

NOTICE TO LITIGANTS

CIVIL TRIAL DELAY REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION REQUIRED PROCEDURES AND TIME LINES

All civil cases except civil petitions, juvenile proceedings, family law proceedings, probate, guardianship and conservatorship proceedings, and unlawful detainer cases are included in the Superior Court's Civil Trial Delay Reduction Program. Local Rules for the Superior Court of El Dorado County require that you comply with certain procedures and meet certain time lines for these cases. Please see Local Rule 7.12.00 et seq.

Plaintiffs and Cross-Complainant must serve the following documents with the Complaint or Cross-Complaint on all other parties:

- A copy of this Notice to Litigants;
- A copy of the Notice of Case Management Conference;
- A blank Case Management Statement;
- You Don't Have to Sue brochure;

This service must be accomplished and proof of service must be filed within 60 days of the filing of the Complaint or Cross-complaint.

A **CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE** will be held within 120 days of filing of the Complaint. The date and time are indicated on the Notice you received from the Clerk's office when you filed the Complaint. You must file a completed Case Management Statement at least 15 days prior to the Conference.

At the **CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**, the court will assign a Dispute Resolution Conference date, a Mandatory Settlement and Readiness Conference date and a trial date. The court may also assign an Issues Conference date. In lieu of a Dispute Resolution Conference, all parties may elect mediation, binding arbitration or judicial arbitration.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCES for personal injury cases will be conducted by two volunteer attorney temporary judges representing the plaintiff and defense bars. For other civil cases, Dispute Resolution Conferences will be conducted by one attorney temporary judge. You may obtain a list of the attorneys on each panel from the Court Administration.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCES are conducted as early Mandatory Settlement Conferences pursuant to CRC Rule 222 which requires that trial counsel, parties and persons with full authority to settle personally attend, unless excused by the court, and that no later than 5 court days before the conference, each party file and serve on each other party a Settlement Conference Statement with a good faith settlement proposal.

It is important to review Local Rule 7.12.00 et seq. and El Dorado County's ADR program with your client. It will increase the possibility of your client's case being resolved at an early, less expensive stage. The Superior Court Judges of El Dorado County strongly support the ADR program.