

JOINT INITIAL STATUS REPORT

The parties are directed to meet pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) and conduct a planning conference. Thereafter, to help the Court learn about the case, the parties shall jointly prepare and file an initial status report, not to exceed five pages, and file the report at least three business days before the initial status conference set in the case. If defendant's counsel has not yet filed an appearance, plaintiff's counsel should prepare the status report. The report shall provide the following information in the following format:

I. Nature of the Case

- A. State the basis for federal jurisdiction.
- B. Briefly describe the nature of the claims asserted in the complaint and the counterclaims and/or third-party claims.
- C. Describe the relief sought.
- D. State whether there has been a jury demand.
- E. List the names of any parties who have not yet been served.

II. Discovery and Pending Motions

- A. Identify any pending motions.
- B. Submit a proposal for discovery and a case management plan that includes the following information: (1) the type of discovery needed, including any potential electronic discovery or bifurcated discovery; (2) the need for any proposed protective orders; (3) a date for Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures; (4) a date for the completion of fact discovery; and (5) whether there will be expert discovery.

III. Settlement and Referrals

- A. State whether any settlement discussions have occurred and describe the status of any settlement discussions. (Do *not* provide the particulars of any demands or offers that have been made.)
- B. State whether the parties request a settlement conference at this time before this Court or the Magistrate Judge.
- C. State whether counsel have informed their respective clients about the possibility of proceeding before the assigned Magistrate Judge for all purposes, including trial and entry of final judgment, and whether the parties unanimously consent to the Magistrate Judge's jurisdiction. (Do *not* report whether individual parties have so consented.) The court strongly encourages parties to consent to the jurisdiction of the Magistrate Judge.