

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

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ANN AUSTIN,

Plaintiff,

v.

FARMERS INSURANCE,

Defendant.

PRELIMINARY PRETRIAL  
CONFERENCE ORDER

12-cv-435-bbc

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This court held a recorded telephonic preliminary pretrial conference in this case on April 25, 2011. Plaintiff is representing herself and appeared without an attorney. Defendant appeared by Jane Cuthbert and Matthew Rosen. The court set the schedule and discussed with the parties how this case will go forward.

**Read this whole order NOW**

This federal civil lawsuit is a serious matter. As a party to a federal civil lawsuit, it is your duty to understand what you are supposed to do and when you are supposed to do it. To help you, this order explains what your duties are and what your deadlines are. This court has a number of rules that you must follow. It will not be easy to do everything that you are supposed to do, and you will not have a lot of time. Therefore, it is important for you to read this order now so that you can do things the right way.

**Review the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure**

The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are the rules that control much of what happens in this lawsuit. Not all of those rules will be important in your case, but some of them will be very important, particularly the rule about summary judgment and the rules about discovery. It is your duty to know the rules of procedure that apply to you in this case. This court cannot

provide you with a copy of the rules of procedure. You will have to find your own copy of the rules to review.

The Federal Rules of Evidence could be important later in this lawsuit. The rules of evidence affect the parties' submissions for summary judgment motions. Also, if this case goes all the way to trial, the rules of evidence will affect how the evidence is presented at trial. It is your duty know the rules of evidence that apply to you in this case. This court cannot provide you with a copy of the rules of evidence. You will have to find your own copy of the rules to review.

### **Service of documents on your opponent**

Every letter, motion, brief, exhibit, or other document that you file with the court in this lawsuit must be served on your opponent at the same time. This means that whenever you mail a document to the court, you also must mail a copy of that document to your opponent at the same time. In order to prove that they have been served, you must **certify service** by including with each submission to the court a sentence at the end of your document, or on a separate piece of paper, in which you swear or certify that you sent a copy through the mail with proper postage to your opponent's lawyer. If you do not serve your documents on your opponent and if you do not certify service, then this court will not look at your documents. If you think you will have trouble making copies, then you should think about this ahead of time and follow the directions in the next section about copying.

## Scheduling

### **1. Disclosure of Expert Witnesses: Plaintiff: October 18, 2013**

**Defendant: December 20, 2013**

Because expert witnesses are different from other witnesses, there is a special rule telling how plaintiffs and defendants must name their experts and explain what those experts are going to say at trial. That rule is Rule 26(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. If a party does not follow the requirements of Rule 26(a)(2) by his (or her) deadline to disclose expert witnesses, then this court will not allow that expert witness to present evidence in this case.

Physicians, nurses and other similar care givers who will be offering evidence only about what they did, and who will not be offering new expert opinions, must be named as experts by the deadlines set forth above, but these types of witnesses do not have to prepare written reports for this lawsuit.

This court does not have any money to help plaintiff hire an expert witness. This court does not have any lists or other information that would help plaintiff or defendants locate or contact an expert witness. The parties are on their own and they should keep this in mind if they think they might want expert witnesses in this case. There is no extra time in the schedule to allow for extensions, so the parties should begin looking for expert witnesses right away if this type of witness might be important for summary judgment or for trial.

### **2. Deadline for Filing Dispositive Motions: January 13, 2014**

There are two kinds of dispositive motions: (1) motions to dismiss, and (2) motions for summary judgment. No one may file a dispositive motion after the deadline unless the court

grants permission. The court usually does not grant permission to file a late motion, so you must work hard on this case to meet the deadlines.

### **A) Motions To Dismiss**

Motions to dismiss usually do not require the parties to present evidence or to take discovery. If a defendant files a motion to dismiss, he (or she) must submit a supporting brief at the same time.

Plaintiff must file and serve her response to a motion to dismiss within 21 calendar days of service of the motion. The court starts counting these 21 days on the day the motion to dismiss is filed with the court. Any reply brief by the defendant must be filed and served within 10 calendar days of service of the response.

### **B) Motions for Summary Judgment**

Summary judgment is a way for plaintiff or defendants to win this lawsuit (or parts of it) before the trial. Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure explains how the parties must present their evidence and their legal arguments when they file or respond to a summary judgment motion. Rule 56 is important, so you should read it carefully, even before a summary judgment is filed, so that you can be ready for a summary judgment motion and then to do things correctly.

This court has a written set of rules that explains how to file a summary judgment motion and how to respond to your opponent's summary judgment motion. This "Procedure Governing Summary Judgment" is attached to this order and you should read it **now**. This will help you to understand how much work will be involved, and understand the parts that give plaintiffs trouble, like writing good responses to the defendants' proposed findings of fact.

Because it is very hard for a pro se plaintiff to prepare everything needed to respond to a summary judgment motion, the court will give you 30 calendar days to file every part of your response and to serve it on the defendant's attorney. The court will start counting your 30 day response deadline on the day that it receives defendant's motion for summary judgment. Any reply must be filed and served not later than 10 calendar days after service of the response.

**BE AWARE: you are not going to get an extension of this 30 day deadline.** The only way to get more time would be if you can convince the court that something totally unfair happened that actually prevented you from meeting your deadline, and this was completely somebody else's fault. Some things that might seem unfair to you are **not** reasons to get more time. For example, you will not get more time just because you claim that you did not have enough time or money to make copies. You will not get more time if you waited too long to get all the information you think you need to respond to the motion.

Also, if you do not follow the court's procedure for how to respond to summary judgment, then you will not get more time to do it over unless the court decides on its own that you should get a second chance.

**The only way to make sure that the court will consider your documents is to start early, do them right the first time, and file them and serve them on time. If you do not do things the way it says in Rule 56 and in the court's written summary judgment procedure, then the court will not consider your documents.**

A party may not file more than one motion for summary judgment in this case without first getting permission from the court.

### 3. Discovery Cutoff: June 20, 2014

“Discovery” is the word used in federal courts to describe how plaintiffs and defendants can learn information and get documents that are useful to deciding this lawsuit. Rules 26 through 37 and 45 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure explain how you may get information and documents from the defendants and how the defendants may get information and documents from you. You should read Rules 26 through 37 and 45 **now** so that you understand how this works, and so that you can begin taking discovery in this case.

