

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 09-cv-00035-REB-MEH

SUSAN MURDIE,

Plaintiff,

v.

STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant.

**MINUTE ORDER RE-SETTING SCHEDULING CONFERENCE AND
SETTING SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

Entered by Michael E. Hegarty, United States Magistrate Judge, on January 22, 2009.

The parties' Joint, Stipulated Motion to Vacate Scheduling Conference and for Early Settlement Conference before the Magistrate Judge [[filed January 22, 2009; docket #11](#)] is **granted in part** and **denied in part**. The Motion is denied in part as the Court is vacating and rescheduling the Scheduling Conference to be held with the Settlement Conference on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 9:45 and 10 a.m. respectively, as follows:

The Scheduling Conference set in this matter for February 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. is hereby **vacated** and **rescheduled** to Tuesday, **April 7, 2009, at 9:45 a.m.** in Courtroom 203 on the second floor of the Byron G. Rogers United States Courthouse located at 1929 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado. If this date is not convenient, counsel should confer with opposing counsel and contact my Chambers to reschedule the conference. Absent exceptional circumstances, no request for rescheduling will be entertained unless made **five business days prior** to the date of the conference.

The plaintiff shall notify all parties who have not entered an appearance of the date and time of the Scheduling Conference.

Lawyers whose offices are located outside of the Denver metropolitan area may appear at scheduling and pretrial conferences by telephone, if the appropriate proposed order has been submitted to Chambers in a useable format by the appropriate deadline. Please contact Chambers at (303) 844-4507 to arrange appearance by telephone.

It is further ORDERED that counsel for the parties in this case are to hold a pre-scheduling conference meeting and jointly prepare a proposed Scheduling Order in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) on or before **March 17, 2009**. Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(d), no discovery shall be submitted until after the pre-scheduling conference meeting, unless otherwise ordered or directed by the Court.

The parties shall file the proposed Scheduling Order with the Clerk's Office, and in

accordance with District of Colorado Electronic Case Filing (“ECF”) Procedures V.L., **no later than five (5) business days** prior to the scheduling conference. **The proposed Scheduling Order is also to be submitted in a useable format (i.e., Word or WordPerfect only) by email to Magistrate Judge Hegarty at Hegarty_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov.**

Parties not participating in ECF shall file their proposed Scheduling Order on paper with the clerk’s office. However, if any party in this case is participating in ECF, it is the responsibility of that party to file the proposed scheduling order pursuant to the District of Colorado ECF Procedures.

The parties shall prepare the proposed Scheduling Order in accordance with the form which may be downloaded in richtext format from the Standardized Order Forms section of the Court’s website, found at http://www.co.uscourts.gov/forms_frame.htm. All Scheduling Conferences held before a Magistrate Judge utilize the same scheduling order format, regardless of the District Judge assigned to the case.

Any out-of-state counsel shall comply with D.C.Colo.L.Civ.R 83.3C prior to the Scheduling Conference.

The parties are further advised that they shall not assume that the Court will grant the relief requested in any motion. Failure to appear at a Court-ordered conference or to comply with a Court-ordered deadline which has not be vacated by Court order may result in the imposition of sanctions.

Finally, the parties or counsel attending the Conference should be prepared to informally discuss settlement of the case. There is no requirement to submit confidential settlement documents/letters to the Court beforehand or to have parties present who shall have full authority to negotiate all terms and demands presented by the case.

Please remember that anyone seeking entry into the Byron G. Rogers United States Courthouse will be required to show a valid photo identification. *See* D.C.Colo.L.Civ.R 83.2B.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a Settlement Conference is **set** in this matter for Tuesday, **April 7, 2009, at 10 a.m.** following the Scheduling Conference, in Courtroom 203 on the second floor of the Byron G. Rogers United States Courthouse, 1929 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado. Parties should check-in with Chambers upon arrival using the intercom to the left of the second floor elevators.

Counsel shall have all parties present, including all individually named parties or a representative of each named entity. Counsel shall also have in attendance all individuals with full authority to negotiate all terms and demands presented by the case, and full authority to enter into a settlement agreement, including, but not limited to, an adjustor, if an insurance company is involved. “Full authority” means that the person who attends the settlement conference has the complete and unfettered capacity and authority to meet or pay all terms or amounts which are demanded or sought by the other side of the case without consulting with some other person, committee or agency. If any person has limits upon the extent or amount within which he or she is authorized to settle on behalf of a party, that person does not have “full authority.” **This requirement is not fulfilled by the presence of counsel and/or an insurance adjustor alone.**

In exceptional circumstances, a party's appearance by phone may be approved by Chambers. Any party seeking such relief should confer with opposing counsel before contacting Chambers directly at 303-844-4507.

No person is ever required to settle a case on any particular terms or amounts. However, both parties must participate in the settlement conference in good faith, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f). If any party or party representative attends the settlement conference without full authority, fails to attend the settlement conference without prior Court approval, or fails to participate in the conference in good faith, and the case fails to settle, that party may be ordered to pay the attorney's fees and costs for the other side. *If one or both parties believe that the matter may not be ripe for negotiations, counsel should contact Chambers prior to the conference to reschedule the settlement conference to a more appropriate time.*

In order that productive settlement discussions can be held, counsel shall prepare and submit **two** settlement documents: one to be submitted to the other party or parties, and the other to be submitted by email only to the Magistrate Judge. The documents which are presented to opposing counsel shall contain an overview of the case from the presenter's point of view, shall summarize the evidence which support that side's claims and may present a demand or offer. These documents should be intended to persuade the clients and counsel on the other side.

The document, to be emailed to the Magistrate Judge (not submitted for filing to the court) at *Hegarty_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov*, shall contain copies of the above materials, but additionally shall contain any confidential comments which counsel wishes to make, any comments with regard to perceived weaknesses in the case and any comments which would be helpful to the Magistrate Judge in assisting the parties to negotiate a settlement. The settlement documents shall be submitted **no later than five business days** prior to the date of the settlement conference. Statements and exhibits consisting of more than 30 pages are to be submitted to Chambers in hard copy via regular mail or hand delivery.

Again, please remember that anyone seeking entry into the Byron G. Rogers United States Courthouse will be required to show a valid photo identification. *See* D.C.Colo.L.Civ.R 83.2B.