



COUNTY COURT OF LAKE COUNTY
STATE OF FLORIDA

CARLA R. PEPPERMAN
COUNTY JUDGE
KIM H. DABNEY
JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

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October 10, 2022

MEMORANDUM

**RE: UPDATED Small Claims Preliminary Pre-Trial Hearings and Mediation Policies for
Lake County EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 10, 2022**

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

- a) Pre-Trials and Mediations are 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) Pursuant to Rule 7.090(b), Florida Small Claims Rules, a return of non-service must be filed 5 days before the Preliminary Pre-Trial Hearing in order for it to be canceled. The Court requires strict compliance with this Rule.
- c) Attorneys will be limited to 4 cases per one-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