The court expects both sides to follow Rules 26 through 37 and 45. You have no right to get information or documents to use in this case except in the way these rules say. For example Rule 26(b) says that you may discover evidence that is relevant to the claims or defenses in this lawsuit. You may not discover evidence that is not relevant. Rule 26(c) protects all parties from discovery requests that are annoying, oppressive, or too expensive or too much time to be worth it in this case. Defendants often object that discovery demands violate Rules 26(b) or 26(c), so it is important to make careful discovery requests that are aimed at getting the information and documents you really need for this lawsuit, and not aimed at getting other information and documents that you don’t really need.

Another reason that it is important to make careful discovery requests is because Rule 33(a) says that a party only may serve 25 interrogatories on his opponents. An interrogatory is a written question that you want the defendants to answer under oath. Even if you have lots of questions that you want the defendants to answer so that you can learn information about your claims, you cannot ask more than 25 questions unless the court gives you permission first.

This court usually does not give either side permission to ask more than 25 interrogatories. That means you must use your 25 interrogatories to ask the most important questions.

Sometimes the defendant does not object to a few extra interrogatories, and this court expects that the defendants and their attorney in their case will be reasonable. But the plaintiff should not count on obtaining answers to more than 25 interrogatories during this lawsuit.

Rule 34 allows you to ask a defendant to show you documents that are relevant to this lawsuit, but it does not require the defendant to make free photocopies of these documents for you. The court expects the defendant and its attorney to be reasonable when responding to document production requests. The best way for a plaintiff to obtain quick and complete disclosures from defendants is for the plaintiff to limit his document requests to the documents that he really needs to prepare his claims for summary judgment and for trial.

If the parties disagree about discovery requests, then this court would like them to try to work it out if they can do so quickly, but the court does not require this if it would be a waste of time. If either side thinks that the other side is not doing what it is supposed to do for discovery and they cannot work it out, then either the plaintiff or the defendant quickly should file a motion with the court. If the parties do not bring discovery problems to the court's attention quickly, then they cannot complain that they ran out of time to get information that they needed for summary judgment or for trial.

If a party files a motion to compel discovery, or to protect from discovery, or for some other discovery problem, that party also must submit at the same time his (or her) other documents that show why the court should grant the motion. If your opponent files a discovery

motion, you only have seven calendar days to file and to serve your written response. The court will not allow a reply brief on a discovery motion unless the court asks for one.

The court does not want the parties to file their discovery material with the court, except to support some other matter in this lawsuit, such as a summary judgment motion. Once a document or a copy of a document is in the court's file, no one has to file another copy, as long as the parties make it clear to the court where the court can find the document in the file.

A party need not file a deposition transcript with the court until that party is using the deposition in support of some other submission, at which time the entire deposition must be filed. All deposition transcripts must be in compressed format. The court will not accept duplicate transcripts. The parties must determine who will file each transcript.

#### **4. Final Pretrial Submissions and Disclosures: July 3, 2014**

##### **Responses: July 18, 2014**

The first date is the deadline to file and serve all Rule 26(a)(3) disclosures, as well as all motions in limine, proposed voir dire questions, proposed jury instructions, and proposed verdict forms. All responses in opposition are due by the second date. The format for submitting proposed voir dire questions, jury instructions and verdict forms is set forth in the Order Governing Final Pretrial Conference, which is attached.

*Note well: the parties also must submit courtesy copies of all these submissions to chambers.*



**5. Final Pretrial Conference: July 24, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.**

Any deposition that has not been filed with the Clerk of Court by the date of the final pretrial conference shall not be used by any party for any purpose at trial.

**6. Trial: July 28, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.**

The parties estimate that this case will take one to two days to try.

Trial shall be to a jury of seven and shall be bifurcated. This means that the parties will offer evidence and arguments only on the issue of liability, that is, whether plaintiff has proved his claims. If the jury find that the plaintiff has met his burden, then the parties will offer evidence and arguments on the issue of damages.

This case will be tried in an electronically equipped courtroom and the parties may present their evidence using this equipment. It is up to the parties and lawyers to check whether their personal electronic equipment works with the court's electronic equipment.

The parties must have all witnesses and other evidence ready and available to present at trial in order to prevent delay. If you are not ready with your witnesses or other evidence ready when it is your turn, then the court could end your presentation of evidence.

Entered this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER  
Magistrate Judge

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## HELPFUL TIPS FOR FILING A SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTION

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.

MEMORANDUM TO PRO SE LITIGANTS  
REGARDING SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTIONS

This court expects all litigants, including persons representing themselves, to follow this court's Procedures to be Followed on Motions for Summary Judgment. If a party does not follow the procedures, there will be no second chance to do so. Therefore, PAY ATTENTION to the following list of mistakes pro se plaintiffs tend to make when they oppose a defendant's motion for summary judgment:

- Problem: The plaintiff does not answer the defendant's proposed facts correctly.

Solution: To answer correctly, a plaintiff must file a document titled "Response to Defendant's Proposed Findings of Fact." In this document, the plaintiff must answer each numbered fact that the defendant proposes, using separate paragraphs that have the same numbers as defendant's paragraphs. See Procedure II.D. If plaintiff does not object to a fact that the defendant proposes, he should answer, "No dispute."

- Problem: The plaintiff submits his own set of proposed facts without answering the defendant's facts.

Solution: Procedure II.B. allows a plaintiff to file his own set of proposed facts in response to a defendant's motion ONLY if he thinks he needs additional facts to prove his claim.

- Problem: The plaintiff does not tell the court and the defendant where there is evidence in the record to support his version of a fact.

Solution: Plaintiff must pay attention to Procedure II.D.2., which tells him how to dispute a fact proposed by the defendant. Also, he should pay attention to Procedure I.B.2., which explains how a new proposed fact should be written.

- Problem: The plaintiff supports a fact with an exhibit that the court cannot accept as evidence because it is not authenticated.

Solution: Procedure I.C. explains what may be submitted as evidence. A copy of a document will not be accepted as evidence unless it is authenticated. That means that the plaintiff or someone else who has personal knowledge what the document is must declare under penalty of perjury in a separate affidavit that the document is a true and correct copy of what it appears to be. For example, if plaintiff wants to support a proposed fact with evidence that he received a conduct report, he must submit a copy of the conduct report, together with an affidavit in which he declares under penalty of perjury that the copy is a true and unaltered copy of the conduct report he received on such and such a date.

