

SEP 26 2019

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
By Lorrie Albino Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

IN RE PROCEDURES FOR PERSONAL) STANDING ORDER
INJURY CASES ASSIGNED TO THE) RE: PROCEDURES FOR PERSONAL
NORTH DISTRICT) INJURY CASES ASSIGNED TO THE
NORTH DISTRICT)
(Effective September 26, 2019)
)

<u>DEPARTMENT:</u>	A-14	A-15
<u>FINAL STATUS CONFERENCE:</u>		
• Date: _____ at 8:30 a.m.		
<u>TRIAL:</u>		
• Date: _____ at 8:30 a.m.		
<u>OSC re DISMISSAL</u>		
<u>(Code Civ. Proc., § 583.210):</u>		
• Date: _____ at 8:30 a.m.		

TO EACH PARTY AND TO THE ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY:

Pursuant to the California Code of Civil Procedure ("C.C.P."), the California Rules of Court ("C.R.C."), and the Los Angeles County Court Rules ("Local Rule"), the Los Angeles Superior Court ("LASC" or "Court") HEREBY AMENDS AND SUPERSEDES THE FEBRUARY 8, 2018 AMENDED GENERAL ORDER AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS IN THIS AND ALL OTHER GENERAL JURISDICTION PERSONAL INJURY ACTIONS:

1 Effective March 18, 2013, the Court responded to systemic budget reductions by centralizing
2 the management of more than 18,000 general jurisdiction personal injury cases in the Stanley Mosk
3 Courthouse. LASC initially opened three Personal Injury Courts (Departments 91, 92 and 93) on
4 January 6, 2014, a fourth (Department 97), and in September 2015, a fifth (Department 98) to
5 adjudicate all pretrial matters for these cases (The five PI courts are now located in the Spring Street
6 Courthouse). It also established a Master Calendar Court (Department One) to manage the
7 assignment of trials to dedicated Trial Courts located countywide. Prior orders set forth the basic
8 procedures for the Personal Injury (“PI”) Courts’ management of pretrial matters. The parties will
9 find additional information about the PI Courts on the Court’s website, www.lacourt.org. Personal
10 injury cases will also be managed in the same or similar manner in the North Judicial District, Michael
11 D. Antonovich Courthouse in Lancaster, CA. This Standing Order is specifically designed for
12 personal injury cases filed in the North Judicial District, Michael D. Antonovich Courthouse
13 (hereinafter “North District”).

14 1. To ensure proper courtroom assignment, plaintiff(s) must carefully fill out the Civil Case
15 Cover Sheet Addendum (form LACIV 109). The Court defines “personal injury” as:

16 “an unlimited civil case described on the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum and
17 Statement of Location (LACIV 109) as Motor Vehicle-Personal Injury/Property
18 Damage/Wrongful Death; Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death-
19 Uninsured Motorist; Product Liability (other than asbestos or toxic/environmental);
20 Medical Malpractice-Physicians & Surgeons; Other Professional Health Care
21 Malpractice; Premises Liability; Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful
22 Death; or Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death. An action for
23 intentional infliction of emotional distress, defamation, civil rights/discrimination, or
24 malpractice (other than medical malpractice), is not included in this definition. An
25 action for injury to real property is not included in this definition.” Local Rule
26 2.3(a)(1)(A).

27 The Court will deem the case to be a personal injury action if plaintiff(s) checks any of the
28 following boxes in the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum:

- 1 A7100 Motor Vehicle – Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death
 2 A7110 Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death – Uninsured Motorist
 3 A7260 Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental)
 4 A7210 Medical Malpractice – Physicians & Surgeons
 5 A7240 Medical Malpractice – Other Professional Health Care Malpractice
 6 A7250 Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)
 7 A7230 Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (e.g., assault,
 8 vandalism, etc.)
 9 A7220 Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death

10 Upon filing a personal injury Complaint, the Court sets the above dates in this action in the
 11 courtroom located in the North District circled above (Department A-14 or A-15) at the Michael
 12 Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse located at 42011 4th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534
 13 (C.R.C. Rules 3.714(b)(3), and 3.729).

14 **FILING OF DOCUMENTS**

15 2. With the exception of self-represented litigants or parties or attorneys that have obtained an
 16 exemption from mandatory electronic filing, parties must electronically file documents. Filings are
 17 no longer accepted via facsimile. The requirements for electronic filing are detailed in the Court's
 18 operative General Order Re Mandatory Electronic Filing for Civil, available online at
 19 www.lacourt.org (link on homepage).

20 **SERVICE OF SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT**

21 3. Plaintiff(s) shall serve the summons and complaint in this action upon defendant(s) as soon
 22 as possible but no later than three years from the date when the complaint is filed (C.C.P. § 583.210,
 23 subd. (a)). On the OSC re Dismissal date noted above, the PI Court will dismiss the action and/or all
 24 unserved parties unless the plaintiff(s) show cause why the action or the unserved parties should not
 25 be dismissed (C.C.P. §§ 583.250; 581(b)(4)).

26 4. The Court sets the above Trial and Final Status Conference ("FSC") dates on the condition
 27 that plaintiff(s) effectuate service on defendant(s) of summons and complaint within six months of
 28 filing the complaint.

