



STATE OF FLORIDA
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

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OSCEOLA COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION 60-G, COURTROOM 3D
General Courtroom Guidelines, Procedures and Expectations

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IN ORDER TO ASSIST COUNSEL, THE LITIGANTS AND THE COURT, THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES¹, PROCEDURES, PRACTICES AND EXPECTATIONS ARE HEREBY ADOPTED FOR THE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION NUMBER 60-G, IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA WHEN PRACTICING BEFORE JUDGE JUNA M. PULAYYA.

CONTACT INFORMATION

*****The Judicial Assistant and the Clerk's office, cannot and will not give legal advice*****

Contact Information for Judge's Office/Judicial Assistant:

The Division 60 e-mail address is 60osceola@ninthcircuit.org. Please use this e-mail when:

1. requesting hearing time (*after* coordinating an available date using [aiCalendar](#)) or cancelling a hearing;
2. requesting general information;
3. forwarding a copy of notice for trial;
4. submitting a proposed order (*note:* the proposed order must be a Word document, and the motion must be e-filed AND docketed by the Clerk prior to submission); and/or
5. following up on previously submitted proposed orders (must be at least ten (10) business days, and do not re-attach the proposed order).

For specific questions or emergencies **only**, you may email BOTH the Division 60 email address **AND CC:** the Judicial Assistant at jdenton@ninthcircuit.org.

Contact Information for Clerk's Office:

Please be advised that the Clerk's Office is a separate agency from the Ninth Circuit and Judge's office, and the Judicial Assistant cannot assist with duties that should be handled by the Clerk's office. For information pertaining to the Clerk's Office, please visit their website at: <https://osceolaclerk.com/>.

¹The above standards, procedures, practices and guidelines are minimum standards. All counsel are presumed to be familiar with and are expected to abide by the *Rules Regulating The Florida Bar*, and the *Guidelines for Professional Conduct* promulgated by the Trial Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar and adopted by the Conference of Circuit Judges. Copies of each of these documents may be obtained from The Florida Bar and/or are available on-line on its website <http://www.floridabar.org>. In addition, counsel must be aware of the *Ninth Judicial Circuit Courtroom Decorum Policy* promulgated on February 11, 2003. (See <https://ninthcircuit.org/resources/rules-policies/courtroom-decorum-policy/courtroom-decorum-policy>.)

This Court is held to the additional standards set forth in Code of Judicial Conduct and the Principles of Professionalism for Judges.

CASE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

All parties are expected to be familiar with and strictly comply with the requirements of the Ninth Circuit Administrative Order No. 2021-04-03. First Party Insurance Cases shall also comply with the Ninth Circuit Administrative Order 2009-12-03.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED ORDERS

The Judge is not made aware of any filings or motions unless the Division is made aware. Therefore, for any motions which do not require a hearing, proposed orders may be submitted once the motion has been docketed for the Judge's consideration. Unless provided to the Court during a hearing, all proposed orders **must** be submitted to the Division email address (60osceola@ninthcircuit.org). Any submissions via U.S. Mail will be summarily rejected.

Submissions to Division 60 must state the Case Number including the suffix (*i.e.*, EV, CF, CL, SP, etc.) in the beginning of the Subject Line of the email, then the type proposed order, followed by the case name. If your submission is time sensitive, urgent, or follows a hearing, please be sure to flag the importance as high and state in the subject line. For example:

2025 CC 000000 EV – URGENT Final Judgment for Possession – Smith v. Jones.

The proposed order must be a Word document, list the full case caption, and the subject and ruling of the court, *i.e.* “*Order Granting Plaintiff Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Liability.*” See Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.100(c)(2). All submissions should be circulated to opposing counsel, and the Court must be notified if opposing counsel agrees with the content and form of the proposed order. Opposing counsel must advise the Court of any objection to the proposed order. If parties are unable to agree on the form and content of the order, the objecting party must provide specific objection by e-mail to the Judicial Assistant. **When saving the Order use the following format: Case Number-Title of Order.** The Certificate of Service must state the name and e-mail for the parties being served via E-portal Service and the full mailing address for parties who are not participating in the E-portal Service. The **Certificate of Service** must state the **name and e-mail for the parties being served via E-Portal Service and the full mailing address for parties who are not participating in the E-Portal Service.**

If a hearing has been scheduled on a motion, do not submit a proposed order prior to the hearing unless it is an agreed order which resolves the motion. Such an agreed order must state that the hearing is cancelled, and the submitting email must also alert the Judicial Assistant that the entry of the order will cancel a hearing.