NOTE WELL: If a party fails to respond to a fact proposed by the opposing party, the court will accept the opposing party's proposed fact as undisputed. If a party's response to any proposed fact does not comply with the court's procedures or cites evidence that is not admissible, the court will take the opposing party's factual statement as true and undisputed. You'll find additional tips for making sure that your submissions comply with the court's procedures on page 8 of this packet.

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(c) 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. The citation must make it clear where in the record the evidence is located. If a party is citing an affidavit of a witness who has submitted multiple affidavits or the deposition of a witness who has been deposed multiple times, that party should include the date the cited document was filed with the court. For example,

1. Plaintiff Smith bought six Holstein calves on  
July 11, 2006. Harold Smith Affidavit, filed 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

<b>Deadline 1</b> (All deadlines appear in the Preliminary Pretrial Conference Order Sent to the Parties Earlier)	<b>Deadline 2</b>	<b>Deadline 3</b>
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

<b>Deadline 1</b> (All deadlines appear in the Preliminary Pretrial Conference Order Sent to the Parties Earlier)	<b>Deadline 2</b>	<b>Deadline 3</b>
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

## PROCEDURES GOVERNING FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

1 The preliminary pretrial conference order tells the parties what documents must be submitted for the final pretrial conference and what the deadlines are for submitting them.

2. The court's standard voir dire questions and standard jury instructions are attached to this order and will be asked in every case. The parties should not duplicate the standard questions or instructions.

3. A party must submit to the court an electronic copy of any proposed additional voir dire questions, proposed form of special verdict and proposed jury instructions in full electronic text (that is, not just by citation) by e-mailing them in a single document in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format to **wiwd\_bbc@wiwd.uscourts.gov**.

4. Proposed jury instructions shall be submitted in the following form:

- A. Pattern instructions are to be requested by reference to the source (e.g., court's standard instruction or Devitt & Blackmar, § 18.01); and
- B. Special instructions or pattern instructions, whether modified or not, must be presented double-spaced with one instruction per page, and each instruction shall show the identity of the submitting party, the number of the proposed instruction, and the citation of the pattern instruction, decision, statute, regulation or other authority supporting the proposition stated, with any additions underscored and any deletions set forth in parentheses. **The e-mail version of a party's proposed instructions must follow this format.**

5. The court retains the discretion to refuse to entertain voir dire questions, special verdict forms, or jury instructions not submitted in accordance with this order or the preliminary pretrial conference order unless the subject of the request is one arising during trial that could not reasonably have been anticipated prior to trial.

6. Each party shall be represented at the final pretrial conference by the lawyer who will actually try the case unless the party is proceeding pro se, in which case the pro se party must appear. A party represented by counsel shall also be present in person unless

- A. Counsel has been delegated the full authority to settle the case; or
- B. Attendance in person is impossible and arrangements are made for communication by telephone during the entire duration of the conference for the purpose of acting upon settlement proposals.

PROCEDURES FOR TRIAL EXHIBITS  
IN CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE CRABB

Before trial, the parties are to label all exhibits that may be offered at trial. Before the start of trial, the parties are to provide the deputy clerk with a list of all exhibits. Exhibits for use at trial are not subject to the electronic filing procedures, but are to be filed conventionally. Counsel are to retain the original exhibits following trial.

1. Each party is to label all exhibits.
2. If more than one defendant will be offering exhibits, that defendant should add an initial identifying the particular defendant to the label.
3. Each party is to submit a list of their exhibits. The party should state to whom the exhibits belong, the number of each exhibit and a brief description.
4. Each party is to provide the court with the original exhibit list and a copy of each exhibit that may be offered for the judge's use.
5. As a general rule, the plaintiff should use exhibit numbers 1-500 and the defendant should use exhibit numbers 501 and up.
6. Each party is to maintain custody of his or her own exhibits throughout the trial.
7. At the end of trial, each party is to retain all exhibits that become a part of the record. It is each party's responsibility to maintain his or her exhibits and to make arrangements with the clerk's office for inclusion of the exhibits in the appeal record, if there is an appeal.
8. Each party should be aware that once reference is made to an exhibit at trial, the exhibit becomes part of the record, even though the exhibit might not be formally offered or might not be received.

Any questions concerning these instructions may be directed to the clerk's office at (608) 264-5156.

Entered this 19th day of May, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

BARBARA B. CRABB  
District Judge



COURT'S STANDARD VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS  
IN CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE CRABB

1. Statement of the case. (A very brief, concise description of the plaintiff(s)' claims and the defendant(s)' defenses.)

Has any one of you ever heard of this case before today? How? When? When you heard about it, did you form any opinion concerning the case? Do you believe that your ability to serve impartially as a juror in this case has been affected by what you have heard about it?

2. The trial of this case will begin \_\_\_\_\_ and will last \_\_\_\_\_ days. Is there any one of you who would be unable to serve as a juror during this time?
3. Ask counsel to stand and tell the jury where they practice and with whom. Ask panel whether anyone knows counsel or their associates or partners.
4. Ask counsel to introduce the parties. Ask panel whether anyone knows any of the parties. (If any party is a corporation, have counsel identify the nature of the corporation's business, its major subsidiaries, or its parent corporation, and where it conducts business. Ask whether anyone on the panel is stockholder of corporation or has had business dealings with it.)
5. Question to each prospective juror.

Please stand up and tell us about yourself.

Name, age, and city or town of residence.

Marital status and number of children, if any.

Current occupation (former if retired).

Current (or former) occupation of your spouse or domestic partner.

Any military service, including branch, rank and approximate date of discharge.

How far you went in school and major areas of study, if any.

Memberships in any groups or organizations.

Hobbies and leisure-time activities.

Favorite types of reading material.

Favorite types of television shows.

6. Question to panel regarding prior experience with court proceedings:

- a. Have any of you ever been a party to a lawsuit? Describe circumstances.
- b. Have any of you ever been a witness in a lawsuit?
- c. How many of you have served previously on a jury?
- d. Of those of you who have sat on a jury, were you ever the foreperson on a jury? Describe your experience.
- e. Do any of you know any of the other persons on the jury panel?

