

LCR 16.
PRETRIAL PROCEDURE AND FORMULATING ISSUES

(a) - (b) (No Local Rules)

(c) Pretrial Readiness.

(1) Time. The court administrator shall set pretrial readiness hearings in all civil and domestic cases approximately a month prior to the assigned trial date.

(2) Matters Considered. Matters to be considered at the readiness hearing may include, but are not limited to, the following: completion of mandatory mediation, completion of mandatory parenting seminar, witness availability, confirmation of length of trial, continuance of trial date pursuant to LCR 40(e), and pretrial motions.

(3) Completion of Discovery. Unless otherwise stipulated by the parties, or ordered by the court upon good cause shown and on such terms and conditions as are just, all discovery allowed under CR 26-27, including responses and supplementation thereto, must be completed no later than the scheduled date of the pretrial readiness hearing. Nothing herein stated shall modify a party's responsibility to promptly supplement responses to discovery rules or otherwise comply with discovery no later than the scheduled date of the pretrial readiness hearing.

(4) Statement of Readiness for Trial. If there are no matters to be resolved by the court, a party's personal appearance at the readiness hearing may be waived, provided the party has certified his or her readiness for trial with a written statement of readiness for trial filed with the court using the form set forth in Appendix E.

(d) Settlement Conference. Except as provided in SPR 94.08.3, any party in a civil action may schedule a pretrial settlement conference through the court administrator.

(1) Conference Judge. The settlement conference shall be before a judge who has not been assigned to preside at any subsequent trial, or an attorney mediator agreed to by the parties.

(2) Mandatory Attendance. Attendance at the settlement conference by all parties and counsel shall be mandatory, unless the court determines that circumstances exist precluding said attendance.

(3) Setting. Settlement conferences shall be set and heard no later than 21 days prior to trial.

(4) Issues. The parties shall provide documentation clearly stating the issues involved to the conference judge at least two (2) days prior to the conference.