The Court will strive to issue orders and rulings in a timely manner. Should you wish to follow up on a submission, **DO NOT RESUBMIT THE PROPOSED ORDER.** Simply send an email to the Division email after ten (10) business days to inquire as to the status of the order. Duplicate submissions only serve to further delay the Court's review of proposed submissions.

HEARINGS

To obtain hearing times, access the [aiCalendar](#) from the Ninth Circuit Website, Osceola County, Division 60-G. Hearing times are listed in blocks of fifteen (15) minute increments.² Short Matters/Ex-Parte time is listed on [aiCalendar](#) as well and must be coordinated and set with the JA. Short Matters/ Ex-Parte hearings are for uncontested motions, or cases requiring 5 minutes or less. Counsel/parties must appear in-person for Short Matters (NO REMOTE APPEARANCES WILL BE PERMITTED), and Counsel/parties must bring proposed orders with them to the hearing.

After the **required** “meet and confer”, and after coordinating hearing time(s) with opposing counsel or *self-represented* litigant, please contact the Judicial Assistant by EMAIL with the agreed upon date/time at 60osceola@ninthcircuit.org. Be sure include all required information by Division 60 as listed on [aiCalendar](#):

*****In the Subject Line:**

HEARING REQUEST – CASE NUMBER – CASE NAME

*****In the Body of the Email:**

Coordinated or Unilateral:

Case No.:

Full Case Style:

Motion(s):

Plaintiff Attorney (if none, list *pro se*):

Defendant Attorney (if none, list *pro se*):

DATE/TIME COORDINATED:

Amount of time requested:

Conferral Date (for all motions filed prior to 01/01/25):

If Summary Judgment, does this hearing date comply with Rule 1.510(6)?

*****If your request is missing any of the above information, it will not be confirmed.**

Once the date/time is confirmed by the Judicial Assistant, the requesting party must prepare and file the Notice of Hearing with the Clerk of Court within three (3) business days of the confirmation, and provide a courtesy copy to the Judicial Assistant, via e-mail 60osceola@ninthcircuit.org no later than two weeks prior to the hearing.

For the convenience of everyone, the following rules apply to the setting and handling of hearings:

1. **Setting of hearings:**

Hearings time(s) must be cleared with opposing counsel or *self-represented* parties. Good faith cooperation is expected from counsel, their support staff, and *self-represented* litigants.

2. **Cooperation of counsel/parties:**

² To schedule hearings longer than fifteen (15) minutes, you may stack consecutive increments. For example, a thirty (30) minute hearing could be create with two available consecutive fifteen (15) minute hearing times.

If counsel/parties do not cooperate, the requesting party may request to unilaterally set a hearing should counsel, their staff, or *self-represented* litigants fail to respond **within three (3) business days**, or refuse to cooperate in obtaining or setting a hearing. The request party must provide **at least a two weeks' notice** to the opposing counsel/party who failed to cooperate or respond, and the difficulty should be specifically set forth either in the motion or in the notice of hearing.

Additional motions shall not be “piggy-backed” by cross-notice unless counsel first confirms with opposing counsel, and the Judge’s Judicial Assistant, that sufficient additional time can be reserved in which to hear them. **Please note that only the party setting a hearing may cancel the hearing and that a notice of cancellation is required to be filed with the clerk (and a courtesy copy provided to the Judicial Assistant via the Division Email) prior to the hearing being cancelled.**

3. **Conferrals:**

For motions filed prior to January 1, 2025, the parties must confer *prior* to requesting a hearing on a motion, and must expressly state the date of the conferral in the hearing request. All motions filed in County Civil cases on or after January 1, 2025, must comply with Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.202, and parties are encouraged to have another conversation prior to all hearings in a good-faith effort to resolve the issues raised in the motion.

4. **Video Hearings:**

Requests for remote hearings will be considered by motion on a case-by-case basis, and **such motion must be filed at least ten (10) business days prior to the hearing**. A proposed order on the motion must be submitted to the Division 60 email address as soon as the motion has been docketed by the Clerk’s office for consideration. The submission email should clearly state that it is a request for video hearing, and the date/time of the hearing.

5. **Emergency Hearings:**

If an emergency situation arises, counsel may request that a hearing be set on short notice. The body of the motion must contain a detailed explanation of the circumstances constituting the emergency as well as the substance of the motion. The motion must be filed with the Clerk and a copy e-mailed to the Judicial Assistant before a hearing will be set. The Court will review the motion and if it is determined an emergency, the Judicial Assistant will contact counsel to set the hearing.

