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United States District Court

Northern District Of Illinois

Local Rules

Form LR16.1.1. Final Pretrial Order Form

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
[*indicate Eastern or Western*] DIVISION

Plaintiff ¹ ,)	
)	Civil Action No.
)	
v)	
)	
Defendant.)	Judge [<i>Insert name of assigned judge</i>]
)	

FINAL PRETRIAL ORDER

This matter having come before the court at a pretrial conference held pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. ("Rule") 16, and [*insert name, address and telephone number*] having appeared as counsel for plaintiff(s) and [*insert name, address and telephone number*] having appeared as counsel for defendant(s), the following actions were taken:

(1) This is an action for [*insert nature of action, e.g., breach of contract, personal injury*] and the jurisdiction of the court is invoked under [*insert citation of statute on which jurisdiction based*]. Jurisdiction is (not) disputed.²

(2) The following stipulations and statements were submitted and are attached to and made a part of this Order:³

(a) a comprehensive stipulation or statement of all uncontested facts, which will become a part of the evidentiary record in the case (and which, in jury trials, may be read to the jury by the court or any party);⁴

for jury trials a short
agreed description of the
case to be read to
prospective jurors.

(c) except for rebuttal exhibits, schedules in the form set out in the attached Schedule (c) of—

(1) all exhibits (all exhibits shall be marked for identification before trial), including documents, summaries, charts and other items expected to be offered in evidence and

(2) any demonstrative evidence and experiments

to be offered during trial;⁵

(d) a list or lists of names and addresses of the potential witnesses to be called by each party, with a statement of any objections to calling, or to the qualifications of, any witness identified on the list;⁶

(e) stipulations or statements setting forth the qualifications of each expert witness in such form that the statement can be read to the jury at the time the expert witness takes the stand;⁷

(f) a list of all depositions, and designated page and line numbers,

to be read into evidence and statements of any objections thereto;⁸

(g) an itemized statement of damages;

(h)* for a jury trial, each party shall provide the following:

(i) trial briefs except as otherwise ordered by the court;⁹

(ii) one set of marked proposed jury instructions, verdict forms and special interrogatories, if any;¹⁰

and

(iii) a list of the questions the party requests the court to ask prospective jurors in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 47(a);

(i) a statement that each party has completed discovery, including the depositions of expert witnesses (unless the court has previously ordered otherwise). Absent good cause shown, no further discovery shall be permitted;¹¹ and

(j) subject to full compliance with all the procedural requirements of Rule 37(a)(2), a brief summary of intended motions in limine. Any briefs in support of and responses to such motions shall be filed as directed by the Court.

(2.1) The following *optional* stipulations and statements were submitted and are attached to and made a part of this Order:

(k)* an agreed statement or statements by each party of the contested issues of fact and law and a statement or statements of contested issues of fact or law not agreed to;

(l)* waivers of any claims or defenses that have been abandoned by any party;

(m)* for a non-jury trial, each party shall provide proposed *Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law* in duplicate (see guidelines available from the court's minute clerk or secretary);¹²

(3) Trial of this case is expected to take [*insert the number of days trial expected to take*] days. It will be listed on the trial calendar, to be tried when reached.

(4) [*Indicate the type of trial by placing an X in the appropriate box*]

Jury Non-jury

(5) The parties recommend that [*indicate the number of jurors recommended*]¹³ jurors be selected at the commencement of the trial.

(6) The parties [*insert "agree" or "do not agree" as appropriate*] that the issues of liability and damages [*insert "should" or "should not" as appropriate*] be bifurcated for trial. On motion of any party or on motion of the court, bifurcation may be ordered in either a jury or a non-jury trial.

(7) [*Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), parties may consent to the reassignment of this case to a magistrate judge who may conduct any or all proceedings in a jury or nonjury civil matter and order the entry of judgment in the case. Indicate below if the parties consent to*]

such a reassignment.]

The parties consent to this case being reassigned to a magistrate judge for trial.

(8) This Order will control the course of the trial and may not be amended except by consent of the parties and the court, or by order of the court to prevent manifest injustice.

(9) Possibility of settlement of this case was considered by the parties.

United States District Judge¹⁴

Date: _____

[Attorneys are to sign the form before presenting it to the court.]

Attorney for Plaintiff Attorney for Defendant

Schedule (c)

Exhibits¹⁵

1. The following exhibits were offered by plaintiff, received in evidence and marked as indicated:

[State identification number and brief description of each exhibit.]

2. The following exhibits were offered by plaintiff and marked for identification. Defendant(s) objected to their receipt in evidence on the grounds stated:¹⁶

[State identification number and brief description of each exhibit. Also state briefly the ground of objection, such as competency, relevancy or materiality, and the provision of Fed.R.Evid. relied upon. Also state briefly plaintiff's response to the objection, with appropriate reference to Fed.R.Evid.]

3. The following exhibits were offered by defendant, received in evidence and marked as indicated:

[State identification number and brief description of each exhibit.]

4. The following exhibits were offered by defendant and marked for identification. Plaintiff objected to their receipt in evidence on the grounds stated:¹⁷

[State identification number and brief description of each exhibit. Also state briefly the ground of objection, such as competency,

relevancy or materiality, and the provision of Fed.R.Evid. relied upon. Also state briefly defendant's response to the objection, with appropriate reference to Fed.R.Evid.]

5. Non-objected-to exhibits are received in evidence by operation of this Order. However, in jury trials, exhibits that have not been explicitly referred to in testimony or otherwise published to the jury prior to the close of all evidence or in argument are not in evidence.

Committee Comment

The amendment to the Final Pretrial Order Form will improve efficiency in litigation.

