

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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### **District Court for Northern District of Illinois participates in Mandatory Initial Discovery Pilot Project**

Chicago, Ill. - Beginning on June 1, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will be participating in a three-year pilot program, known as the “Mandatory Initial Discovery Pilot Project,” which will study whether requiring parties in civil cases to respond to a series of standard discovery requests before undertaking other discovery will reduce the cost, burden, and delay of civil litigation.

“Our district is proud to be on the front lines of this program and is eager to provide feedback to the Judicial Conference Rules Committees that will help assess the viability of mandatory initial discovery in larger district courts across the country,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

Seventeen district judges and all of the magistrate judges in the Eastern Division will be participating in the pilot program. The Court has adopted a Standing Order explaining the parties’ obligations under the pilot project and setting forth the initial discovery requests to which the parties must respond. All civil cases, except those categories of cases exempted by the Standing Order, are included in the pilot program and subject to the Standing Order.

“We are eager to support the judiciary’s plans to test the workability of such a program and will be making a number of resources available to assist attorneys in fulfilling their obligations and responsibilities under the pilot program,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

A copy of the Standing Order and additional information on the pilot project can be found on the [court’s website](#).