6. **Discovery Motions and Motions to Compel:**

The mere filing of a Motion is insufficient. The motion must be set for hearing to bring the matter to the Court’s attention. Motions to Compel, as well as all discovery motions, must comply with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure including, but not limited to, a certification of a good faith attempt to resolve that matter without court action. *See* Fla.R.Civ.P 1.202. If no response or objection has been filed to initial Supreme Court approved discovery requests, the moving party may submit a proposed order (in Word Format) with the Motion. If, after review, the Court determines a hearing is necessary, the Judicial Assistant will advise accordingly.

7. **Motions for Protective Orders:**

The filing of a Motion for Protective Order, without presenting it to the Court, is insufficient. The Court will make itself available for hearings on said motions as soon as possible where the motion could not have been filed and heard in the due course of discovery.

8. **Motions in Limine (MIL):**

MIL may not be scheduled for a hearing unless they contain a certification of a good faith attempt (as to each item) to resolve the matter without court action. Notices of hearing on MIL must specifically identify the specific issues which remain in controversy after counsel has conferred. **MIL will not be heard at trial.** Motions in Limine must be filed prior to the trial, scheduled to be heard after the pre-trial conference, time permitting unless another order directs otherwise.

9. **Legal Memorandum and Citations:**

Any legal memorandums or briefs, along with hard copies of the significant cited authorities, **may be provided to the Court and copies to opposing counsel, at least (3) business days before the hearing** if sending. The Court will attempt to review the motion and the memorandums, and read the cases cited therein, prior to the hearing so that an immediate ruling may be rendered. Highlighting pertinent sections of case law is appreciated. Brevity is **also** appreciated. Case law and Memorandums provided to the Court during the hearing may not be considered. **The Court, on occasion, may rule on motions without a hearing.**

10. **Limitation on Hearings:**

All hearings related to discovery or trial matters must be filed and heard prior to the trial date. NO HEARINGS DIRECTED TOWARDS MATTERS INVOLVING THE TRIAL WILL BE HEARD DURING THE ACTUAL TRIAL PERIOD.

11. **Orders and Rulings of the Court:**

If counsel is/are asked to prepare an order, the order **should be** drafted and circulated within 2 working days and must be submitted **to the Court** within 7 days of the hearing, with a copy to opposing counsel. **All proposed orders following a hearing should state in the subject line "AFTER HEARING".**

The Court will strive to issue orders and rulings in a timely manner. If it is necessary to take an issue under advisement, the Court will attempt to set a date by which the Court will issue its ruling.

If the parties bring propose orders to the hearing, please make certain (1) a copy is provided to opposing counsel; (2) the party has stamped, addressed envelopes (for persons not registered with the E-Portal Filing); and (3) the caption contains more than the word "Order". All Orders must describe, in the caption, the subject and ruling of the court, *i.e.* "Order Granting Plaintiff Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Liability." See Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.100(c)(2).

12. **Hearings on Motions for Rehearing, Reconsideration or New Trial:**
Upon filing said Motion, please send a copy directly to the Judge for review to 60osceola@ninthcircuit.org. The Court will either rule without a hearing, direct a written response be filed by opposing counsel or the JA will contact the moving counsel to schedule a hearing.

CANCELLATION POLICY

You may NOT file a notice of cancellation for any events set by the Court (Final Hearings set by the Court, Case Management Conferences, etc.). Additionally, a Notice of Settlement is not sufficient to cancel any Court-scheduled event.

Only the party who set the hearing may cancel the hearing. Please file the Notice of Cancellation immediately and notify the Judicial Assistant via e-mail (60osceola@ninthcircuit.org) of all cancellations/settlements/voluntary dismissals so that the calendar may be opened up for other matters. CANCELLATION must be written in the Subject line, AND reasons for cancellations are required. If the cancellation is due to resolution or settlement, a proposed ORDER must be included in the email (WORD format).

It is the responsibility of the party who set the hearing to cancel the hearing, file a Notice of Cancellation in the court file, submit a courtesy copy to Chambers, and to contact the opposing party to notify them of the cancellation. **Any cancellations received after 5:00 p.m. two (2) business days prior to the hearing may not be processed; Counsel must appear for the hearing and advised the Judge.**

For all Pre-Trial Conference waivers, a joint stipulation must be signed by both parties, filed and docketed, and provided to Chambers by 3:00 p.m. two (2) days prior to the hearing. You must attach a copy of the joint stipulation with a proposed order (in Word) and e-mail it (flagged as URGENT) to the Division e-mail (60osceola@ninthcircuit.org).

