

**IN THE STATE COURT OF TIFT COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

_____ ,	§	
<b>Plaintiff(s),</b>	§	
	§	
v.	§	<b>Civil Action File No.</b> _____
	§	
_____ ,	§	
<b>Defendant(s).</b>	§	

**CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER**

Pursuant to Judge Benson’s Standing Order, the parties conducted an early planning conference on \_\_\_\_\_, with the following counsel (and/or pro se parties) in attendance.

<b><u>Party</u></b>	<b><u>Counsel (name and email address)</u></b>

Parties not in attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

The parties having conferred in an effort to settle the case, discuss discovery limit issues, or discuss other matters addressed by this Case Management Order (“CMO”).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- **DISCOVERY** (including, but not limited to, written discovery, depositions, and any expert discovery) commenced on \_\_\_\_\_ pursuant to USCR 5.1 and shall close on \_\_\_\_\_.

*[Guideline: Personal Injury – 6 months; Complex Personal Injury (including Wrongful Death) – 12 months; Medical Malpractice – 12 months; Complex Medical Malpractice (including Wrongful Death) – 18 months; Contract – 6 months; Complex Contract – 12 months; Other – 6 months (12 months if Complex)]*

Basis for any departure from the guideline or for “complex” designation:<sup>1</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- **EXPERT DISCOVERY** (if applicable): **All expert discovery must be completed by the above discovery deadline.** The plaintiff(s) shall identify experts that are expected to testify at trial no later than \_\_\_\_\_. Discovery depositions of all experts identified by the plaintiff(s) shall be completed no later than \_\_\_\_\_. The defendant(s) shall identify experts that are expected to testify at trial no later than \_\_\_\_\_. Discovery depositions of all experts identified by the defendant(s) shall be completed no later than \_\_\_\_\_. The parties shall disclose any rebuttal experts within 45 days of the conclusion of the deposition of the expert to be rebutted, but no later than \_\_\_\_\_, and shall make any rebuttal experts available for deposition no later than \_\_\_\_\_.
- **MEDIATION** shall be completed no later than \_\_\_\_\_ (90 days after the close of discovery). Mediation may be conducted: (1) virtually; (2) in-person; or (3) a combination of in-person and virtual presence.

In all cases, all parties shall appear in such a way that everyone can be heard and seen to participate in this mediation to make a good faith effort to resolve the issues involved in the case. In the event the name parties and counsel do not have full settlement authority, those entities who do have authority shall attend the mediation along with parties and counsel.

---

<sup>1</sup> Complex cases involve large number of parties, large number of claims and defenses, highly technical and exceptionally complex issues and proof, multiple experts, greater than normal amount of documents and evidence (including electronically-stored information), problems locating and preserving documents and evidence (including electronically-stored information), and extensive discovery outside the State of Georgia.

The parties may contact Melissa Hughes, the Tift County Alternate Dispute Resolution Director, at [melissa.hughes@tiftcounty.org](mailto:melissa.hughes@tiftcounty.org) or (229) 386-7827 or the parties may select a mutually agreed upon private mediator, and arrange for mediation to take place prior to the deadline set forth above.

- **DISPOSITIVE** and/or **RULE 702 MOTIONS** shall be filed no later than forty-five (45) days after the close of discovery. Prior to filing any Rule 702 motion, the parties shall meet and confer in a good faith effort to resolve the evidentiary issue(s).
- **TRIAL BY JURY** shall be set by placement on the Court's Civil Jury Trial calendar approximately ninety (90) days after the close of discovery (if no motions pending) or on the next civil trial calendar after the Court's order on any dispositive and/or Rule 702 motions. The request a special setting, the parties shall contact the Judge Benson's Administrative Assistant, Suzanne Griffin, and state the basis for the request no later than the close of discovery. If the parties agree, the Court is available to try this case as a bench trial.

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

---

The Honorable Herbert W. Benson  
Judge, State Court of Tift County

Submitted by:

Plaintiff(s) Counsel

---

---

---

Defendant(s) Counsel

---

---

---