7. Question to panel in personal injury cases:

In this case the plaintiff is alleging that he suffered injuries [describe in summary fashion, for example, he was burned, or he suffered a broken leg and ankle] in an [automobile, horseback riding, industrial, farm, etc.] accident.

- a. Has any one of you ever suffered similar injuries? Describe. Do you have any residual effects of your injury?
- b. Do you have close friends or relatives who have suffered similar injuries?
- c. Were you ever in an accident involving [an automobile, farm machinery, industrial machine, etc.)?
- d. Do you have any close friends or relatives who have been in an accident of this kind?

- 8. Question to panel. At the end of the case I will give you instructions that will govern your deliberations. You are required to follow those instructions, even if you do not agree with them. Is there any one of you who would be unable or unwilling to follow the instructions?
- 9. Question to panel. Do any of you have opinions, whether positive or negative, about people who go to court to obtain relief for wrongs they believe they have suffered?
- 10. Question to panel. Do you know of any reason whatsoever why you could not sit as a trial juror with absolute impartiality to all the parties in this case?



STANDARD JURY INSTRUCTIONS – CIVIL\*

\*These instructions are used in cases before the Honorable Barbara B. Crabb, District Judge

## I. INTRODUCTORY INSTRUCTION

Members of the jury, we are about to begin the trial of the case. Before it begins, I will give you some instructions to help you understand how the trial will proceed, how you should evaluate the evidence, and how you should conduct yourselves during the trial.

The party who begins the lawsuit is called the plaintiff. In this action, the plaintiff is \_\_\_\_\_. The parties against whom the suit is brought are called the defendants. In this action, the defendants are \_\_\_\_\_.

[Describe claims and basic legal elements of claims and defenses]

The case will proceed as follows:

First, plaintiff's counsel will make an opening statement outlining plaintiff's case. Immediately after plaintiff's statement, defendants' counsel will also make an opening statement outlining defendants' case. What is said in opening statements is not evidence; it is simply a guide to help you understand what each party expects the evidence to show.

Second, after the opening statements, the plaintiff will introduce evidence in support of his claim. At the conclusion of the plaintiff's case, the defendants may introduce evidence. The defendants are not required to introduce any evidence or to call any witnesses. If the defendants introduce evidence, the plaintiff may then introduce rebuttal evidence.

Third, after the evidence is presented, the parties will make closing arguments explaining what they believe the evidence has shown and what inferences you should draw from the evidence. What is said in closing argument is not evidence. The plaintiff has the right to give the first closing argument and to make a short rebuttal argument after the defendants' closing argument.

Fourth, I will instruct you on the law that you are to apply in reaching your verdict.

Fifth, you will retire to the jury room and begin your deliberations.

You will hear the term "burden of proof" used during this trial. In simple terms, the phrase "burden of proof" means that the party who makes a claim has the obligation of proving that claim. At the end of the trial, I will instruct you on the proper burden of proof to be applied in this case.

The trial day will run from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. You will have at least an hour for lunch and two additional short breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

During recesses you should keep in mind the following instructions:

First, do not discuss the case either among yourselves or with anyone else during the course of the trial. The parties to this lawsuit have a right to expect from you that you will keep an open mind throughout the trial. You should not reach a conclusion until you have heard all of the evidence and you have heard the lawyers' closing arguments and my instructions to you on the law, and have retired to deliberate with the other members of the jury.

Second, do not permit any third person to discuss the case in your presence. If anyone tries to talk to you despite your telling him not to, report that fact to the court as soon as you are able. Do not discuss the event with your fellow jurors or discuss with them any other fact that you believe you should bring to the attention of the court.

Third, although it is a normal human tendency to converse with people with whom one is thrown in contact, please do not talk to any of the parties or their attorneys or witnesses. By this I mean not only do not talk about the case, but do not talk at all, even to pass the time of day. In no other way can all parties be assured of the absolute impartiality they are entitled to expect from you as jurors.

Fourth, do not read about the case in the newspapers, or listen to radio or television broadcasts about the trial. If a newspaper headline catches your eye, do not examine the article further. Media accounts may be inaccurate and may contain matters that are not proper for your consideration. You must base your verdict solely on the evidence produced in court.

Fifth, no matter how interested you may become in the facts of the case, you must not do any independent research, investigation or experimentation. Do not look up materials on the internet or in other sources. [do not visit the site of the incident] [or perform any kind of experiment.] Again, you must base your verdict solely on the evidence produced in court.

### **Credibility of Witnesses**

In deciding the facts, you may have to decide which testimony to believe and which testimony not to believe. You may believe everything a witness says, part of it, or none of it. In considering the testimony of any witness, you may take into account many factors, including the witness's opportunity and ability to see or hear or know the things the witness testified about; the quality of the witness's memory; the witness's appearance and manner while testifying; the witness's interest in the outcome of the case; any bias or prejudice the witness may have; other evidence that may have contradicted the witness's testimony; and the reasonableness of the witness' testimony in light of all the evidence. The weight of the evidence does not necessarily depend upon the number of witnesses who testify.

### **Depositions**

During the course of a trial the lawyers will often refer to and read from depositions. Depositions are transcripts of testimony taken while the parties are preparing for trial. Deposition testimony is given under oath just like testimony on the trial. You should give it the same consideration you would give it had the witnesses testified here in court.

### **Objections**

During the trial, you will hear the lawyers make objections to certain questions or to certain answers of the witnesses. When they do so, it is because they believe the question or answer is legally improper and they want me to rule on it. Do not try to guess why the objection is being made or what the answer would have been if the witness had been allowed to answer it.

If I tell you not to consider a particular statement that has already been made, put that statement out of your mind and remember that you may not refer to it during your deliberations.

### **Questions**

During the trial, I may sometimes ask a witness questions. Please do not assume that I have any opinion about the subject matter of my questions.

If you wish to ask a question about something you do not understand, write it down on a separate slip of paper. If, when the lawyers have finished all of their questioning of the witness, the question is still unanswered to your satisfaction, raise your hand, and I will take the written question from you, show it to counsel, and decide whether it is a question that can be asked. If it cannot, I will tell you that. I will try to remember to ask about questions after each witness has testified.

