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clients (whether or not counsel has been given settlement authority) will be cause for immediate imposition of sanctions and may also result in the immediate termination of the conference.

- b. **Full Settlement Authority Required**: A party or party representative with full settlement authority<sup>1</sup> must be present at the conference. Retained outside corporate counsel shall not appear on behalf of a corporation as the party representative who has the authority to negotiate and enter into a settlement.
- c. Requests to Continue a Settlement Conference: Any request to continue the Mandatory Settlement Conference, or request for relief from any of the provisions or requirements of this Order, must be sought by a written application. Absent good cause, requests for continuances will not be considered unless submitted in writing no fewer than seven (7) calendar days prior to the scheduled conference.

If the case is settled in its entirety before the scheduled date of the conference, counsel and any unrepresented parties must still appear in person, unless a written joint notice confirming the complete settlement of the case is filed no fewer than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled conference.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 29, 2019

Honorable Michael S. Berg

United States Magistrate Judge

<sup>1</sup> "Full settlement authority" means that the individuals at the settlement conference must be authorized to fully explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any settlement terms acceptable to the parties. Heileman Brewing Co. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir. 1989). The person needs to have "unfettered discretion and authority" to change the settlement position of a party. Pitman v. Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485–86 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose of requiring a person with

unlimited settlement authority to attend the conference contemplates that the person's view of the case may be altered during the face to face conference. <u>Id.</u> at 486. A limited or a sum certain of authority is not adequate. <u>See Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc.</u>, 270 F.3d 590, 595–97 (8th Cir. 2001).