PRIOR TO TRIAL

A *Pre-Trial Compliance Order* will be issued when the dates are set for pre-trial and trial. The Uniform Order should be reviewed in detail and the dates for completion of various items calendared. The Court will presume that each attorney and each party is familiar with the requirements of that order. THE COURT EXPECTS STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDER ABSENT A TIMELY MOTION AND ORDER OF COURT MODIFYING THE CONDITIONS THEREIN. Joint stipulations to extend times set forth therein are not permitted.

1. **Mediation:** The Mediation **MUST BE COMPLETED** prior to trial. The Plaintiff is charged with timely submitting the mediation order. The parties must make certain that the mediator files a final report with the Court.
2. **Witnesses, Exhibits and Experts:** The pre-trial order requires disclosure of witnesses, exhibits and experts with specificity in a timely manner. Exhibits must be presented for review, initialed by opposing party, and annotation of objections lest said objections be deemed waived. Experts must be disclosed and must be made available for discovery by

the retaining party without the necessity of a subpoena for the retained expert. Opinions rendered at trial will be limited to those disclosed to opposing counsel in either a written report prior to the depositions or in response to deposition or written discovery questions prior to the close of Discovery.

3. **Joint Meeting of Counsel:** Plaintiff is charged with arranging a meeting of all counsel at least 30 days prior to trial. Attendance is mandatory by the attorneys who will actually be trying the case.
4. **Motions to Continue:** If counsel believes the trial date is not workable, an immediate request for continuance should be made. All Motions to Continue must be (1) in writing; (2) be signed by the attorney and the parties requesting same; (3) identify the position of opposing counsel on the motion; (4) set forth when the parties will be ready for trial, if granted; and, (5) comply with [Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.460](#). Stipulated Motions to Continue will **not** result in the trial being continued unless and until the Court reviews the motion and enters an order on same. The Court may require a hearing on the Motion.

CASE MANAGEMENT HEARINGS

Case Management Hearings will be utilized to discuss witness problems, jury instructions issues, audiovisual equipment needs, need for interpreters, time allotment for voir dire, opening and closing, responsibility for obtaining the court reporter, and other trial related issues³. Case Management Hearing is NOT the time to handle Motions to Continue or discovery issues as these matters must have been raised and heard well before the case management hearing. PARTIES SHOULD BE READY TO TRY THEIR CASES AS OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT HEARING.

TRIALS

Trials will take place in **Courtroom 3D** unless otherwise indicated. Attorneys should check with the Judicial Assistant the day before the trial to confirm the actual courtroom that will be used. Counsel and their clients are to be in the courtroom and ready for trial no later than 15 minutes prior to scheduled time. Depending on other emergency matters, the Court will start as soon thereafter as possible.

1. **Courtroom Etiquette and Decorum:** Counsel shall stand when addressing the Court or the jury. Counsel should seek permission of the Court to approach the bench, the clerk, the witness or the jury. All parties and attorneys shall avoid contact with the venire and jury and counsel shall so instruct their clients and witnesses. Counsel shall address all arguments to the Court and not opposing counsel. Counsel shall admonish their clients and witnesses that gestures, facial expressions or any manifestations of approval or disapproval of anything occurring in the courtroom is absolutely prohibited. Please see *Ninth Judicial Circuit Courtroom Decorum Policy* available at <http://www.ninthcircuit.org>.

³While the Court will attempt to provide a specific date for trial, all cases are presumed to be ready on the first day of the trial docket and are subject to advancement on the docket to an earlier date (within that trial period).