### **Notetaking**

The clerk will give each of you a notepad and pencil for taking notes. This does not mean you have to take notes; take them only if you want to and if you think they will help you to recall the evidence during your deliberations. Do not let notetaking interfere with your important duties of listening carefully to all of the evidence and of evaluating the credibility of the witnesses. Keep in mind that just because you have written something down it does not mean that the written note is more accurate than another juror's mental recollection of the same thing. No one of you is the "secretary" for the jury, charged with the responsibility of recording evidence. Each of you is responsible for recalling the testimony and other evidence.

Although you can see that the trial is being reported, you should not expect to be able to use trial transcripts in your deliberations. You will have to rely on your own memories.

### **Evidence**

Evidence at a trial includes the sworn testimony of the witnesses, exhibits admitted into the record, facts judicially noticed, and facts stipulated by counsel. You may consider only evidence that is admitted into the record.

In deciding the facts of this case, you are not to consider the following as evidence: statements and arguments of the lawyers, questions and objections of the lawyers, testimony that I instruct you to disregard, and anything you may see or hear when the court is not in session even if what you see or hear is done or said by one of the parties or by one of the witnesses.

Evidence may be either direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony by a witness about what the witness said or heard or did. Circumstantial evidence is proof of one or more facts from which you could find another fact. You should consider both kinds of evidence. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. You are to decide how much weight to give any evidence.

### **Contradictory or Impeaching Evidence**

A witness may be discredited by contradictory evidence or by evidence that at some other time the witness has said or done something, or has failed to say or do something, that is inconsistent with the witness's present testimony.

If you believe any witness has been discredited, it is up to you to decide how much of the testimony of that witness you believe.

If a witness is shown to have given false testimony knowingly, that is, voluntarily and intentionally, about any important matter, you have a right to distrust the witness's testimony about other matters. You may reject all the testimony of that witness or you may choose to believe some or all of it.

The general rule is that if you find that a witness said something before the trial that is different from what the witness said at trial you are to consider the earlier statements only as an aid in evaluating the truthfulness of the witness's testimony at trial. You cannot consider as evidence in this trial what was said earlier before the trial began.

There is an exception to this general rule for witnesses who are the actual parties in the case. If you find that any of the parties made statements before the trial began that are different from the statements they made at trial, you may consider as evidence in the case whichever statement you find more believable.

### **Drawing of Inferences**

You are to consider only the evidence in the case. But in your consideration of the evidence, you are not limited solely to what you see and hear as the witnesses testify. You are permitted to draw, from facts you find have been proved, such reasonable conclusions as seem justified in the light of your own experience and common sense.

### **Experts**

A person's training and experience may make him or her a true expert in a technical field. The law allows that person to state an opinion here about matters in that particular field. It is up to you to decide whether you believe the expert's testimony and choose to rely upon it. Part of that decision will depend on your judgment about whether the expert's background of training and experience is sufficient for him or her to give the expert opinion that you heard, and whether the expert's opinions are based on sound reasons, judgment, and information.

During the trial, an expert witness may be asked a question based on assumptions that certain facts are true and then asked for his or her opinion based upon that assumption. Such an opinion is of use to you only if the opinion is based on assumed facts that are proven later. If you find that the assumptions stated in the question have not been proven, then you should not give any weight to the answer the expert gave to the question.

## **II. POST-TRIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Introduction**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury:

Now that you have heard the evidence and the arguments, I will give you the instructions that will govern your deliberations in the jury room. It is my job to decide what rules of law apply to the case and to explain those rules to you. It is your job to follow the rules, even if you disagree with them or don't understand the reasons for them. You must follow all of the rules; you may not follow some and ignore others.

The decision you reach in the jury room must be unanimous. In other words, you must all agree on the answer to each question.

Your deliberations will be secret. You will never have to explain your verdict to anyone.

If you have formed any idea that I have an opinion about how the case should be decided, disregard that idea. It is your job, not mine, to decide the facts of this case.

The case will be submitted to you in the form of a special verdict consisting of \_\_\_\_ questions. In answering the questions, you should consider only the evidence that has been received at this trial. Do not concern yourselves with whether your answers will be favorable to one side or another, or with what the final result of this lawsuit may be.

Note that certain questions in the verdict are to be answered only if you answer a preceding question in a certain manner. Read the introductory portion of each question very carefully before you undertake to answer it. Do not answer questions needlessly.

### **Burden of Proof**

When a party has the burden to prove any matter by a preponderance of the evidence, it means that you must be persuaded by the testimony and exhibits that the matter sought to be proved is more probably true than not true. You should base your decision on all of the evidence, regardless of which party presented it.

### **Middle Burden of Proof**

In answering question \_\_\_, you are instructed that the burden is on the plaintiff to convince you to a reasonable certainty by evidence that is clear, satisfactory, and convincing that the answer should be "yes."

### **Answers Not Based on Guesswork**

If, after you have discussed the testimony and all other evidence that bears upon a particular question, you find that the evidence is so uncertain or inadequate that you have to guess what the answer should be, then the party having the burden of proof as to that question has not met the required burden of proof. Your answers are not to be based on guesswork or speculation. They are to be based upon credible evidence from which you can find the existence of the facts that the party must prove in order to satisfy the burden of proof on the question under consideration.

### **Selection of Presiding Juror; Communication with the Judge; Verdict**

When you go to the jury room to begin considering the evidence in this case you should first select one of the members of the jury to act as your presiding juror. This person will help to guide your discussions in the jury room.

You are free to deliberate in any way you decide or select whomever you like as a presiding juror. However, I am going to provide some general suggestions on the process to help you get started. When thinking about who should be presiding juror, you may want to consider the role that

the presiding juror usually plays. He or she serves as the chairperson during the deliberations and has the responsibility of insuring that all jurors who desire to speak have a chance to do so before any vote. The presiding juror should guide the discussion and encourage all jurors to participate.

Once you are in the jury room, if you need to communicate with me, the presiding juror will send a written message to me. However, don't tell me how you stand as to your verdict.

As I have mentioned before, the decision you reach must be unanimous; you must all agree.

When you have reached a decision, the presiding juror will sign the verdict form, put a date on it, and all of you will return with the verdict into the court.

