IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION

Plaintiff(s),

vs. CASE NO:

Defendant(s).
_____/

STANDING ORDER IN COUNTY CIVIL CASES IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WITH COURT ORDERED CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PURSUANT to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(a), Florida Rule of General Practice & Judicial Administration 2.545, Florida Supreme Court Opinion SC2023-0962, and Twentieth Judicial Circuit Administrative Order No. 1.13 (as amended) entered by the Chief Judge of this Circuit, the parties are ordered to adhere to the following information and procedures applicable to civil lawsuits filed in the County Court, excluding cases governed by summary procedures (such as Eviction cases) and Small Claims cases in which the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure have not been invoked:

1. **SERVICE OF THIS ORDER.** The Plaintiff must serve a copy of this Standing Order, with the attached Court Ordered Case Management Plan, with each Summons issued in this case. One copy of this Standing Order is to be filed with the Clerk of Court with proof of service. The Plaintiff shall pay the appropriate statutory clerk's fees for copies for each Standing Order issued and attached to the Summons.

2. **CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.** The Supreme Court of Florida has established guidelines and directives for the prompt processing and resolution of civil cases and the issuance of a case management plan. This Court has adopted a case management system to help meet those guidelines. In contested cases (other than cases governed by summary procedures (such as Eviction cases) and Small Claims cases in which the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure have not been invoked), the parties are required to participate in the case management system. In order to meet these guidelines and directives, the Court hereby issues the Court Ordered Case Management Plan attached hereto. Should the parties need to amend this plan during the course of the case, they are referred to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(e). The form County Civil Court Ordered Case Management Plan may be accessed on the Court's website at: https://www.ca.cjis20.org/Programs/Civil-Case-Management/countycivil.aspx

3. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR).** ADR provides parties with an out-of-court alternative for settling disagreements. The most common form of ADR is Mediation, which is a conference at which a Supreme Court Certified mediator, who is a specially trained third party, attempts to facilitate a settlement between the parties. The Court, at its discretion, may require the parties to participate in Mediation prior to trial, unless the parties agree to another form of ADR, such as Non-Binding Arbitration. The Court may, on its own motion or

the motion of the parties, refer a case to Non-Binding Arbitration. Non-Binding Arbitration is a process in which the Court refers a case to a registered arbitrator, or panel of arbitrators, who will hear evidence and make an award. That award may become a final judgment in the case if a Notice of Rejection of Arbitration Decision and Request for Trial is not filed pursuant to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.820(h).

4. **FAILURE TO PROSECUTE.** The Court will issue a Notice of Intent to Dismiss a case if there is no record activity within a ten (10) month period of time pursuant to Rule 1.420(e).

5. **ELECTRONIC SERVICE (e-Service) AND ELECTRONIC FILING (e-File).** In general, attorneys are required to designate a primary e-mail address for the purpose of serving and receiving service of pleadings (after the initial pleading), and are required to electronically file documents through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal. Likewise, self-represented litigants are required to file with the Clerk a designation of a primary e-mail address for the purpose of serving and receiving service of pleadings (after the initial pleading), and are encouraged to file documents electronically through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal at https://www.myflcourtaccess.com. If a self-represented litigant seeks exemption from e-mail service pursuant to Florida Rule of General Practice & Judicial Administration 2.516(b)(1)(D), they must complete and file a Florida Rule of General Practice & Judicial Administration Form 2.601 and, upon such filing, service by and on that self-represented litigant is to be by hand-delivery, mail, or otherwise in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice & Judicial Administration 2.516(b)(2). Further, that self-represented litigant may file documents with the Clerk manually and in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice & Judicial Administration 2.525. Forms for designating a primary e-mail address and for requesting an exemption from e-mail service are available at the Clerk's office and on the Twentieth Judicial Circuit's website at: https://www.ca.cjis20.org/Programs/Civil-Case-Management/countycivil.aspx.

