

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

LATONYA LEFEBVRE,

Plaintiff,

and

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN SURGICAL  
HOSPITAL, LLC,

Plaintiff-Intervenor,

Case No. 14-cv-13312  
Honorable Gershwin A. Drain

v.

CITIZENS INSURANCE COMPANY  
OF THE MIDWEST,

Defendant.

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO INTERVENE [#10]**  
**AND ISSUING AMENDED SCHEDULING ORDER**

Plaintiff, Latonya Lefebvre (“Lefebvre”), filed the instant action on May 8, 2014 in the Wayne County Circuit Court. *See* Dkt. No. 1-1. Defendant, Citizens Insurance Company of the Midwest (“Citizens Insurance”) removed the action to this Court on August 26, 2014. *See* Dkt. No. 1. Presently before the Court is Southeast Michigan Surgical Hospital, LLC’s (“Southeast”) Motion to Intervene, filed December 10, 2014. *See* Dkt. No. 10. Neither Plaintiff nor Defendant objects to Southeast’s intervention in this case. *See* Dkt. No. 10-2.

This matter involves a motor vehicle accident that occurred on June 16, 2013 in which Plaintiff sustained personal injuries. Plaintiff underwent surgery at Southeast’s health care

facility following the accident. As a result of the surgery, Southeast maintains that there is an outstanding balance in the amount of \$132,595.39, which Defendant refuses to pay in full. *See* Dkt. No. 10 at 4.

Rule 24(a) dictates that certain parties have an intervention of right. Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(a). Pursuant to Rule 24(a), the Court must allow intervention for anyone who files a timely motion to intervene, and who “claims an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the action, and is so situated that disposing of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede the movant's ability to protect its interest, unless existing parties adequately represent that interest.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(a)(2).

Southeast notes that “Michigan courts have long permitted medical service providers the right to intervene in No-Fault litigation pending between insurer and insured[.]” *See* Dkt. No. 10 (citing *Botsford Gen. Hosp. v. Citizens Ins. Co.*, 195 Mich. App. 127, 489 N.W.2d 137 (1992)). Southeast also notes that neither the Plaintiff nor Defendant will represent Southeast’s interest of receiving full payment in this matter. The Court agrees, and finds that Southeast has an unconditional right to intervene under Rule 24(a).

The Court finds that Southeast’s Motion to Intervene is timely. This action is in its infancy, having been filed on August 26, 2014. There is no prejudice to Defendant as the only activity in this matter has been the exchange of pleadings and a scheduling conference. The Court has not decided any of the merits of this case. Accordingly, Southeast’s Motion to Intervene [#10] is **GRANTED**.

In light of the addition of Southeast as Plaintiff-Intervener, the Court will reset the remaining deadlines. Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the following dates will govern this case:

<b>YOU WILL RECEIVE NO FURTHER NOTICE OF THESE DATES</b>	
Witness Lists Filed By:	April 15, 2015
Discovery Cutoff:	May 27, 2015
Dispositive Motion Cutoff:	June 24, 2015
Case Evaluation: <sup>1</sup>	August of 2015
Settlement Conference before Magistrate Judge Michael J. Hluchaniuk:	October of 2015
Motions <i>in Limine</i> due:	October 14, 2015
Final Pretrial Order due:	November 11, 2015
Final Pretrial Conference:	November 18, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.
Trial Date:	December 1, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
Jury Demand	
Estimated Length of Trial: 5-6 half days	

- I. **TIME.** Computation of time under this order and under any notice of any scheduling order or notice in this case shall be in conformity and accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6(a).
- II. **DISCOVERY.** Discovery shall be completed on or before the date set forth in the scheduling order. The court will not order discovery to take place subsequent to the discovery cutoff date. The discovery deadline may be extended by filing a stipulation with the court only if the extension of time does not affect the dispositive motion cut-off, final pretrial conference or trial dates. Extensions or adjournments of all other dates will only be considered upon the filing of a timely written motion for good cause shown. Local Rule 26.2 generally prohibits filing discovery materials with the Clerk. Violation of this rule may result in sanctions.
- III. **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE AND FINAL PRETRIAL ORDER.** The Final Pretrial Order must be submitted through the document utilities function of the CM/ECF on or before the date set by this order. All witnesses must be listed in the Final Pretrial Order. Witnesses may only be added to the Final Pretrial Order by stipulation of the parties and leave of court. Counsel shall follow the procedure outlined below to prepare for the final pretrial conference and the Final Pretrial Order:

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<sup>1</sup> The parties may submit the case to facilitation in lieu of case evaluation. A proposed stipulated order referring case to facilitation shall be submitted to the Court via the utilities function on CM/ECF no later than May 18, 2015. The proposed order must identify the facilitator and the date set for facilitation. Facilitation must occur no later than August 31, 2015.

- A. Counsel for all parties are directed to confer in person (face to face) at their earliest convenience in order to (1) reach any possible stipulations narrowing the issues of law and fact, (2) deal with non-stipulated issues in the manner stated in this paragraph, and (3) exchange documents that will be offered in evidence at trial. It shall be the duty of counsel for plaintiff to initiate that meeting and the duty of opposing counsel to respond to plaintiff's counsel and to offer full cooperation and assistance. If, after reasonable effort, any party cannot obtain the cooperation of opposing counsel, it shall be his or her duty to communicate with the court. The Final Pretrial Order shall fulfill the parties' disclosure obligations under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3), unless the Judge orders otherwise. All objections specified in Rule 26(a)(3) shall be made in this order. Counsel for plaintiff shall prepare a draft Final Pretrial Order and submit it to opposing counsel, after which all counsel will jointly submit the proposed order. The Final Pretrial Order should provide for the signature of the court, which, when signed, will become an Order of the court. The proposed Final Pretrial Order shall strictly comply with the requirements of Local Rule 16.2.

