

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
GENERAL ORDER 11 - 0010**

It appearing that the full Court met in executive session on September 30, 2010 and approved an amendment to Internal Operating Procedure 14 regarding Magistrate Judges: Referrals & Recusals

The Court's Executive Committee discussed the proposed amendment at its meeting of September 16, 2010. It recommended that the full Court adopt the proposed amendment to Internal Operating Procedure 14.

The full Court considered the recommendation of the Executive Committee at its meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2010 and amended Internal Operating Procedure 14; therefore,

By direction of the full Court, which met in executive session on Thursday, September 30, 2010,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Internal Operating Procedure 14: Magistrate Judges: Referrals & Recusals be adopted as follows (additions shown thus, deletions shown ~~thus~~):

IOP14. Magistrate Judges: Referrals & Recusals

~~(a) Referrals. These procedures govern referrals to magistrate judges in the Eastern Division made pursuant to LR72.1 and LCrR50.3(d).~~

~~(1) Except as provided for in section (2) below, referrals shall be made using a form approved by the Executive Committee. The form shall include the case caption, a form order of transfer to be signed by the transferring judge, a section in which the transferring judge indicates the nature of the referral, and a form order of referral to be signed by the chief judge on behalf of the Executive Committee.~~

~~A judge wishing to refer a matter will send a completed form to the clerk. The clerk shall promptly submit it to the chief judge. After reviewing the form the chief judge may either sign the referral order or place the form on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration by the full Committee. On receipt of a referral order signed by the chief judge the clerk shall cause it to be docketed and notices of the referral sent to the magistrate judge and the parties of record.~~

~~This procedure will be followed for each referral within a case made under this section, regardless of whether or not an earlier referral remains pending.~~

~~(2) A judge may refer a civil case to the designated magistrate judge pursuant to LR72.1 and LCrR50.3(d). In such instances, the judge shall specify any issue being referred to the magistrate judge, for discovery supervision, the handling of one or more discovery motions, or for a settlement conference without transferring the case to the Executive Committee. In such instances, the referral shall be made following procedures approved by the Executive Committee. The clerk will prepare a report to the chief judge on a monthly basis that lists referrals made under this section. After reviewing this report the Chief Judge will sign an Executive Committee order ratifying the referrals. The Chief Judge may cause individual referrals listed in the report to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration by the full Committee.~~

~~(b) Recusals. These procedures govern recusals by magistrate judges in the Eastern Division. Where the recusal is entered in a case reassigned on consent pursuant to LR73.1 it shall be reassigned to another magistrate judge using the procedures for handling recusals by district~~

~~judges set out in IOP13(f). Where the recusal is entered in a matter assigned to the magistrate judge pursuant to LCr5.1, or in a matter referred to the magistrate judge pursuant to LR72.1, or in a case where a consent to enter judgment or other limited consent was entered pursuant to LR73.1(b) and (c), the case or matter will be reassigned as provided by IOP13(f), but no case or matter will be sent to the recusing magistrate judge by the magistrate judge to whom the case or matter is reassigned.~~

~~In addition to the assignment categories specified in IOP11(b) and the designation cycle for magistrate judge in IOP11(c), the clerk shall maintain a separate assignment category for reassigning matters between magistrate judges pursuant to this section. The computerized assignment system shall provided a separate process for reassigning magistrate judge recusals. The name of each magistrate judge in the Eastern Division shall appear in that process an equal number of times. The process shall be used to reassign cases or matters where a magistrate judge enters a recusal.~~

~~Where the magistrate judge recuses with equalization as provided by IOP13(f)(2), or where pursuant to this section the magistrate judge recuses in a case or matter and the magistrate judge to whom the case or matter is reassigned is precluded from sending a case or referral requiring similar judicial effort to the recusing magistrate judge, the reassignment process will equalize the magistrate judge recusal category in the manner set out in IOP11(b).~~

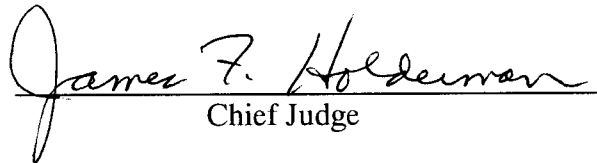
~~The clerk will include an analysis of recusals by magistrate judges in the periodic report required by IOP11(b).~~

~~(c) Other Reassignments or Referrals. Where a local rule specifies that a case is to be referred or reassigned to the designated magistrate judge and no magistrate judge has been designated in~~

~~accordance with IOP11(c), the case will be referred or reassigned by lot using the assignment process provided for reassigning magistrate judge recusals.~~

ENTER:

FOR THE COURT


Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 31st day of May, 2011.