

Initial Status Conferences

In many cases, the court will set an initial status conference to discuss the topics specified above in the initial status report section above as well as the nature and timing of settlement discussions. In other words, although the publicly-filed joint status report need not address settlement discussions, counsel must come to the initial status conference prepared to address settlement discussions. For represented parties, an attorney with substantial familiarity with and responsibility for the case shall appear at the initial status conference. Represented parties are not required to attend, *so long as* counsel is prepared to proceed with discussion on the topics above without their clients in attendance. Pro se parties must attend the initial status conference.