

**STANDING PRETRIAL ORDER FOR DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES**  
**Of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit**

**1. DISCOVERY**

Furnish the Court and opposing counsel with a copy of client's Domestic Relations Financial Statement prior to start of trial, which should include available back-up documents such as deeds, NADA book pages, current account statements, etc.

Exchange personal property lists at least 10 days prior to trial, to include

- (a) Items owned before marriage, inherited or gifts to a party; and
- (b) Items acquired during marriage and desired division (including an estimate of the fair market value of each item). At the start of the trial, the Court is to be provided a list of all items of personal property that remain in dispute for Court to divide (after comparing respective parties' list).

**2. MOTIONS**

**Always contact opposing counsel before filing motions to compel discovery. Discuss any problem in meeting deadlines with opposing counsel before deadlines expire.**

Motions for contempt should not be filed lightly, nor for every violation of an order. Try to resolve the problem between counsel prior to filing a motion, and then only file if it is important enough to involve the Court and warrant possible sanctions.

Every motion filed requesting a continuance shall include a certification that the attorney filing the motion has personally contacted opposing counsel, and whether the motion is opposed or not by opposing counsel.

The Court is available to discuss legal issues by scheduled appointment but only with both counsel present. The Court feels that it is better to resolve cases by agreement as early in the case as possible.

**3. EXHIBITS**

Copy and mark exhibits prior to trial and prepare exhibit list. Have a copy of all exhibits (except photographs) to furnish opposing counsel at trial. Furnish copy of exhibit list to Court, Court Reporter, and opposing counsel prior to start of trial.

**4. WITNESSES and EXPERT WITNESSES**

Disclose expert witnesses to opposing counsel at least 30 days prior to trial date, giving name, address, substance of testimony and copy of any records, documents, and/or exhibits intended to be introduced at trial through the expert. If not disclosed, the expert witness is subject to being precluded from testifying.

The Court will attempt to accommodate professional and expert witnesses' schedules as much as possible (e.g., if possible, educators should be scheduled after school.)

All attorneys and parties will be expected to display candor, respect and civility at all times towards all involved, including opposing counsel, parties and witnesses.

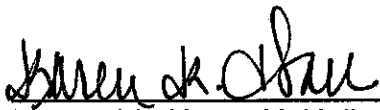
## 5. MEDIATION

Mediation is recommended by the Court, and should be held as early in the case as possible. Cases will not be continued for mediation.

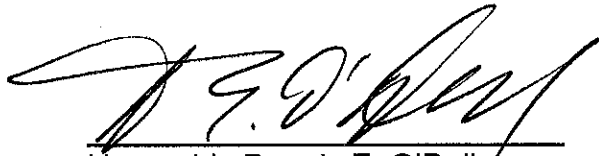
## 6. EVALUATION OF CHILDREN

If a parent and/or the child(ren) are to be evaluated by a counselor and/or psychologist, the Court would suggest that counsel attempt to agree upon an expert/provider, so that unnecessary expenses can be avoided. An independent evaluation is usually more helpful to the Court than each party hiring separate experts.

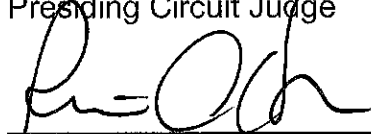
Done this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.



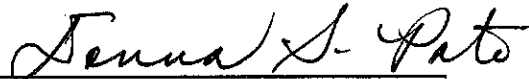
Honorable Karen K. Hall  
Presiding Circuit Judge



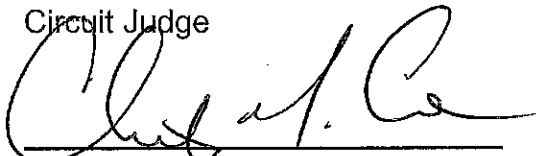
Honorable Dennis E. O'Dell  
Circuit Judge



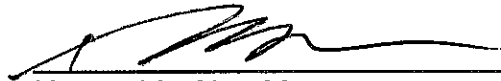
Honorable Ruth Ann Hall  
Circuit Judge



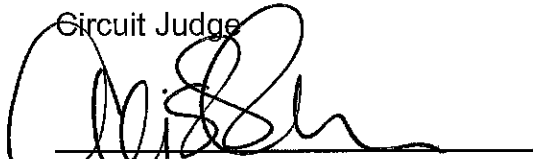
Honorable Donna Pate  
Circuit Judge



Honorable Chris Comer  
Circuit Judge



Honorable Alan Mann  
Circuit Judge



Honorable Alison Austin  
Circuit Judge