

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

STANDING ORDER NO. 2 (Pre-Trial Settlement Conferences)

This **Standing Order No. 2** applies to all cases in which, at the parties' or their counsels' request, the Court has scheduled a pre-trial settlement conference in any pre- or post-dissolution proceeding, or in any parentage case.

Unless otherwise allowed by the Court upon express agreement of the parties, and in order to make efficient use of the parties' and the Court's time, the Court requires that each party prepare and submit the following documents, with copies to the opposing party, **at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled pre-trial conference**:

- A Pre-Trial Memorandum pursuant to **Local Rule 14.03** of the Local Rules of the 17th Judicial Circuit ("Local Rules") in substantially the form set forth in **Appendix P** to the Local Rules. The parties may not waive this requirement without leave of Court.¹
- If the issues to be discussed or determined at the pre-trial conference include any disputed financial issues, the parties are must submit current, verified **Financial Affidavits** in accordance with **Local Rule 14.02** of the Local Rules for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit ("Local Rules"). The parties may not waive this requirement without leave of Court.
- If the issues to be discussed or determined at the pre-trial conference or hearing include motions, petitions or requests for awards of attorneys' fees, counsel for each party must submit a current statement of account for their respective clients (redacted to the extent necessary to preserve and protect the attorney-client privilege). The statements of account should reflect the attorney's hourly rate, along with the dates of service and time expended on each date of service.
- By requesting and participating in a pre-trial settlement conference, counsel for the parties expressly acknowledge that the Court and counsel will be discussing substantial factual and legal issues and that the parties, through counsel, will be soliciting the Court's opinions and views with respect to the issues presented and discussed. **Counsel further understand and acknowledge that their participation in a substantive pre-trial settlement conference with the Court shall constitute an affirmative waiver of their respective client's right, or potential right, to a substitution of judge as a matter of right pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-1001(a)(2)(ii).** See, e.g. *Kic v. Bianucci*, 2011 IL App (1st) 100622.

¹ The Local Rules for Matrimonial Proceedings, along with the Appendix forms referenced above, can be located at the web site for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, www.illinois17th.com, at the tab for "Rules and Orders."

The Court requests that, if the parties determine by agreement in advance of the scheduled date and time that the pre-trial settlement conference will not proceed, the Court be notified as soon as reasonably possible.

SO ORDERED.

Entered: _____

9/7/18



JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT