
Procedures for Civil Matters Before JDP

Magistrate Judge Jeremy D. Peterson
Eastern District of California

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **Filing.** Judge Peterson is supported by the Fresno Division of the Clerk's Office. Please contact the Clerk's Office at (559) 499-5600 if you wish to inquire about filing procedures.
- B. **Telephonic Appearances.** Parties in civil matters proceeding before Judge Peterson generally appear telephonically. If you wish to discuss appearance procedure, please contact Courtroom Deputy Kirstie Dunbar-Kari at (209) 372-8917 or kdunbar-kari@caed.uscourts.gov at least one week before the scheduled hearing.
- C. **Documents Requiring Court Approval.** In keeping with the Local Rules of the Eastern District, counsel are to email to chambers (jdporders@caed.uscourts.gov) all proposed orders, applications, requests, stipulations, etc., in an editable format, such as Microsoft Word. Per Local Rule 131(a)(c), the emailed document must include the attorney(s)' electronic signature(s) (*i.e.*, /s/ Name), as well as the date signed.

II. CIVIL MATTERS

A. Scheduling Conferences

If the court sets a mandatory scheduling conference, the parties must file a joint scheduling conference report at least one full week prior to the scheduling conference. The parties must also email the report, in an editable format, to jdporders@caed.uscourts.gov.

B. No Paper Copies

Paper courtesy copies of motion papers should not be provided to court chambers unless specifically requested.

C. Discovery Motions

No discovery motion will be set for hearing before Judge Peterson without his prior approval obtained in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Requesting a Conference.

A party with a discovery dispute must confer with the opposing party in a good faith effort to resolve the dispute without court action. If such effort fails, the moving party must, prior to filing a notice of motion, contact the Courtroom Deputy to request a pre-motion telephone conference with Judge Peterson. The request shall be deemed to include a professional representation by the requesting lawyer that a good-faith effort to resolve the dispute took place but failed, and it must advise the court of dates and times in the next ten-day period when all concerned parties can be available to confer regarding the dispute.

2. Scheduling.

The court will issue a minute order advising counsel of the time and date of the telephone conference. The court will provide the parties with the conference call number and access code for joining the scheduled telephonic conference.

3. Briefing.

Not later than four business hours before the scheduled conference, each party may submit a brief outlining the dispute, the party's position on it, and the reasons for the dispute to jdporders@caed.uscourts.gov. Any such brief is limited to three pages in length and must include the name of the party and the date of submission. Attachments are prohibited.

4. The Conference.

At the conference, the court will discuss the issue raised and may announce its ruling or anticipated ruling on the dispute. If a party is dissatisfied with that ruling, it may seek permission to file a formal motion.

5. Further Proceedings.

If the parties believe motion papers and supporting memoranda are needed to resolve a dispute, Judge Peterson must approve the filing of a written motion filed in keeping with Local Rule 251(a). (The provisions of Local Rule 251(b) though (f) will not apply unless the Judge so orders.) Any such motion filed should (1) quote in full each interrogatory, deposition question, request for admission, or request for production that is in dispute, and (2) state the response or objection and grounds therefor as articulated by the opposing party. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, deposition transcripts or discovery papers are not to be filed with the court.

D. Settlement Conferences.

Parties may contact chambers to request that a magistrate judge serve as mediator in a settlement conference. In cases mediated by Judge Peterson, he will issue a pre-conference order establishing procedures and expectations for the settlement conference. This order may require a pre-conference statement from each party and a pre-conference telephone call with the lead attorneys.