1 5. The PI Court will dismiss the case without prejudice, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure
2 section 581, when no party appears for trial.

3 **STIPULATIONS TO CONTINUE TRIAL**

4 6. Provided that all parties agree (and there is no violation of the "five-year rule" (C.C.P. §
5 583.310)), the parties may advance or continue any trial date in the PI Courts without showing good
6 cause or articulating any reason or justification for the change as set forth below. To continue or
7 advance a trial date, the parties (or their counsel of record) should jointly execute and file a Stipulation
8 to Continue Trial, FSC and Related Motion/Discovery Dates (form LACIV AV-242, available on the
9 court's website, Personal Injury Court link or at the civil clerk's window of the Michael Antonovich
10 Courthouse. Parties shall use the Stipulation that is specific to the North District/Michael Antonovich
11 Courthouse). Parties may submit a maximum of two stipulations to continue trial for a total
12 continuance of six months. Subsequent requests to continue trial will only be granted upon a showing
13 of good cause, by ex parte application or noticed motion. This rule is retroactive so that any
14 previously granted stipulation to continue trial will count toward the maximum number of allowed
15 continuances. The PI Courts schedule FSCs at 8:30 a.m., on a Wednesday (or other day) that is
16 generally seven court days before the trial date. Parties seeking to continue the trial and FSC dates
17 shall file the stipulation at least eight court days before the FSC date. Parties seeking to advance the
18 trial and FSC dates shall file the stipulation at least eight court days before the proposed advanced
19 FSC date (C.C.P. § 595.2; Govt. Code § 70617, subd. (c)(2)). In selecting a new trial date, parties
20 shall select any Friday.

21 **NO CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES**

22 7. The PI Courts do not conduct case management conferences. The parties need not file a Case
23 Management Statement.

24 **LAW AND MOTION**

25 8. Any and all electronically-filed documents must be text searchable and bookmarked (*see*
26 operative general order re mandatory electronic filing in civil).

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1 COURTESY COPIES NOT REQUIRED

2 9. Courtesy copies of briefs are not required in the North District/Michael Antonovich Civil
3 Courts.

4 RESERVATION OF HEARING DATE

5 10. Parties are directed to reserve hearing dates for motions in the PI Courts using the Court
6 Reservation System (CRS) available online at www.lacourt.org (link on homepage). After reserving
7 a motion hearing date, the reservation requestor must submit the papers for filing with the reservation
8 receipt number printed on the face page of the document under the caption and attach the reservation
9 receipt as the last page. Parties or counsel who are unable to utilize the online CRS may reserve a
10 motion hearing date by calling the assigned PI Court courtroom.

11 WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION

12 11. California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1304(b) requires a moving party to notify the court
13 immediately if a matter will not be heard on the scheduled date. In keeping with that rule, parties
14 must comply with Code of Civil Procedure section 472(a) with regard to the amending of pleadings
15 related to demurrers or motions to strike so that the judges do not needlessly prepare tentative rulings
16 for these matters.

17 DISCOVERY MOTIONS

18 12. At this time, Informal Discovery conferences are not available in the North District
19 Civil courts due to the high volume of cases handled by these courts.

20 EX PARTE APPLICATIONS

21 13. Under the California Rules of Court, courts may only grant ex parte relief upon a showing, by
22 admissible evidence, that the moving party will suffer “irreparable harm,” “immediate danger,” or
23 where the moving party identifies “a statutory basis for granting relief ex parte” (C.R.C. Rule
24 3.1202(c)). The North District Civil courts have no capacity to hear multiple ex parte applications or
25 to shorten time to add a hearing to their fully booked motion calendars. The North District Civil
26 courts do not regard the Court’s unavailability for timely motion hearings as an “immediate danger”
27 or threat of “irreparable harm” justifying ex parte relief. Instead of seeking ex parte relief, counsel
28 should reserve the earliest available motion hearing date, even if it is after the scheduled trial date,

1 and counsel should then file a motion to continue trial. Counsel should also check the Court
2 Reservation System from time to time because earlier hearing dates may become available as cases
3 settle or counsel otherwise take hearings off calendar.

4 **GENERAL ORDER – FINAL STATUS CONFERENCE**

5 14. Parties shall comply with the requirements of the PI Courts' "Standing Order – Re: Final
6 Status Conference, Personal Injury Court" which shall be served with the summons and complaint.

7 **JURY FEES**

8 15. Parties must pay jury fees no later than 365 calendar days after the filing of the initial
9 complaint (C.C.P. § 631, subd. (c)(2)).


10 **JURY TRIALS**

11 16. The North District Civil courts may conduct jury trials on personal injury cases or may
12 transfer the case to the Department One at Stanley Mosk Courthouse on the day of trial. Department
13 One will then assign the case for trial to a dedicated trial court.

14 **SANCTIONS**

15 17. The Court has discretion to impose sanctions for any violation of this Order (C.C.P. §§ 128.7,
16 187 and Gov. Code, § 68608, subd. (b)).

17
18
19 Dated: September 26, 2019



SAMANTHA P. JESSNER
Supervising Judge, Civil
Los Angeles Superior Court