

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

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO:

Defendant(s).
_____ /

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

PURSUANT to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(a), Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545, Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC 20-23 (Amendment12), and Administrative Order 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 in the County Court, excluding Small Claims cases, in which the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure have not been invoked, and Eviction cases:

1. **SERVICE OF THIS ORDER.** The Plaintiff is directed to serve a copy of this order, with the attached Case Management Plan, with each Summons issued in this case. One copy of this 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 Small Claims cases, in which the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure have not been invoked, and eviction cases), the parties are required to participate in the case management system. In order to meet these guidelines and directives, the Court hereby issues the Case Management Plan attached hereto. Should the parties wish to amend this plan during the course of the case, they may submit a proposed Amended Case Management Plan along with their reasons that the Court should consider approving same. The county civil Case Management Plan may be accessed on the Court's website at: <http://www.ca.cjis20.org/web/main/civil.asp>.

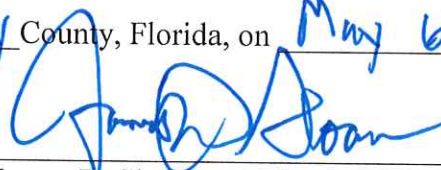
3. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR).** ADR provides parties with an out-of-court alternative for settling disagreements. The most common form of ADR is Mediation, which is a conference at which a Supreme Court Certified mediator, who is a specially trained third party, attempts to facilitate a 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 Motion for Trial De Novo 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.

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. Self-represented litigants are not required, but are encouraged 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 to electronically file documents through the Florida Courts e-filing Portal at <https://www.myflcourtagency.com>. If a self-represented litigant does not designate a primary e-mail address, service by and on that self-represented litigant is to be by hand-delivery or mail and in accordance with Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.516, and the filing of documents by that self-represented litigant with the Clerk is to be done manually and in accordance with Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.525.

6. **RULES OF PROFESSIONALISM.** The Twentieth Judicial Circuit has adopted Administrative Order 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 2.20. Administrative Order 2.20 may be viewed on the Court's website at: http://www.ca.cjis20.org/web/main/ao_admin.asp.

DONE AND ORDERED in LaBelle, Hendry County, Florida, on May 6, 2021.


James D. Sloan, Administrative Judge