By			Previous Number Of Extensions			
Initial Date Ordered To Mediation	Current Deadline For Completion	Requested Deadline For Completion	Tentative Trial Date			
		Name(s) Of Opposing Counsel(s)				
Name Of Mediator		Name(s) Or Opposing Course(s)				
Date		Signature of Movant				
This Motion for Extension is allowed. denied.	0	RDER				
Completion Deadline Extended To		Name Of Senior Resident Superior Cou.	rt Judge/District Court Judge Or Designee			
Date		Signature Of Senior Resident Superior C	Court Judge/District Court Judge Or Designee			
This Motion may be used by a p to the Trial Court Coordinator/A hearing.	arty (including a pro se party) whe dministrator, send a copy to all oth	n the parties disagree about extener parties and the mediator, file, ca	ding the deadline. Submit the Motion alendar, and notice the Motion for			

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	CERTIFICAT	E OF S	SERVICE			
The undersigned hamed below at the	ereby certifies that on this date a copy of the fore e addresses specified by placing a copy of the sa	going N me in th	Motion and Order was served on the parties or attorneys the United Stated Mail, postage prepaid.			
Name And Address Of Party Or Attorney		Name A	And Address Of Party Or Attorney			
Name And Address Of Party Or Attorney		Name And Address Of Party Or Attorney				
Name And Address Of Party Or Attorney		Name A	And Address Of Party Or Attorney			
Name And Address Of Party Or Attorney		Name And Address Of Party Or Allomey				
Date	Name Of Moving Party	•	Signature Of Moving Party			

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CABARRUS COUNTY	IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CASE NO:
Plaintiff(s),	REPORT OF SETTLEMENT
vs.	
Defendant(s),	•
This matter is presently schedule The parties through counsel/pro se hereb its entirety and there is nothing left to be	d for trial or hearing on by report to the Court that this case has been resolved in heard. The parties represent to the Court and agree that:
	present a Consent Order to the Court no later than will resolve all pending issues.
	present a Consent Judgment to the Court no later than will resolve all pending issues.
The Plaintiff will file a Volur	tary Dismissal of all claims no later than
The Defendant will file a Vol	untary Dismissal of all counterclaims/cross-claims/third
This the day of	, 20
Plaintiff/Counsel for Plaintiff	Defendant/Counsel of Defendant

Appendix F

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE CABARRUS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CASE NO: Plaintiff(s), NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY STAY VS. Defendant(s). A petition has been filed and an Order for relief under Chapter of the Federal Bankruptcy Act has been entered for ______. Relief has been granted in case number filed on day of ______ 20____, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the ______District of ______, _____Division. Further proceedings involving ______ are stayed pursuant to the provisions of 11USC 363, 1201 & 1301. Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant Date Print or Type Name of Party Print or Type Attorney's Name Attorney Represents Copy to: Attorney for: Plaintiff Defendant Date

Appendix G

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA County		File No.				
		In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division				
Name Of Plaintiff(s)						- Commercial Commercia
VERSUS		MOTIO	N AND	ORDER F	OR CON	ITINUANCE
Name Of Defendant(s)			(CIVI	L SUPERIO	OR CASE	ES)
INSTRUCTIONS: MOVING PARTY must of hand delivered to opposing counsel or unreldesignee. Upon receipt, OPPOSING PART or his/her designee.	presented party prior to d	lelivery to Sen	ior Resid	lent Superior	Court Judg	e or his/her
Previous Number Of Continuances	Dale Case Filed			Calendared Trial L	Date	
Opposing Counsel			-	osing Counsel(s)/F Hand Deliver		Date
eason(s) For Continuance Request (attach additional sh	eet if necessary)					
The standard Reported the Date Or Communication		None And Address	on Of Mayor			
equested Reschedule Date Or Camyover Date		Name And Addres	ss Of Movan	nt		
Has Client(s) Been Notified Of Continuance	Request?	Name And Addres Telephone No.	ss Of Movan	nt		
Has Client(s) Been Notified Of Continuance (not applicable if pro se)				nt		
Has Client(s) Been Notified Of Continuance (not applicable if pro se)	□ No	Telephone No. Signature Of Mov.	ant	,		
Has Client(s) Been Notified Of Continuance (not applicable if pro se) Ale Issued TO BE Objection(s) Received?		Telephone No. Signature Of Mov.	ant	,		12 to 18 Months
Has Client(s) Been Notified Of Continuance (not applicable if pro se)	□ No	Telephone No. Signature Of Movi	^{ant} PPORT \$	STAFF STAFF	Months	
Has Client(s) Been Notified Of Continuance (not applicable if pro se) Ale Issued Objection(s) Received? (Attach written objections) Yes No lotal No. Of Cases On Trial Calendar	□ No	Telephone No. Signature Of Movi	ant PPORT S	STAFF SEE STAIN 12 SEE STAIN 12 SEE STAIN 18 SEE STAIN 18 SEE SEE SEE SEE STAIN 18 SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SE	Months	12 to 18 Months
Objection(s) Received? (Attach written objections) Yes No of all No. Of Cases On Trial Calendar	□ No	Telephone No. Signature Of Move JDICIAL SUI Case Age: Current Ranking 0	PPORT S	STAFF Less Than 12 More Than 18 on Trial Calendar	Months	