**\* Pursuant to Local Rule 16.2(b)(9), any objection based on foundation or authenticity will be deemed waived if not raised before trial.**

- B. The following persons shall personally attend the final pretrial conference:
- 1) Trial counsel for each party;
  - 2) All parties who are natural persons;
  - 3) A representative on behalf of any other party;
  - 4) A representative of any insurance carrier that has undertaken the prosecution or defense of the case and has contractually reserved to itself the ability to settle the action.

Representatives must possess full authority to engage in settlement discussions and to agree upon a full and final settlement. "Personal attendance" by each party is not satisfied by (1) trial counsel professing to have full authority on behalf of the client or (2) a party being available by telephone.

IV. At least ONE WEEK prior to the beginning of trial, counsel shall furnish to the court the following:

- A. In jury cases, any requests for VOIR DIRE, proposed JOINT JURY INSTRUCTIONS and the VERDICT FORM. The parties shall file with the court a single set of proposed, stipulated jury instructions and a single, proposed verdict form. The instructions are to be typewritten and double spaced and shall contain references to authority (e.g., "Devitt and Blackmar, Section 11.08"). Additionally, each party shall separately file any additional proposed instructions to which any other party objects. The parties must make a concerted, good faith effort to narrow the areas of dispute and to discuss each instruction with a view to reaching an agreement as to an acceptable form.

- B. In a non-jury case, proposed FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.
- C. A statement of claims or defenses, no longer than two pages, suitable to be read to the jury during opening instructions.
- V. **EXHIBITS.** Counsel are required to mark all proposed exhibits in advance of trial. Plaintiff's exhibits shall use numbers and Defendant's exhibits shall use letters. A consecutive number and lettering system should be used by each party. The parties are required to exchange marked exhibits three days prior to the start of trial. Counsel are also required to maintain a record of all admitted exhibits during trial. See attached exhibit form. Counsel for each party must keep custody of that party's admitted exhibits during trial. A party who objects to this provision must file a written objection prior to jury selection.
- VI. **JUDGE'S COPIES.** A paper copy of electronically filed motions, briefs, attachments, responses, replies, proposed Final Pretrial Order, and proposed Joint Jury Instructions (with disc) **MUST** be delivered directly to the Judge's chambers and labeled Judge's copy.
- VII. The court will not allow counsel not admitted in the Eastern District to practice upon a special motion. All inquiries regarding admission to this district must be directed to the Clerk's office at (313) 234-5005.
- VIII. **LOCAL COUNSEL.** An attorney admitted to practice in the Eastern District of Michigan who appears as attorney of record and is not an active member of the State Bar of Michigan must specify local counsel with an office in this district. Local counsel must enter an appearance and otherwise comply with Local Rule 83.20(f).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 11, 2014

/s/Gershwin A Drain  
Hon. Gershwin A. Drain  
United States District Court Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Copies of this Order were served  
upon attorneys of record on  
December 11, 2014, by electronic mail.

/s/ Tanya Bankston  
Deputy Clerk

HONORABLE GERSHWIN A. DRAIN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
231 W. LAFAYETTE #1013  
DETROIT, MI 48226

PHONE: (313) 234-5215      FAX: (313) 234-5219  
CASE MANAGER:              Tanya Bankston

- CONFERENCES      Scheduling conferences held after answer filed and scheduling order issued. Status conference held as needed or requested. Settlement conference before Magistrate Judge assigned to the case required.
- MOTIONS            Hearings held on most motions. Proposed orders shall be attached to the motion, as well as submitted through the document utilities function of the CM/ECF. Strict compliance required with Local Rules 7.1 and 65.1.
- DISCOVERY        Discovery shall be completed on or before the date set forth in the scheduling order.
- MEDIATION        Civil cases referred after discovery cut-off and parties are encouraged to stipulate in writing to be bound by mediation sanctions. It is not necessary, however, that sanctions be included in the stipulation.
- PRETRIAL          Final Pretrial Order generally due one week before final pretrial conference. Witnesses may only be added to the final pretrial order by stipulation of the parties and leave of court. Final pretrial conference usually held two weeks prior to trial, parties and/or persons with settlement authority must be present.
- TRIAL                Attorneys are responsible to ascertain the status of the trial date. Marked exhibits are to be exchanged three (3) days prior to trial. Benchbook of exhibits is required. If trial briefs are required by the court, they must be filed one (1) week prior to trial. File motions *in limine* no later than four (4) weeks prior to the final pretrial conference. Trial is usually held 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.
- NON-JURY          Submit proposed findings of fact/conclusions of law, one (1) week prior to trial.
- JURY                Voir dire by court. Submit proposed voir dire one (1) week prior to trial. Proposed joint jury instructions and verdict form due one (1) week prior to trial. Judge's courtesy copy and disc required.

**PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBITS  
DEFENDANT'S EXHIBITS**

<b>EXHIBIT NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DATE OFFERED</b>	<b>OBJECTED TO</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b>