

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

IN RE: ALL CIVIL MATTERS ASSIGNED TO  
DISTRICT JUDGE MARGARET I. STRICKLAND

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING SETTING CIVIL TRIALS**

**Updated October 14, 2022  
All Prior Versions Superseded**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in all civil matters before Judge Strickland, parties are responsible for contacting the Court when they are ready for a trial setting. Parties shall request a trial setting only when (1) discovery is concluded, (2) a settlement conference or private mediation has been conducted, and (3) all dispositive motions are resolved.

No later than **30 days** after completion of the above three steps, the parties shall jointly<sup>1</sup> file a motion for a status conference to discuss setting a trial. In the motion, the parties shall specify (a) all dates of availability of parties, counsel, and anticipated trial witnesses for the next 18 months,<sup>2</sup> (b) preferred number of trial days, and (c) any other requests related to the trial that the parties wish to discuss at the status conference. If the

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<sup>1</sup> If an opposing party cannot be contacted or opposes the motion, the requesting party may file the motion individually. However, the parties are obligated to make a good-faith effort to meet and confer regarding the issues contained in this Order.


<sup>2</sup> The “dates of availability” shall not include dates that are on any other docket (including state court dockets and trailing dockets). Additionally, in stating the dates of availability, counsel shall not include any pre-planned vacations or other obligations that would prevent any parties, counsel, or anticipated witnesses from appearing for trial.

parties do not agree on a particular issue, the motion shall specify each separate party's preference.

If the parties wish to conduct additional settlement facilitation with a Magistrate Judge, the parties shall file a separate joint motion requesting a settlement conference with the assigned Magistrate Judge (or any other Magistrate Judge by unanimous agreement),<sup>3</sup> no later than the date the joint motion for status conference is due. The parties may request settlement facilitation after this date; however, any such requests shall not form the basis for vacating existing trial settings or pretrial deadlines, absent a showing of good cause.

All prior versions of this Standing Order are hereby superseded.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
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**MARGARET STRICKLAND**  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>3</sup> See D.N.M. LR-Civ. 73.4 (Consent to Settlement Conference Conducted by a Magistrate or Bankruptcy Judge).