Adopted October 4, 2006

1. Singular forms are used throughout this document. Plural forms should be used as appropriate. Where a third-party defendant is joined pursuant to Rule 14(a), the Order may be suitably modified. In such cases, the caption and the statement

of parties and counsel shall be modified to reflect the joinder.

2. In diversity cases or other cases requiring a jurisdictional amount in controversy, the Order shall contain either a stipulation that the required jurisdictional amount is involved or a brief written statement citing evidence supporting the claim that such sum could reasonably be awarded.
3. The asterisk (*) options shall not be required unless the court explicitly orders inclusion of one or more of them. On motion of any party or on the court's own motion, any other requirement of the Order may be waived.
4. Counsel for plaintiff has the responsibility to prepare the initial draft of a proposed stipulation dealing with allegations in the complaint. Counsel for any counter-, cross- or third-party complainant has the same responsibility to prepare a stipulation dealing with allegations in that party's complaints. If the admissibility of any uncontested fact is challenged, the party objecting and the grounds for objection must be stated.
5. Items not listed will not be admitted unless good cause is shown. Cumulative documents, particularly x-rays and photos, shall be omitted. Duplicate exhibits shall not be scheduled by different parties, but may be offered as joint exhibits. All parties shall stipulate to the authenticity of exhibits whenever possible, and this Order shall identify any exhibits whose authenticity has not been stipulated to and specific reasons for the party's failure so to stipulate. As the attached Schedule (c) form indicates, non-objected-to exhibits which have been explicitly referred to in testimony or stipulation or published to the jury are received in evidence by operation of this Order, without any need for further foundation testimony. Copies of exhibits shall be made available to opposing counsel and a bench book of exhibits shall be prepared and delivered to the court at the start of the trial unless excused by the court. If the trial is a jury trial and counsel desires to display exhibits to the members of the jury, sufficient copies of such exhibits must be made available so as to provide each juror with a copy, or alternatively, enlarged photographic copies or projected copies should be used.
6. Each party shall indicate which witnesses will be called in the absence of reasonable notice to opposing counsel to the contrary, and which may be called as a possibility only. Any witness not listed will be precluded from testifying absent good cause shown, except that each party reserves the right to call such rebuttal witnesses (who are not presently identifiable) as may be necessary, without prior notice to the opposing party.
7. Only one expert witness on each subject for each party will be permitted to testify absent good cause shown. If more than one expert witness is listed, the subject matter of each expert's testimony shall be specified.
8. If any party objects to the admissibility of any portion, both the name of the party objecting and the grounds shall be stated. Additionally, the parties shall be

prepared to present to the court, at such time as directed to do so, a copy of all relevant portions of the deposition transcript to assist the court in ruling in limine on the objection. All irrelevant and redundant material including all colloquy between counsel shall be eliminated when the deposition is read at trial. If a video deposition is proposed to be used, opposing counsel must be so advised sufficiently before trial to permit any objections to be made and ruled on by the court, to allow objectionable material to be edited out of the film before trial.

9. (Note: The use of the asterisk (*) is explained in Footnote 3.) No party's trial brief shall exceed 15 pages without prior approval of the court. Trial briefs are intended to provide full and complete disclosure of the parties' respective theories of the case. Accordingly, each trial brief shall include statements of—
- (a) the nature of the case,
 - (b) the contested facts the party expects the evidence will establish,
 - (c) the party's theory of liability or defense based on those facts and the uncontested facts,
 - (d) the party's theory of damages or other relief in the event liability is established, and
 - (e) the party's theory of any anticipated motion for directed verdict.

The brief shall also include citations of authorities in support of each theory stated in the brief. Any theory of liability or defense that is not expressed in a party's trial brief will be deemed waived.

10. Agreed instructions shall be presented by the parties whenever possible. Whether agreed or unagreed, each marked copy of an instruction shall indicate the proponent and supporting authority and shall be numbered. All objections to tendered instructions shall be in writing and include citations of authorities. Failure to object may constitute a waiver of any objection.

In diversity and other cases where Illinois law provides the rules of decision, use of Illinois Pattern Instructions ("IPI") as to all issues of substantive law is required. As to all other issues, and as to all issues of substantive law where Illinois law does not control, the following pattern jury instructions shall be used in the order listed, e.g., an instruction from (b) shall be used only if no such instruction exists in (a):

- (a) the Seventh Circuit pattern jury instructions; or,
- (b) any pattern jury instructions published by a federal court. (Care should be taken to make certain substantive instructions on federal questions conform to Seventh Circuit case law.)

At the time of trial, an unmarked original set of instructions and any special interrogatories (on 8 ½" x 11" sheets) shall be submitted to the court; to be sent to the jury room after being read to the jury. Supplemental requests for instructions during the course of the trial or at the conclusion of the evidence will be granted solely as to those matters that cannot be reasonably anticipated at the time of presentation of the initial set of instructions.

11. If this is a case in which (contrary to the normal requirements) discovery has not been completed, this Order shall state what discovery remains to be completed by each party.
12. These shall be separately stated in separately numbered paragraphs. Findings of Fact should contain a detailed listing of the relevant material facts the party intends to prove. They should not be in formal language, but should be in simple narrative form. Conclusions of Law should contain concise statements of the meaning or intent of the legal theories set forth by counsel.
13. Rule 48 specifies that a civil jury shall consist of not fewer than six nor more than twelve jurors.
14. Where the case has been reassigned on consent of parties to a magistrate judge for all purposes, the magistrate judge will, of course, sign the final pretrial order.
15. As in the Final Pretrial Order form, references to “plaintiff” and “defendant” are intended to cover those instances where there are more than one of either.
16. Copies of objected-to exhibits should be delivered to the court with this Order, to permit rulings in limine where possible.
17. See footnote 17.