

FEB 24 2020

Sherril R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk  
By [Signature] Deputy  
Corina Albino

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

IN RE PERSONAL INJURY ) CASE NO.:  
COURT ("PI COURT") PROCEDURES )  
SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE ) FIRST AMENDED STANDING ORDER  
(EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2020) ) RE: PERSONAL INJURY PROCEDURES  
 ) AT THE SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

**ALL HEARINGS ARE SET IN THE DEPARTMENT AS  
REFLECTED IN THE NOTICE OF CASE ASSIGNMENT**

**FINAL STATUS CONFERENCE:**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AT 10:00 A.M.

**TRIAL:**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AT 8:30 A.M.

**OSC RE DISMISSAL  
(CODE CIV. PROC., § 583.210):**

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 Rules"), the Los Angeles Superior Court ("LASC" or "Court") HEREBY AMENDS AND SUPERSEDES THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 STANDING ORDER AND, GENERALLY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS IN THIS AND ALL OTHER GENERAL JURISDICTION PERSONAL INJURY ("PI") ACTIONS FILED IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT.

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1. To ensure proper assignment to a PI Court, plaintiff(s) must carefully fill out the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum (form LACIV 109). The Court defines “personal injury” as: “an unlimited civil case described on the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum and Statement of Location (LACIV 109) as Motor Vehicle-Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death; Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death-Uninsured Motorist; Product Liability (other than asbestos or toxic/environmental); Medical Malpractice-Physicians & Surgeons; Other Professional Health Care Malpractice; Premises Liability; Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death; or Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death. An action for intentional infliction of emotional distress, defamation, civil rights/discrimination, or malpractice (other than medical malpractice), is not included in this definition. An action for injury to real property is not included in this definition” (Local Rule 2.3(a)(1) (A)).

Consistent with Local Rule 2.3(a)(1)(A), the Court will assign a case to the PI Courts if plaintiff(s) checks any of the following boxes in the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum:

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

The Court will not assign cases to the PI Courts if plaintiff(s) checks any boxes elsewhere in the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum (any boxes on pages two and three of that form).

The Court sets the above dates in this action in the PI Court as reflected in the Notice of Case Assignment at the Spring Street Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA

1 90012 (C.R.C. Rules 3.714(b)(3), 3.729).

2 **FILING OF DOCUMENTS**

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

8 **SERVICE OF SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT**

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

14 4. The Court sets the above trial and final status conference ("FSC") dates on the condition  
15 that plaintiff(s) effectuate service on defendant(s) of the summons and complaint within six  
16 months of filing the complaint.

17 5. The PI Court will dismiss the case without prejudice pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure  
18 § 581 when no party appears for trial.

19 **STIPULATIONS TO CONTINUE TRIAL**

20 6. Provided that all parties agree (and there is no violation of the "five-year rule" (C.C.P.  
21 § 583.310)), the parties may advance or continue any trial date in the PI Courts without showing  
22 good cause or articulating any reason or justification for the change. To continue or advance a  
23 trial date, the parties (or their counsel of record) should jointly execute and submit a Stipulation  
24 to Continue Trial, FSC and Related Motion/Discovery Dates (form LACIV CTRL-242, available  
25 on the court's website, Personal Injury Court link). The PI Courts schedule FSCs at 10:00 a.m.,  
26 eight court days before the trial date. Parties seeking to continue the trial and FSC dates shall  
27 file the stipulation at least eight court days before the FSC date. Parties seeking to advance the  
28 trial and FSC dates shall file the stipulation at least eight court days before the proposed advanced

1 FSC date (C.C.P. § 595.2; Govt. Code § 70617, subd. (c)(2)). In selecting a new trial date,  
2 parties should avoid setting on any Monday, or the Tuesday following a court holiday. Parties  
3 may submit a maximum of two stipulations to continue trial, for a total continuance of six  
4 months. Subsequent requests to continue trial will be granted upon a showing of good cause by  
5 noticed motion. This rule is retroactive so that any previously granted stipulation to continue  
6 trial will count toward the maximum number of allowed continuances.

#### 7 **NO CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES**

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

#### 10 **LAW AND MOTION**

11 8. Any and all electronically-filed documents must be text searchable and bookmarked.  
12 (*See* operative General Order re Mandatory Electronic Filing in Civil).

#### 13 **COURTESY COPIES REQUIRED**

14 9. Pursuant to the operative General Order re Mandatory Electronic Filing, courtesy  
15 copies of certain documents must be submitted directly to the PI Court courtrooms at the  
16 Spring Street Courthouse. The PI Courts also strongly encourage the parties filing and  
17 opposing lengthy motions, such as motions for summary judgment/adjudication, to submit one  
18 or more three-ring binders organizing the courtesy copy behind tabs. Any courtesy copies of  
19 documents with declarations and/or exhibits must be tabbed (C.R.C. Rule 3.1110(f)). All  
20 deposition excerpts referenced in briefs must be marked on the transcripts attached as exhibits  
21 (C.R.C. Rule 3.1116(c)).

#### 22 **RESERVATION HEARING DATE**

23 10. Parties must reserve hearing dates for motions in the PI Courts using the Court  
24 Reservation System (CRS) available online at [www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org) (link on homepage). After  
25 reserving a motion hearing date, the reservation requestor must submit the papers for filing with  
26 the reservation receipt number printed on the face page of the document under the caption and  
27 attach the reservation receipt as the last page. Parties or counsel who are unable to utilize the  
28 online CRS may reserve a motion hearing date by calling the PI courtroom, Monday through

1 Friday, between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

2 **WITHDRAWAL OF MOTIONS**

3 11. California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1304(b) requires a moving party to notify the court  
4 immediately if a matter will not be heard on the scheduled date. In keeping with that rule, the  
5 PI Courts require parties to comply with Code of Civil Procedure section 472(a) with regard to  
6 the amending of pleadings related to demurrers or motions to strike so that the PI Courts do not  
7 needlessly prepare tentative rulings for these matters.

