

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LAW DIVISION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-8

Assignment of Cases for Mandatory Pre-Trials and Active Case Management

Pursuant to Circuit Court General Administrative Order 2020-02 Section 1n (ii) and 1n (iii); and Law Division General Administrative Order 20-7:

There shall be mandatory Pre-Trials of every case that had a jury trial date on or after March 17, 2020.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

All cases set for jury trial in Courtroom 2005 from March 17, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and previously assigned for Active Case Management per Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 7.2, shall have mandatory pre-trials conducted by the assigned Active Case Management judge. **The parties may not agree to conduct the pre-trial before any other judge.**

For other pending cases, not previously set for jury trial, the parties may agree to the transfer of their case for pre-trial only to any judge listed in General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 7.6.

Cases previously set for trial, and transferred for pre-trial prior to the entry of Law Division General Administrative Order 20-7 on August 26, 2020, shall remain before the agreed upon judge for pre-trial only.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

All additional pending cases, set for jury trial in Courtroom 2005 between March 17, 2020 and December 31, 2020, and not previously assigned for Active Case Management pursuant to Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 7.2, shall be randomly assigned for Active Case Management and mandatory pre-trial conferences, per Law Division General Administrative Order 10-3, and Law Division General Administrative Order 20-7.

Judges identified in General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 7.6 shall be randomly assigned cases currently pending in the Motion Section of the Law Division.

All parties of record will receive electronic or postcard notice of the reassignment and the reassignment will be reflected on the Clerk of the Circuit Court's electronic docket, on or before November 1, 2020.

Upon receipt of the notice of reassignment, the plaintiff's attorney (or the plaintiff, if self-represented), shall email the assigned judge a service list, **copied to all parties of record**, that contains the email addresses of all parties and attorneys of record. If a party does not have an email address, a telephone contact number shall be provided.

Service lists shall be emailed to the assigned judge at the email address listed for that judge in Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 7.6 within five (5) business days of receipt of notice of reassignment.

The assigned judge will schedule a remote status conference, by video or teleconference, within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the service list. In the event the assigned judge determines that the only way to provide access to the court is an in-person hearing, the assigned judge shall conduct the hearing with proper social distancing and safety standards applied.

Any CMC scheduling order, previously entered by the Motion Judge, per Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 3.11, shall remain in full force and effect.

Cases which do **NOT** have a CMC scheduling order previously entered per Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 3.11, shall have discovery schedules and deadlines set. Discovery shall be completed and the case shall be certified for trial on or before March 31, 2021, per Law Division General Administrative Order 10-3, Section A (6).

The discovery completion deadline of December 31, 2020, shall remain in full force and effect, in cases previously assigned for Active Case Management, per Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 7.2.

Any motion to modify or extend discovery deadlines must be presented to the Presiding Judge of the Law Division in the method described in General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 2.6.

The Presiding Judge of the Law Division has the sole discretion to extend discovery deadlines beyond December 31, 2020, in cases previously reassigned per Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Section 7.2 as well as the March 31, 2021 deadline for those cases reassigned by this order.

The provisions in Law Division General Administrative Order 20-6, Sections 7.3 and 7.4 shall apply to those cases reassigned pursuant to this order.

Please note: The mandatory pre-trial of cases shall involve a good faith effort by all parties to resolve cases, which would have already been resolved, had their trials been conducted.

The resolution of cases will ease the backlog of jury trials when they resume, and will provide closure to those litigants who were denied the jury trial process by the pandemic.

In cases where a pre-trial will likely resolve the case, the parties shall so inform the assigned judge, so the pre-trial can be conducted as expeditiously as possible.

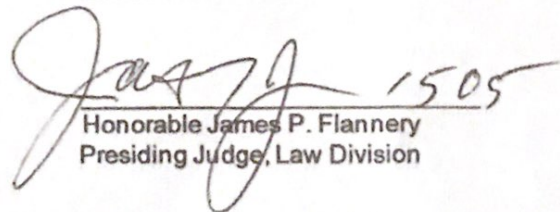
This order shall take effect immediately upon signing.

JUDGE JAMES P. FLANNERY

OCT 09 2020

Circuit Court-1505

ENTERED:

 1505
Honorable James P. Flannery
Presiding Judge, Law Division