2. **Cell Phones, PDA, Communication Devices:** Cell phones must be turned off when possessed in the courtroom. If necessary to make or take phone calls, please step out of the Courtroom. Witnesses while testifying will not be permitted to possess any type of communication device while on the witness stand.
3. **Court Reporter** - The same Court Reporter must report the entire trial to enable jury read backs. In the Joint Pre-Trial Statement, the parties will advise the Court who will retain the Court Reporter.
4. **Voir Dire:** The Court will conduct a preliminary voir dire of the jury. Counsel are welcome to request that the Court explore certain areas of inquiry that may be important to the trial but sensitive in nature. Counsel are reminded to be considerate of the jurors' personal lives during their inquiries as well as the jurors' time constraints. While the Court will afford counsel significant latitude in questioning, the Court will limit repetitive questions. Counsel shall not attempt to either explore the facts of their case or explain the law that may apply in the case, **nor attempt to carry favor with the venire.**
5. **Jury Selection Process:** After voir dire, the Court will first ask each side for any cause strikes. Upon completion of challenges for cause, the Court will move to pre-emptory challenges. The Court will start with the first juror and move sequentially as they are seated in the venire, alternating between counsels until a panel is chosen. Back striking during jury selection is always permitted. The number of alternates will be determined by the type and length of the trial. Each party will have one additional strike as to each alternate.
6. **Opening and Closing:** Only demonstrative aids or exhibits marked by the clerk, agreed to by all counsel or approved by the Court may be used in either opening or closing. Counsel may move away from the podium, but shall remain mindful of the jury's space. Counsel should stay at least three feet back from the jury rail at all times. The Court will discuss with counsel the time requirements for both opening and closing at the pretrial conference and will expect that a reasonable estimate be provided by counsel. Counsel are expected to adhere to these time constraints.
7. **Exhibits:** All exhibits must be submitted as detailed in the Division 60 Trial Information Sheet. Exhibits which will be stipulated into evidence may be marked into evidence as exhibits. Once exhibits are marked in evidence they become the property of the Clerk of Court and may not be altered or removed from the courtroom without order of the Court. No exhibits are to be published or exhibited to the jury until admitted into evidence and/or authorized by the Court.

Submission of exhibits to the Clerk does NOT guarantee that the exhibits will be admitted into evidence. For additional information regarding requirements for submission of exhibits, please see the Division 60 Trial Information Sheet and/or Hearing Information Sheet.

Audiovisual and/or equipment questions should be addressed with Court Administration: <http://www.ninthcircuit.org/programs-services/audio-visual>.

8. **Demonstrative Aids:** Any demonstrative aid that is to be used at trial must be marked by the clerk and exhibited to opposing counsel and the Court prior to the week of trial. The Court will hear argument of any counsel opposing the use of the demonstrative aids prior to the trial week. No aids are to be shown to the jury without prior approval of the Court.
9. **Experts:** The Court will not accept or qualify a witness as an expert in front of the jury. Challenges to an expert's qualifications and his ability to testify must be addressed prior to the start of the trial period and therefore outside the presence of the jury. Experts are to be cautioned by the attorney who calls the expert of "in limine" rulings, and the effect of the invocation of the Rule of Sequestration.
10. **Use of Depositions:** If depositions are to be used at trial in any manner (impeachment, as video testimony, etc.) make certain a hard copy is available both for the Court and for the witness being questioned.⁴
11. **Objections:** The Court will not allow speaking objections in front of the jury. When counsel rises to object, the legal basis for the objection only should be stated. If elaboration is necessary, the Court will call counsel to the Bench for a Bench Conference or out of the presence of the jury. Counsel shall not interrupt opposing counsel or witness's questions or answers with an objection unless the answer or question is patently objectionable. Once the Court has ruled, no further argument shall be permitted.
12. **Jurors:** The Court generally will allow jurors to take notes and to ask questions where necessary. Section 40.50, Florida Statutes. If any counsel objects to these procedures, such objection should be addressed to the Court prior to the day of trial.
13. **Jury Instructions:** Jury instructions are to be prepared and stipulated to by both sides and prior to Case Management Conference. If you cannot agree to jury instructions that will be addressed at Case Management Conference. A hard copy must be provided to the Court as well as a copy via e-mail. The Court intends to provide the jury with a written copy of all jury instructions when the jury retires to deliberate. In addition, the final instructions should not contain any citations, jury instruction titles or information as to who requested the instruction. In certain cases, the Court may provide some substantive law instructions to the jury during preliminary instructions and/or before closing arguments. Should any counsel wish to consider this option, this matter should be addressed with the Court prior to the day of the start of trial.

⁴In Osceola County some documents electronically filed with the Court are imaged and may not be readily available in hard copy to the Court.

SETTLEMENT OR RESOLUTION

The Court must be notified immediately of any settlement or resolution of any matter on the trial docket. **However**, Notices of Settlement will NOT be considered sufficient for the purposes of cancelling a trial. The trial will not be removed from the actual docket, is subject to trial call, and the attorneys must appear, until such time as the docket reflects that the matter has been fully resolved (*i.e.*, docketed Stipulation or Notice of Voluntary Dismissal).

INFORMATION NOT COVERED

If any matters concerning the conduct of the pre-trial or trial procedures of Osceola Civil Division 60-G are not covered herein; counsel is free to contact the Court. A status hearing can be set at which time the Court will attempt to answer any inquiries. The Court appreciates counsels' efforts to understand and comply with this Court's procedures.