### **Suggestions for Conducting Deliberations:**

In order to help you determine the facts, you may want to consider discussing one claim at a time, and use my instructions to the jury as a guide to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to prove all the necessary legal elements for each claim or defense. I also suggest that any public votes on a verdict be delayed until everyone can have a chance to say what they think without worrying what others on the panel might think of their opinion. I also suggest that you assign separate tasks, such as note taking, time keeping and recording votes to more than one person to help break up the workload during your deliberations. I encourage you at all times to keep an open mind if you ever disagree or come to conclusions that are different from those of your fellow jurors. Listening carefully and thinking about the other juror's point of view may help you understand that juror's position better or give you a better way to explain why you think your position is correct.

## **III. DAMAGES**

### **General**

On the damages question, the party asking for damages has the burden of convincing you, by the preponderance of the evidence, both that he or she has been injured or damaged and the amount of the damages.

The party seeking damages need not produce evidence that is as exact as the evidence needed to support findings on other questions in the verdict. Determining damages involves the consideration of many different factors that cannot be measured precisely. In determining the damages you must base your answer on evidence that reasonably supports your determination of damages under all of the circumstances of the case. You should award as damages the amount of money that you find fairly and reasonably compensates the named party for his or her injuries.

Do not measure damages by what the lawyers ask for in their arguments. Their opinions as to what damages should be awarded should not influence you unless their opinions are supported by the evidence. It is your job to determine the amount of the damages sustained from the evidence you have seen and heard. Examine that evidence carefully and impartially. Do not add to the damage award or subtract anything from it because of sympathy to one side or because of hostility to one side. Do not make any deductions because of a doubt in your minds about the liability of any of the parties.

### **Income Taxes**

You must not add to any award of damages any money to compensate the plaintiff for state or federal income taxes. Damages received as an award for personal injuries are exempt from income taxes. On the other hand, you must not subtract any money from your award of damages just because the plaintiff is not required to pay income taxes.

### **Pain and Suffering**

In determining how much money will fairly and reasonably compensate plaintiff for past pain and suffering [disability] [disfigurement] [mental anguish] [loss of capacity for enjoyment of life], you should consider any pain and suffering, mental anguish and apprehension, sorrow and anxiety plaintiff has endured from the time of the incident up to the present time. There is no exact standard for deciding how much to award plaintiff for these damages. Your award should be fair and just in the light of the evidence.

### **Aggravation of Pre-existing Injury or Condition**

The evidence shows that the plaintiff was previously injured when \_\_\_\_\_. If the injuries plaintiff received at \_\_\_\_\_ aggravated any physical, mental or emotional condition resulting from the earlier injury or injuries, you should award fair and reasonable compensation for such aggravation. However, you should award compensation only if you find the aggravation of the existing condition was a natural result of the injuries received at \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Duty to Mitigate Damages**

A person who has been damaged may not recover for losses that he or she could have reduced by reasonable efforts. "Reasonable efforts" do not include efforts that might cause serious harm or subject the person making the effort to an unreasonable risk, unreasonable inconvenience, unreasonable expense, disorganization of his or her business or loss of honor and respect.

If you find that a reasonable person would have taken steps to reduce the loss, and if you find that the plaintiff did not take such steps, then you should not include as damages any amount the plaintiff could have avoided. If you find that a reasonable person would not have taken steps to reduce the loss under all of the circumstances existing in the case, then you should not consider the plaintiff's failure to act when you determine damages.

It is defendants' burden to satisfy you by the greater weight of the credible evidence that plaintiff should have taken steps to reduce the loss and failed to do so.

### **Mortality Tables**

In answering the question of future damages as a result of plaintiff's injuries, you may take into consideration the fact that at this time \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ years of age. According to the mortality tables, plaintiff has a life expectancy of \_\_\_\_ years.



Although a mortality table giving the expectancy of life of a person of \_\_\_\_\_'s age, was received in evidence as an aid in determining such expectancy, it is not conclusive or binding upon you. Such tables are based upon averages, and there is no certainty that any person will live the average duration of life rather than a longer or shorter period. In order to determine the probable length of life of \_\_\_\_\_, you should take into consideration all of the facts and circumstances established by the credible evidence bearing upon that subject.

### **Future Earnings**

In determining the amount of damages for any loss of \_\_\_\_\_ that will be incurred in the future, it is your duty to determine the present worth of such future damages.

By present worth, I am referring to the fact that a lump sum of money received today is worth more than the same sum paid in installments over a period of months or years. A sum received today can be invested and earn money at current interest rates. Your answer will reflect the present value in dollars of an award of future damages if you make a reduction for the earning power of money.

Keep in mind that this instruction does not apply to the portion of future damages that represents future pain and suffering. In computing the amount of future damages, you may take into account economic conditions, present and future, and the effects of inflation.

The fact that I have instructed you on the proper measure of damages does not mean I have any view about the verdict in this case. These instructions on damages are only for your guidance in the event that you should find in favor of plaintiff on the question of liability.

### **Punitive Damages**

If you answered "yes" to Question No. \_\_\_, you may award punitive damages in addition to compensatory damages. You are not required to make any award of punitive damages, but you may do so if you think it is proper under the circumstances to make such an award as an example or punishment to deter the defendant and others from offending in a similar manner in the future. In deciding whether to make an award of punitive damages you may also consider the seriousness of the offense committed.

Punitive damages may be awarded even if the violation of plaintiff's rights resulted in only nominal compensatory damages. That is, even if the plaintiff can show no damages or other injury as a result of a defendant's actions, if the defendant acted with deliberate indifference to plaintiff's rights, punitive damages may be awarded.

Punitive damages are never a matter of right. It is in the jury's discretion to award or withhold them. Punitive damages may not be awarded unless the defendant acted with deliberate indifference to the plaintiff's rights. Even if you find that the violations were reckless or deliberate, you may withhold or allow punitive damages as you see fit.

If you find that a defendant's conduct was motivated by evil motive or intent, such as ill will or spite or grudge either toward the injured person individually or toward all persons such as plaintiff, then you may find that the defendant deliberately violated the plaintiff's rights.

Acts are reckless when they represent a gross departure from ordinary care in a situation where a high degree of danger is apparent. If the defendant was in a position in which he certainly should have known that his conduct would violate the plaintiff's rights, and proceeded to act in disregard of that knowledge and of the harm or the risk of harm that would result to the plaintiff, then he acted with reckless disregard for the plaintiff's rights.

