

## **INITIAL OR REASSIGNMENT STATUS REPORT - MODEL TEMPLATE**

This case has been assigned to the calendar of Judge John Robert Blakey. If the parties have not already done so, they are directed to meet pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) and conduct a planning conference. Thereafter, as directed by this Court in its initial minute order, the parties shall jointly prepare and timely file a status report containing the information noted below. If this case constitutes a pending matter reassigned from another judge, then parties shall note that fact in the status report and update this Court on the parties' current progress regarding each item below.

1. **Type of Initial Status Report (e.g., Joint or Individual).** The Court expects the parties to file a joint status report on behalf of all parties. If you are filing an individual report or filing a joint report on behalf of fewer than all parties, explain why.
2. **Service of Process.** If Plaintiff has failed to complete service of process on all Defendants, then counsel must describe the efforts to perfect service to date and provide an estimate for completion of service consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4.
3. **The Nature of the Case**
  - a. Identify the attorneys of record for each party, and note the lead trial attorney for each party, any local counsel, and the relevant bar membership(s) of each counsel, including status of any membership in the trial bar of the Northern District of Illinois (Local Rule 83.11).
  - b. State the basis for federal jurisdiction. If jurisdiction is based upon a requisite threshold amount in controversy, state whether the parties agree that the amount in controversy exceeds that threshold, including a concise explanation of how the evidence supports that statement, and if based upon diversity, then state the domicile of all parties. Note: if any party is a partnership or a limited liability company and the basis of jurisdiction is diversity, counsel must identify the name and domicile(s) of every partner of each such entity. *See Belleville Catering Co. v. Champaign Mkt. Place, LLC*, 350 F.3d 691, 692–93 (7th Cir. 2003) (explaining that, for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, partnerships and limited liability companies are citizens of every state of which any member is a citizen).
  - c. Describe the nature of the claims asserted in the complaint and any counterclaims or affirmative defenses.

- d. State the major legal and factual issues anticipated in the case.
- e. Describe the type and calculation of damages and any other relief sought by Plaintiff(s).

4. **Pending Motions and Case Plan**

- a. Identify all pending motions.
- b. Counsel for all parties must submit a proposal for discovery and a case management plan, including the following information:
  - (1) The general type of discovery needed, including any potential electronic discovery or bifurcated discovery;
  - (2) A date for Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures;
  - (3) A date to issue written discovery;
  - (4) The need for, and content of, any proposed confidentiality orders, in accordance with the Local Rules for the Northern District of Illinois (parties should start with the model confidentiality order, file a motion seeking entry of the order, and send a redlined version and a clean Word version to [proposed\\_order\\_blakey@ilnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:proposed_order_blakey@ilnd.uscourts.gov));
  - (5) The need for, and content of, any Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) waivers;
  - (6) A fact discovery completion date;
  - (7) Whether there will be expert discovery, and, if so, an expert discovery completion date (including proposed deadlines for expert disclosures and depositions);
  - (8) A proposed date for the filing of dispositive motions (if any); and
  - (9) A tentative trial date.
- c. With respect to trial, indicate whether a jury trial is requested and the probable length of trial.

5. **Consent to Proceed Before a Magistrate Judge**

Confirm that the parties have discussed the advantages of a Magistrate Judge referral and indicate whether the parties have unanimously consented to proceed before the assigned Magistrate Judge. Every case has an assigned Magistrate Judge, and in civil cases the parties may consent to have the assigned Magistrate Judge preside over the entire case including trial. In many cases, consent to refer the entire case to the Magistrate Judge may offer significant efficiencies. All counsel in civil cases must inform their clients of this option and discuss it with opposing counsel. Should the parties consent, they should notify Judge Blakey's Courtroom Deputy at (312) 818-6699, and the case will be reassigned upon receipt of the signed consent form.

6. **Status of Settlement Discussions**

- a. Describe the status of settlement discussions; and
- b. Indicate whether the parties request a settlement conference. Note: parties often request a referral for a settlement conference at the close of fact discovery, if not sooner, as it can often take several months to secure a settlement conference slot with the Magistrate Judge.