RULE NO. 6
PRE-TRIAL STATUS AND SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

I. Civil Pre-Trial Conferences

A. In all civil cases the Court may order a pre-trial conference on its own motion or that of any party. Pre-trial conferences in domestic relations cases are governed by Rule No. 7. The purpose of the pre-trial conference is to consider:

1. The simplification of the issues;

2. The necessity or the desirability of amendments to pleadings;

3. The possibility of obtaining admissions of fact and of documents which will void unnecessary proof;

4. The list of witnesses (including experts) which each party intends to call; and

5. Such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the action

B. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court all pre-trial conferences shall be conducted at least two weeks before trial.

C. Attorneys for all parties shall personally attend the pre-trial conference unless the Court orders the conference to be heard by telephone.

D. The pre-trial conference shall be conducted by the Judge informally and shall not be recorded unless so ordered.

E. Any joint proposed or final pre-trial order shall be substantially in the form of exemplar No. 1.

II. Criminal Pre-Trial Status Conferences

Repealed - Effective September 1, 2009

III. Civil Settlement Conferences

A. Settlement conferences are encouraged but are voluntary and may be requested by any party.

B. A party requesting a settlement conference shall do so when requesting a trial date.

C. The Court Administrator shall designate the settlement conference Judge and shall set the date for the settlement conference at least two weeks prior to the trial date.

1. Settlement conferences may be held before a Court Commissioner, Judge or Pro-Tem Judge as determined by the Court.

D. All attorneys, parties including representatives from any insurer shall be personally present or immediately available to the attorneys representing them by telephone.

E. Proceedings of the settlement conference shall be privileged and not reported or recorded. No party shall be bound unless a settlement is reached. When a settlement has been reached, the Judge may, in his or her discretion, order the settlement agreement to be recorded or reported. The Judge or Commissioner, presiding over a settlement conference, shall be disqualified from acting as a Trial Judge in the matter unless all parties otherwise agree in writing or in open Court on the record.

(Adopted effective September 1, 1996)