8 **DISCOVERY MOTIONS**

9 12. The purpose of an Informal Discovery Conference (“IDC”) is to assist the parties to  
10 resolve and/or narrow the scope of discovery disputes. Lead trial counsel on each side, or another  
11 attorney with full authority to make binding agreements, must attend in person. The PI judges  
12 have found that, in nearly every case, the parties amicably resolve disputes with the assistance  
13 of the Court.

14 13. Parties **must** participate in an IDC **before** a Motion to Compel Further Responses to  
15 Discovery will be heard unless the moving party submits evidence, by way of declaration, that  
16 the opposing party has failed or refused to participate in an IDC. Scheduling or participating in  
17 an IDC does not automatically extend any deadlines imposed by the Code of Civil Procedure for  
18 noticing and filing discovery motions. Ideally, the parties should participate in an IDC before a  
19 motion is filed because the IDC may avoid the necessity of a motion or reduce its scope. Because  
20 of that possibility, attorneys are encouraged to stipulate to extend the 45 (or 60) day deadline for  
21 filing a motion to compel further discovery responses in order to allow time to participate in an  
22 IDC.

23 If parties do not stipulate to extend the deadlines, the moving party may file the motion  
24 to avoid it being deemed untimely. However, the IDC must take place before the motion is  
25 heard so it is suggested that the moving party reserve a date for the motion hearing that is at least  
26 60 days after the date when the IDC reservation is made. Motions to Compel Further Discovery  
27 Responses are heard at 10:00 a.m. If the IDC is not productive, the moving party may advance  
28 the hearing on a Motion to Compel Further Discovery Responses on any available hearing date

1 that complies with the notice requirements of the Code of Civil Procedure.

2 14. Parties must reserve IDC dates in the PI Courts using CRS, which is available online at  
3 [www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org) (link on homepage). Parties must meet and confer regarding the available dates  
4 in CRS prior to accessing the system. After reserving the IDC date, the reservation requestor  
5 must file and serve an Informal Discovery Conference Form for Personal Injury Courts (form  
6 LACIV 239) at least 15 court days prior to the conference and attach the CRS reservation receipt  
7 as the last page. The opposing party may file and serve a responsive IDC form, briefly setting  
8 forth that party's response, at least ten court days prior to the IDC.

9 15. Time permitting, the PI Hub judges may be available to participate in IDCs to try to  
10 resolve other types of discovery disputes.

### 11 **EX PARTE APPLICATIONS**

12 16. Under the California Rules of Court, courts may only grant *ex parte* relief upon a  
13 showing, by admissible evidence, that the moving party will suffer "irreparable harm,"  
14 "immediate danger," or where the moving party identifies "a statutory basis for granting relief  
15 *ex parte*" (C.R.C. Rule 3.1202(c)). The PI Courts have no capacity to hear multiple *ex parte*  
16 applications or to shorten time to add hearings to their fully booked motion calendars. The PI  
17 Courts do not regard the Court's unavailability for timely motion hearings as an "immediate  
18 danger" or threat of "irreparable harm" justifying *ex parte* relief. Instead of seeking *ex parte*  
19 relief, the moving party should reserve the earliest available motion hearing date (even if it is  
20 after the scheduled trial date) and file a motion to continue trial. Parties should also check  
21 CRS from time to time because earlier hearing dates may become available as cases settle or  
22 hearings are taken off calendar.

### 23 **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER TO INDEPENDENT CALENDAR DEPARTMENT**

24 17. Parties seeking to transfer a case from a PI Court to an Independent Calendar ("IC")  
25 Court shall file and serve the Court's "Motion/Opposition/Stipulation to Transfer Complicated  
26 Personal Injury Case to Independent Calendar Court" (form LACIV 238, available on the Court's  
27 website under the PI Courts link). The PI Courts will transfer a matter to an IC Court if the case  
28 is not a "Personal Injury" case as defined in this Order, or if it is "complicated." In determining

1 whether a personal injury case is “complicated” the PI Courts will consider, among other things,  
2 the number of pretrial hearings or the complexity of issues presented.

3 18. Parties opposing a motion to transfer have five court days to file an Opposition (using  
4 the same LACIV 238 Motion to Transfer form).

5 19. The PI Courts will not conduct a hearing on any Motion to Transfer to IC Court. Although  
6 the parties may stipulate to transfer a case to an Independent Calendar Department, the PI Courts  
7 will make an independent determination whether to transfer the case or not.

#### 8 **FINAL STATUS CONFERENCE**

9 20. Parties shall comply with the requirements of the PI Courts’ operative Standing Order  
10 Re Final Status Conference, which shall be served with the summons and complaint.

#### 11 **JURY FEES**

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


#### 14 **JURY TRIALS**

15 22. The PI Courts do not conduct jury trials. On the trial date, a PI Court will contact the  
16 Master Calendar Court, Department One, in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Department One  
17 will assign cases for trial to dedicated Civil Trial Courtrooms and designated Criminal  
18 Courtrooms.

#### 19 **SANCTIONS**

20 23. The Court has discretion to impose sanctions for any violation of this general order  
21 (C.C.P. §§ 128.7, 187 and Gov. Code, § 68608, subd. (b)).

22  
23  
24 Dated: Feb. 24, 2020

  
25 SAMANTHA P. JESSNER  
26 Supervising Judge of Civil Courts  
27  
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