

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

PAMELA M. GIBSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

PRELIMINARY PRETRIAL
CONFERENCE ORDER

10-cv-246-bbc

On August 11, 2010, this court held a telephonic pretrial conference. Both sides were represented by counsel.

This is an ERISA appeal involving long-term disability benefits. Under advisal to the court is defendant's motion to transfer to the District of Minnesota, which is in the Sixth Circuit. In order to get a ruling to the parties before any dispositive motions are filed, we set the summary judgment motion deadline to October 28, 2010. The parties should advise the court if they choose to deviate from the usual one motion, three-brief practice of this court. The deadline to amend the pleadings is October 1, 2010. The parties had no other substantive matters to bring to the court's attention.

Entered this 13th day of August, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER
Magistrate Judge

MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING OF ALL COURT DOCUMENTS

Electronic Case Filing is the standard way of doing business with the District Court in the Western District of Wisconsin. Effective January 22, 2008, electronic filing is mandatory in all civil and criminal case pending the newly filed.

Information on electronic filing and the court's administrative procedures are available on our website: www.wiwd.uscourts.gov under CM/ECF News. Resources include Administrative Procedures, Frequently Asked Questions, User Manual, and contact information.

Each lawyer must complete and sign a Lawyer Registration Form, which can be accessed at <http://attorneyreg.wiwd.uscourts.gov> The registration form requires the Filing User's name, address, telephone number, and Internet e-mail address. Upon completion of the electronic registration form, the lawyer prints a copy, signs the form and mails it to the clerk's office. The clerk's office will retain this signed registration on file. To ensure that the clerk's office has correctly entered a registering lawyer's e-mail address in the System, the clerk's office will send the lawyer an e-mail message which will include a login and password.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR FILING
A SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTION
IN CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE BARBARA B. CRABB

Please read the attached directions carefully – doing so will save your time and the court's.

REMEMBER:

1. All facts necessary to sustain a party's position on a motion for summary judgment must be explicitly proposed as findings of fact. This includes facts establishing jurisdiction. (Think of your proposed findings of fact as telling a story to someone who knows nothing of the controversy.)

2. The court will not search the record for factual evidence. Even if there is evidence in the record to support your position on summary judgment, if you do not propose a finding of fact with the proper citation, the court will not consider that evidence when deciding the motion.

3. A fact properly proposed by one side will be accepted by the court as undisputed unless the other side properly responds to the proposed fact and establishes that it is in dispute.

4. Your brief is the place to make your legal argument, not to restate the facts. When you finish it, check it over with a fine tooth comb to be sure you haven't relied upon or assumed any facts in making your legal argument that you failed to include in the separate document setting out your proposed findings of fact.

5. A chart listing the documents to be filed by the deadlines set by the court for briefing motions for summary judgment or cross-motions for summary judgment is printed on the last page of the procedures.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED ON MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

I. MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A. Contents:

1. A motion, together with such materials permitted by Rule 56(e) as the moving party may wish to serve and file; and
2. In a separate document, a statement of proposed findings of fact or a stipulation of fact between or among the parties to the action, or both; and
3. Evidentiary materials (see I.C.); and
4. A supporting brief.

B. Rules Regarding Proposed Findings of Fact:

1. Each fact must be proposed in a separate, numbered paragraph, limited as nearly as possible to a single factual proposition.
2. Each factual proposition must be followed by a reference to evidence supporting the proposed fact. For example,

“1. Plaintiff Smith bought six Holstein calves on July 11, 2006.
Harold Smith Affidavit, Jan. 6, 2007, p.1, ¶ 3.”

3. The statement of proposed findings of fact shall include ALL factual propositions the moving party considers necessary for judgment in the party's favor. For example, the proposed findings shall include factual statements relating to jurisdiction, the identity of the parties, the dispute, and the context of the dispute.
4. The court will not consider facts contained only in a brief.

C. Evidence

1. As noted in I.B. above, each proposed finding must be supported by admissible evidence. The court will not search the record for evidence. To support a proposed fact, you may use:
 - a. Depositions. Give the name of the witness, the date of the deposition, and page of the transcript of cited deposition testimony;
 - b. Answers to Interrogatories. State the number of the interrogatory and the party answering it;
 - c. Admissions made pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 36. (state the number of the requested admission and the identity of the parties to whom it was directed); or
 - d. Other Admissions. The identity of the document, the number of the page, and paragraph of the document in which that admission is made.
 - e. Affidavits. The page and paragraph number, the name of the affiant, and the date of the affidavit. (Affidavits must be made by persons who have first hand knowledge and must show that the person making the affidavit is in a position to testify about those facts.)
 - f. Documentary evidence that is shown to be true and correct, either by an affidavit or by stipulation of the parties. (State exhibit number, page and paragraph.)

II. RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A. Contents:

1. A response to the moving party's proposed finding of fact; and
2. A brief in opposition to the motion for summary judgment; and
3. Evidentiary materials (See I.C.)

B. In addition to responding to the moving party's proposed facts, a responding party may propose its own findings of fact following the procedure in section I.B. and C. above.

1. A responding party should file additional proposed findings of fact if it needs them to defeat the motion for summary judgment.

2. The purpose of additional proposed findings of fact is to SUPPLEMENT the moving party's proposed findings of fact, not to dispute any facts proposed by the moving party. They do not take the place of responses. Even if the responding party files additional proposed findings of fact, it MUST file a separate response to the moving party's proposed findings of fact.
- C. Unless the responding party puts into dispute a fact proposed by the moving party, the court will conclude that the fact is undisputed.
- D. Rules Regarding Responses to the Moving Party's Proposed Factual Statements:
 1. Answer each numbered fact proposed by the moving party in separate paragraphs, using the same number.
 2. If you dispute a proposed fact, state your version of the fact and refer to evidence that supports that version. For example,

Moving party proposes as a fact:

"1. Plaintiff Smith purchased six Holstein calves from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006. Harold Smith Affidavit, Jan. 6, 2007, p.1, ¶ 3."

Responding party responds:

"1. Dispute. The purchase Smith made from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006 was for one Black Angus bull John Dell Affidavit, Feb. 1, 2007, Exh. A."

3. The court prefers but does not require that the responding party repeat verbatim the moving party's proposed fact and then respond to it. Using this format for the example above would lead to this response by the responding party:

"1. *Plaintiff Smith purchased six Holstein calves from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006. Harold Smith Affidavit, Jan. 6, 2007, p.1, ¶ 3.*

"**Dispute.** The purchase Smith made from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006 was for one Black Angus bull." John Dell Affidavit, Feb. 1, 2007, Exh. A."

4. When a responding party disputes a proposed finding of fact, the response must be limited to those facts necessary to raise a dispute. The court will disregard any new facts that are not directly responsive to the proposed fact. If a responding party believes that more facts are necessary to tell its story, it should include them in its own proposed facts, as discussed in II.B.

E. Evidence

1. Each fact proposed in disputing a moving party's proposed factual statement and all additional facts proposed by the responding party must be supported by admissible evidence. The court will not search the record for evidence. To support a proposed fact, you may use evidence as described in Procedure I.C.1. a. through f.
2. The court will not consider any factual propositions made in response to the moving party's proposed facts that are not supported properly and sufficiently by admissible evidence.

III. REPLY BY MOVING PARTY

A. Contents:

1. An answer to each numbered factual statement made by the responding party in response to the moving party's proposed findings of fact, together with references to evidentiary materials; and
 2. An answer to each additional numbered factual statement proposed by the responding party under Procedure II.B., if any, together with references to evidentiary materials; and
 3. A reply brief; and
 4. Evidentiary materials (see I.C.)
- B. If the responding party has filed additional proposed findings of fact, the moving party should file its response to those proposed facts at the same time as its reply, following the procedure in section II.
- C. When the moving party answers the responding party's responses to the moving party's original proposed findings of fact, and answers the responding party's additional proposed findings of fact, the court prefers but does not require that the moving party repeat verbatim the entire sequence associated with each proposed finding of fact so that reply is a self-contained history of all proposed facts, responses and replies by all parties.

IV. SUR-REPLY BY RESPONDING PARTY

A responding party shall not file a sur-reply without first obtaining permission from the court. The court only permits sur-replies in rare, unusual situations.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Deadline 1 (All deadlines appear in the Preliminary Pretrial Conference Order Sent to the Parties Earlier)	Deadline 2	Deadline 3
moving party's motion		
moving party's brief	non-moving party's response brief	moving party's reply brief
moving party's proposed findings of fact	non-moving party's response to moving party's proposed findings of fact	moving party's reply to non-moving party's response to moving party's proposed findings of fact
	non-moving party's additional proposed findings of fact	moving party's response to non-moving party's additional proposed findings of fact, if any.

CROSS MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Deadline 1 (All deadlines appear in the Preliminary Pretrial Conference Order Sent to the Parties Earlier)	Deadline 2	Deadline 3
defendant's motion		
defendant's brief	plaintiff's response brief	defendant's reply brief
defendant's proposed findings of fact	plaintiff's response to defendant's proposed findings of fact	defendant's reply to plaintiff's response to defendant's proposed findings of fact
plaintiff's motion		
plaintiff's brief	defendant's response brief	plaintiff's reply brief
plaintiff's proposed findings of fact	defendant's response to plaintiff's proposed findings of fact	plaintiff's reply to defendant's response to plaintiff's proposed findings of fact