In answering this question, you are instructed that the burden is on the plaintiff to convince you to a reasonable certainty by evidence that is clear, satisfactory, and convincing that the answer should be "yes."

## PROCEDURES FOR CALLING WITNESSES TO TRIAL

At trial, plaintiff will have to be ready to prove facts supporting his claims against the defendants. One way to offer proof is through the testimony of witnesses who have personal knowledge about the matter being tried. If a party wants witnesses to be present and available to testify on the day of trial, the party must follow the procedures explained below. (“Party” means either a plaintiff or a defendant.) These procedures must be followed whether the witness is:

- 1) A defendant to be called to testify by a plaintiff; or
- 2) A plaintiff to be called to testify by a defendant; or
- 3) A person not a party to the lawsuit to be called to testify by either a plaintiff or a defendant.

### I. PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING ATTENDANCE OF INCARCERATED WITNESSES WHO AGREE TO TESTIFY VOLUNTARILY

An incarcerated witness who tells a party that he is willing to attend trial to give testimony cannot come to court unless the court orders his custodian to let him come. The Court must issue an order known as a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum. This court will not issue such a writ unless the party can establish to the court’s satisfaction that

- 1) The witness has agreed to attend voluntarily; and
- 2) The witness has actual knowledge of facts directly related to the issue to be tried.

A witness’s willingness to come to court as a witness can be shown in one of two ways.

- a. The party can serve and file an affidavit declaring under penalty of perjury that the witness told the party that he or she is willing to testify voluntarily, that is, without being subpoenaed. The party must say in the affidavit when and where the witness informed the party of this willingness;

**OR**

b. The party can serve and file an affidavit in which *the witness* declares under penalty of perjury that he or she is willing to testify without being subpoenaed.

The witness's actual knowledge of relevant facts may be shown in one of two ways.

a. The party can declare under penalty of perjury that the witness has relevant information about the party's claim. However, this can be done only if the *party* knows first-hand that the witness saw or heard something that will help him prove his case. For example, if the trial is about an incident that happened in or around a plaintiff's cell and, at the time, the plaintiff saw that a cellmate was present and witnessed the incident, the plaintiff may tell the court in an affidavit what happened, when and where the incident occurred, who was present, and how the witness was in a position to see or hear what occurred;

**OR**

b. The party can serve and file an affidavit in which *the witness* tells the court what happened, when and where the incident occurred, who was present, and how the witness was in a position to see or hear what occurred.

Not later than four weeks before trial, a party planning to use the testimony of an incarcerated witness who has agreed to come to trial must serve and file a written motion for a court order requiring the witness to be brought to court at the time of trial. The motion must

- 1) State the name and address of the witness; and
- 2) Come with an affidavit described above to show that the witness is willing to testify and that the witness has first-hand knowledge of facts directly related to the issue to be tried.

When the court rules on the motion, it will say who must be brought to court and will direct the clerk of court to prepare the necessary writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum.

## II. PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING THE ATTENDANCE OF INCARCERATED WITNESSES WHO REFUSE TO TESTIFY VOLUNTARILY

If an incarcerated witness refuses to attend trial, TWO separate procedures are required. The court will have to issue a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum telling the warden to bring the witness to trial and the party must serve the witness with a subpoena.

Not later than four weeks before trial, the party seeking the testimony of an incarcerated witness who refuses to testify voluntarily must file a motion asking the court to issue a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum and asking the court to provide the party with a subpoena form. (All requests from subpoenas from pro se litigants will be sent to the judge for review before the clerk will issue them.)

The motion for a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum will not be granted unless the party submits an affidavit

- 1) Giving the name and address of the witness; and
- 2) Declaring under penalty of perjury that the witness has relevant information about the party's claim. As noted above, this can be done only if the *party* knows first-hand that the witness saw or heard something that will help him prove his case. In the affidavit, the party must tell the court what happened, when and where the incident occurred, who was present, and how the witness was in a position to see or to hear what occurred.

The request for a subpoena form will not be granted unless the party satisfies the court in his affidavit that

- 1) The witness refuses to testify voluntarily;
- 2) The party has made arrangements for a person at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the action to serve the subpoena on the witness; or

3) The party is proceeding in forma pauperis, has been unable to arrange for service of the subpoena by a person at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the action and needs assistance from the United States Marshal or a person appointed by the court.

If the court grants the party's request for a subpoena for an incarcerated witness, it will be the party's responsibility to complete the subpoena form and send it to the person at least 18 years of age who will be serving the subpoena or to the United States Marshal, if the court has ordered that the subpoena be served by the Marshal. The address of the United States Marshal is 120 N. Henry St., Suite 440, Madison, Wisconsin, 53703. If the subpoena is not received by the marshal at least two weeks in advance of trial, the marshal may not have enough time to serve the subpoena on the party's witness.

### III. UNINCARCERATED WITNESSES WHO AGREE TO TESTIFY VOLUNTARILY

It is the responsibility of the party who has asked an unincarcerated witness to come to court to tell the witness of the time and date of trial. No action need be sought or obtained from the court.

### IV. UNINCARCERATED WITNESSES WHO REFUSE TO TESTIFY VOLUNTARILY

If a prospective witness is not incarcerated, and he or she refuses to testify voluntarily, no later than four weeks before trial, the party must serve and file a request for a subpoena form. All parties who want to subpoena an unincarcerated witness, even parties proceeding in forma pauperis, must be prepared to tender an appropriate sum of money to the witness at the time the subpoena is served. The appropriate sum of money is a daily witness fee and the witness's mileage costs. In addition, if the witness's attendance is required for more than one trial day, an allowance for a room and meals must be paid. The current rates for daily witness fees, mileage costs and room and meals may be

obtained either by writing the clerk of court at P.O. Box 432, Madison, Wisconsin, 53703, or calling the office of the clerk at (608) 264-5156.