AOC-CV-221, New 4/98 © 1998 Administrative Office of the Courts

Original - Case File

NORTH CAROLINA CABARRUS COUNTY	IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CASE NO:
Plaintiff(s),	
vs.	INACTIVE ORDER
Defendant(s).	
The state of the s	Judge that this action is no longer an active lawsuit, that a ecessary, or that the ends of justice will best be served by ng it from the trial docket:
And the following circumstance	es support such conclusion:
closed and the action removed from the	ED, ADJUDGED and DECREED, that this case file be e trial docket without prejudice to the rights of any party to ther action becomes appropriate or necessary.
This the day of	_20
	Martin B. McGee Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
By Consent:	
Appendix I	

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION FILE NO. _____ CABARRUS COUNTY JUDGE Plaintiff, VS. ORDER SUBMISSION FORM Defendant. 1. The attached order: was announced and decided by the judge in open court Twas announced to the attorneys/parties by a decision letter is entered pursuant to a Memorandum of Judgment Order is entered with the consent of both parties Date decision was announced or Memorandum/consent order signed: _____. 2. Check the box that applies: The opposing party/counsel has reviewed the proposed order and all corrections/revisions have been resolved. Both parties agree that this order is correct as to form and is ready for entry. The draft was delivered to the opposing party/counsel by US Mail Facsimile e-mail personal delivery on instructions to contact the undersigned within 10 days if any corrections/revision were requested. The opposing party/counsel has not responded to the undersigned as to the order as drafted and more than ten (10) days have passed since the delivery of the draft. The opposing party/counsel has reviewed the order and does not believe that it is correct as to form. The written objections of each party are attached, or an electronic version of the form has been/is being submitted. This the _____ day of ______ 20__. ☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☐ Plaintiff's Attorney ☐ Defendant's Attorney

Appendix J

Joint Response Status Update

Na	me of Case:				
	e Number:				
1) Has this case been resolved: Yes No					
	If not, should this case be placed in Inactive status: Yes No				
	Why:				
2)	Has discovery been completed: Yes No				
	If not, how much additional time is needed?				
3)	Has mediation been completed: Yes No				
	If not, how much additional time is needed?				
4) Are there any motions that need to be heard: Yes No					
	If yes, when would you like the motions to be scheduled?				
5)	Has a trial date been set: Yes No				
	a) If yes, when:b) If no, when would you like the trial scheduled:				
	c) Is it: Jury Non-jury				
6) Is there anything the court can do to assist in the case moving forward:					
Sig	nature Date Attorney for				
Sign	nature Date Attorney for				
	(If multiple parties, then all should sign)				
HR	MIT THIS COMPLTED FORM NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS LIPON RECEIPT				

You may submit via email Lindsay. A. Daniels@nccourts.org, fax (704) 262-5517, or personal delivery.

Appendix K

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CABARRUS COUNTY

Attorney Name:					
Address:			•		
		SECURE LEAVE FORM			
		SECONE LEAVE FORIAL			
Telephone Number:					
State Bar Number:					
Notice: Secure Leave shall consist of one or more calendared weeks, but in any even shall not consist of more than					
three (3) calendared weeks during any calendar year.					
Statement of Attorney					
I hereby certify that the secure leave period designated below is not being designated for the purpose of					
delaying, hindering or interfering with the timely disposition of any matter in any pending action or proceeding.					
I further certify that no action or proceeding in which I have entered an appearance has been scheduled,					
peremptorily set or noticed for trial hearing, deposition or other proceeding during the designated leave period.					
Designated Secure Leave Dates					
Indicate the dates you are noticing as Secure Leave Dates:					
	Beginning Date:		Ending Date:		
Monday		Until Friday	landa a servicus la la caracila de l		
Indicate any previously designated Secure Leave periods during the current calendar year that have previously been					
designated pursuant to Rule 26 and Rule 3A of the Rules of Appellate Procedure.					
Beginning Date(s):		Ending Date(s):			
This Secure Leave Notification must be filed not later than ninety (90) days before the beginning of the secured leave					
period and before any trial, hearing, deposition or other matter has been regularly scheduled, peremptorily set or					
noticed for a time during the designated secure leave period.					
Date:					
		Attorney Signature			
This form is required to be filed in each of the following offices if the attorney has entered an appearance of record					
as follows: (please check the offices filed.)					
District Attorney [Criminal Cases] Clerk of Superior Court [All Cases]					
NOTICE TO ATTORNEY: Should any matter be set during your Secure Leave Period, you are required to serve notice					
on the official calendaring the matter, and the parties of record to the matter. This Notice shall contain the					
following: (1) A copy of this form (2) The case number and name of case set (3) A certificate of service.					
1010411191 (21.132) 31 311 411 411 411					
Filing a Designation of Secured Leave with the Clerk of Superior Court is deemed sufficient notice to the Superior					
Court pursuant to Rule 26 of the Superior Court and District Court Rules.					