

**IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT OF FLORIDA, SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

IMPORTANT- This Order contains important deadlines that must be complied with or sanctions may result.

This Case Management Order is issued in accordance with Administrative Orders of the Florida Supreme Court and Seventh Judicial Circuit Court.

A. CASE DESIGNATION

Civil cases in which trials by jury are demanded are designated as “General”. All other civil cases are designated as “Streamlined”. Cases subsequently designated as “Complex” pursuant to Rule 1.201, Fla. R. Civ. P., are exempted from the requirements of this Order and will follow the procedures outlined in the Rule.

B. PROJECTED TRIAL DATE

For “General” cases the *projected* docket sounding and trial dates will be eighteen (18) months from case filing, or twelve (12) months from the date of this Order, whichever date is later. For “Streamlined” cases, the *projected* docket sounding and trial dates will be twelve (12) months from case filing, or six (6) months from the date of this Order, whichever date is later. The parties are expected to be ready to try this case by this deadline.

C. SERVICE OF PROCESS

Plaintiff(s) are required to serve each defendant with initial process no later than 120 days from case filing or sixty (60) days from the date this Order is issued, whichever date is later. Motions for extension of time to complete service of process must be filed no later than ten (10) days prior to expiration of the initial time period for service. In its discretion, the presiding judge may grant plaintiff(s) an additional ninety (90) days to serve any remaining defendant(s). After the expiration of the time for service, including any extensions, any unserved defendant(s) will be dropped from the action, or the case will be dismissed without prejudice, as appropriate.

D. ADDING NEW PARTIES

The deadline for adding new parties to an action is ninety (90) days after the completion of service of process on the initial defendants or sixty (60) days from the date this Order is issued, whichever date is later.

E. OBJECTIONS TO PLEADINGS

Objections to pleadings must be filed no later than twenty (20) days from the date the pleading is served upon the objecting party. Any objection not timely scheduled for hearing may be deemed waived or abandoned.

F. COMPLETION OF DISCOVERY

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

Action or Event	General	Streamlined
Disclosure of expert witnesses	75 days before docket sounding for parties seeking affirmative relief; 60 days before docket sounding for parties not seeking affirmative relief	75 days before docket sounding for parties seeking affirmative relief; 60 days before docket sounding for parties not seeking affirmative relief
Disclosure of fact witnesses	60 days before docket sounding	60 days before docket sounding
Service of written discovery requests	45 days before docket sounding	45 days before docket sounding
All other discovery to be completed	10 days before docket sounding	10 days before docket sounding

G. PRETRIAL MOTIONS

All pretrial motions must be filed no later than thirty (30) days prior to the trial date. Pretrial motions filed within thirty (30) days of trial will not be considered if predicated on matters the movant knew, or should have known with the exercise of reasonable diligence, at least thirty (30) days prior to the trial date. Because of busy court calendars, hearing time may not be available to consider motions filed close to the deadline. The inability of a party to obtain hearing time will generally not constitute grounds for a continuance of the trial.

H. MEDIATION

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

I. SERVICE OF THIS ORDER

- For cases filed on or before April 30, 2021, plaintiff is required to serve a copy of this Order on all other parties and file a notice of service with the Clerk within 30 days of the date of its issuance.
- For cases filed after April 30, 2021, plaintiff is required to serve a copy of this Order on all other parties together with service of process, or in the manner prescribed in Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.080.

J. EXTENSIONS AND CONTINUANCES

The Court hereby adopts a firm continuance policy in this matter and will only extend deadlines set forth in this Order upon a showing of good cause.

K. SANCTIONS

Failure to comply with the terms of this Order may result in sanctions against the offending party.