Before the court will grant a request for a subpoena form for an unincarcerated witness, the party must satisfy the court by affidavit declared to be true under penalty of perjury that

1) The witness refuses to testify voluntarily;

2) The party has made arrangements for a person at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the action to serve the subpoena on the witness; or

3) The party is proceeding in forma pauperis, has been unable to arrange for service of the subpoena by a person at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the action and needs assistance from the United States Marshal or a person appointed by the court; and

4) The party is prepared to tender to the marshal or other individual serving the subpoena a check or money order made payable to the witness in an amount necessary to cover the daily witness fee and the witness's mileage, as well as costs for room and meals if the witness's appearance at trial will require an overnight stay.

If the court grants the party's request for a subpoena for an unincarcerated witness, it will be the party's responsibility to complete the subpoena form and send it to the person at least 18 years of age who will be serving the subpoena or to the United States Marshal, if the court has ordered that the subpoena be served by the marshal, together with the necessary check or money order. The address of the United States Marshal is 120 N. Henry St., Suite 440, Madison, Wisconsin, 53703. If the subpoena is not received by the marshal at least two weeks in advance of trial, the marshal may not have enough time to serve the subpoena on the party's witness.

## V. SUMMARY

The chart below may assist in referring you to the section of this paper which sets forth the appropriate procedure for securing the testimony of witnesses in your case.

WITNESSES			
INCARCERATED		UNINCARCERATED	
<p><b>VOLUNTARY</b></p> <p>A court order that the witness be brought to court is required. Papers are due 4 weeks before trial.</p>	<p><b>INVOLUNTARY</b></p> <p>A court order that the witness be brought to court and a subpoena are required. A motion must be served &amp; filed 4 weeks before trial. Subpoena forms must be completed 2 weeks before trial.</p>	<p><b>VOLUNTARY</b></p> <p>Nothing need be sought or obtained from the court.</p>	<p><b>INVOLUNTARY</b></p> <p>Pro se parties must obtain an order granting issuance of a subpoena. Papers are due 4 weeks before trial. Completed forms <u>and fees</u> are due 2 weeks before trial.</p>



*Office of the Clerk*  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

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*120 North Henry Street, Room 320 • P.O. Box 432 • Madison, WI 53701-0432 • 608-264-5156*

October 27, 2006

MEMO

If a case is **settled on the weekend before trial**, the court should be notified immediately by calling Clerk of Court Peter Oppeneer at (608) 287-4875. This notification will enable the Clerk to call off unneeded jurors and to advise the trial judge to discontinue working on the case. The same procedure should be followed to report last-minute emergencies which might affect the start of the trial.

**ORDER IN NON-JURY CASES  
ASSIGNED TO JUDGE CRABB**

Counsel are hereby directed to observe the following requirements in preparing for the trial to the court in this case:

I. No later than TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE TRIAL counsel are to confer for the following purposes:

A. To enter into comprehensive written stipulations of all uncontested facts in such form that they can be offered at trial as the first evidence presented by the party desiring to offer them. If there is a challenge to the admissibility of some uncontested facts that one party wishes included, the party objecting and the grounds for objection must be stated.

B. To make any deletions from their previously-exchanged lists of potential trial witnesses.

C. To enter into written stipulations setting forth the qualifications of expert witnesses.

D. To examine, mark, and list all exhibits that any party intends to offer at trial. (A copy of this court's procedures for marking exhibits is contained in this packet.)

E. To agree as to the authenticity and admissibility of such exhibits so far as possible and note the grounds for objection to any not agreed upon.

F. To agree so far as possible on the contested issues of law.

G. To examine and prepare a list of all depositions and portions of depositions to be read into evidence and agree as to those portions to be read. If any party objects to the admissibility of any portion, the name of the party objecting and the grounds shall be set forth.

H. To explore the prospects of settlement.

It shall be the responsibility of plaintiff's counsel to convene the conference between counsel and, following that conference, to prepare the Pretrial Statement described in the next paragraph.

2. No later than ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE TRIAL, plaintiff's counsel shall submit a Pretrial Statement containing the following:

A. The parties' comprehensive written stipulations of all uncontested facts.

B. The probable length of trial.

C. The names of all prospective witnesses. Only witnesses so listed will be permitted to testify at the trial except for good cause shown.

D. The parties' written stipulation setting forth the qualifications of all expert witnesses.

E. Schedules of all exhibits that will be offered in evidence at the trial, together with an indication of those agreed to be admissible and a summary statement of the grounds for objection to any not agreed upon. Only exhibits so listed shall be offered in evidence at the trial except for good cause shown.

F. An agreed statement of the contested issues of law supplemented by a separate statement by

each counsel of those issues of law not agreed to by all parties.

G. A list of all depositions and portions of depositions to be offered in evidence, together with an indication of those agreed to be admissible and summary statements of the grounds for objections to any not so agreed upon. If only portions of a deposition are to be offered, counsel should mark the deposition itself with colored markers identifying the portions each party will rely upon.

3. No later than ONE WEEK PRIOR TO TRIAL, each counsel shall file with the court and serve upon opposing counsel a statement of all the facts that counsel will request the court to find at the conclusion of the trial. In preparing these statements, counsel should have in mind those findings that will support a judgment in their client's favor. The proposed findings should be complete. They should be organized in the manner in which counsel desire them to be entered. They should include stipulated facts, as well as facts not stipulated to but which counsel expect to be supported by the record at the conclusion of the trial. Those facts that are stipulated to shall be so marked.

4. Along with the proposed findings of fact required by paragraph 3 of this order, each counsel shall also file and serve a proposed form of special verdict, as if the case were to be tried to a jury.

5. Before the start of trial, each counsel shall submit to the court a complete set of counsel's pre-marked trial exhibits to be used by the judge as working copies at trial.

6. If counsel wish to submit trial briefs, they are to do so no later than THREE WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO TRIAL. Copies of briefs must be provided to opposing counsel.

Final pretrial submissions are to be filed as stated above with no exceptions. Failure to file or repeated and flagrant violations may result in the loss of membership in the bar of this court.

Entered this 27th day of October, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

BARBARA B. CRABB  
District Judge

ORDER REGARDING TIMELY PRESENTATION  
OF TRIAL WITNESSES AND TRIAL EVIDENCE

The parties must have all witnesses and other evidence ready and available for timely presentation at trial in order to prevent delay. Failure to comply with this order will be grounds for an order precluding the presentation of any additional evidence by the non-complying party.

Entered this 27th day of October, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

BARBARA B. CRABB  
District Judge