

May 25, 2022

MEMORANDUM

RE: UPDATED Small Claims Preliminary Pre-Trial Hearings and Mediation Policies for Lake County EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2022

Please see the following updated policies regarding Small Claims Preliminary Pre-Trial Hearings and Mediations in Lake County:

- a) Pre-Trials and Mediations will now be held **in-person only** and held on the same day, so please come prepared to mediate your cases. THIS IS THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO MEDIATE YOUR CASES THROUGH THE COURT. **CASES WILL NO LONGER BE CONTINUED FOR SETTLEMENT**. All parties must have full settlement authority. **Telephone or video appearances will not be permitted.**
- b) All cases set on the docket will now be called, including those where no service has been filed. This is due to some parties appearing even though no service is shown.
- c) Attorneys will be limited to 2 served and 2 non-served cases per half-hour session.
- d) Once Mediation has been conducted, paperwork will be completed at that time and, if an agreement has been reached, the stipulation will be signed by both parties.
- e) Attorneys appearing for a Lake County Small Claims Pre-Trial Conference or Mediation are not permitted to be simultaneously appearing in Lake County or in another jurisdiction on any matter.

Carla R. Pepperman
County Judge