6. **RULES OF PROFESSIONALISM.** The Twentieth Judicial Circuit has adopted Administrative Order No. 2.20, which sets forth standards of professional courtesy and conduct for all counsel practicing within the Circuit and self-represented litigants. The Court requires that all parties familiarize themselves and comply with Administrative Order No. 2.20, as amended. Administrative Order No. 2.20 may be viewed on the Court's website at www.ca.cjis20.org.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at, Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida

02/11/2026 13:59:26

Turner A. Rouse, County Court Judge r6wrrMbS
02/11/2026 13:59:26

Honorable Turner A. Rouse
County Court Judge

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

Defendant(s).
_____/

CASE NO.:

CASE TYPE:

JUDGE:

COURT ORDERED CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN

STREAMLINED

Pursuant to the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Administrative Order No. 1.13, as amended, the Court hereby issues the Case Management Plan for the above-styled case.

DEADLINE OR EVENT	*DATE*
1. Service of Complaint	120 Days from Filing of Complaint
2. Service under Extension	180 Days from Filing of Complaint
3. Initial Discovery Disclosure: Rule 1.280	60 days from Service of Complaint or Joinder
4. Adding New Parties or Amending Complaint (Motions must be filed sufficiently in advance to be heard prior to the deadline.)	180 Days Prior to Trial[1]

[1] "Trial" refers to the first day of the projected trial period, unless later modified by issuance of a trial order that sets an actual trial period. Upon setting an actual trial period, deadlines shall be calculated from the first day of the actual trial period.

DEADLINE OR EVENT	*DATE*
5. (a) Filing of All Objections to Pleadings: Motions to Dismiss, Motions for More Definite Statement, Motions to Strike, and Any Objections to the Pleadings.	Must be filed consistent with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, unless extended by order
(b) Resolution of All Objections to Pleadings: Motions to Dismiss, Motions for More Definite Statement, Motions to Strike, and Any Objections to the Pleadings.	Must be set for hearing and noticed within 60 days from filing of the motion/objection, or deemed abandoned and denied. Non-movant shall timely submit a proposed order in the event the motion/objection is deemed abandoned and denied.
6. Disclosure of Fact Witnesses	150 Days Prior to Trial
7. Disclosure of Expert Witnesses	150 Days Prior to Trial
8. Completion of Fact Discovery	100 Days Prior to Trial
9. Completion of Expert Discovery	100 Days Prior to Trial
10. (a) Filing and Service of Dispositive Motions Summary Judgment Motions, and Daubert Motions	100 Days Prior to Trial
(b) Resolution of Dispositive Motions, Summary Judgment Motions, and Daubert Motions	10 Days Prior to Pre-Trial Conference[2]
11. Completion of Alternative Dispute Resolution	Mediation: Must be completed 30 days prior to the Pretrial Conference.

[2] The Court will issue a separate trial order after service upon defendant(s) that sets a Pre-Trial Conference.

DEADLINE OR EVENT	*DATE*
12. Pre-Trial Motions or Other Matters (Including Motions in Limine & Deposition Designations)	Filed Prior to Pre-Trial Conference
	Resolved Prior to Docket Sounding[3]
13. Filing of Witness and Exhibit List	30 Days Prior to Pre-Trial Conference
14. Projected Trial Period	365-485 days from Filing of Complaint

In accordance with Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.440(c), a final trial period will be ordered by the Court not later than forty-five (45) days before the projected trial period set forth in this Court Ordered Case Management Plan.

The above-referenced schedule of deadlines must be strictly adhered to by the parties unless a change is otherwise agreed to by the parties and approved by the Court. The Court will consider a motion to approve changes to these deadlines upon a showing of good cause by either party based on matters arising from an emergency nature or unavailability in accordance with Rule 1.200(c), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. However, procrastination in completing discovery or the unavailability of counsel will not constitute good cause for a change to these deadlines. The failure to abide by these deadlines may result in sanctions by the Court, including the award of attorney's fees, the striking of pleadings, and/or a dismissal of the action.

If service has not been effectuated as of the date of this Court Ordered Case Management Plan, the Plaintiff shall serve the Defendant(s) a copy of this with its Summons and Complaint.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Chambers at, Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida

02/11/2026 13:59:26

Turner A. Rouse, County Court Judge r6wrrMbS
02/11/2026 13:59:26

Honorable Turner A. Rouse
County Court Judge

[3] The Court will issue a separate trial order after service upon defendant(s) that sets a Docket Sounding.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Jon Embury, Administrative Services Manager, whose office is located at 350 E. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950, and whose telephone number is (941) 637-2110, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled court appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.