

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

TRIAL DIVISION – CIVIL

NOTICE TO THE BAR

PROTOCOL FOR DISCOVERY MOTIONS FILED AFTER MAY 5, 2020 AND THROUGH JULY 6, 2020

The Court has previously issued a Notice to the Bar on May 5, 2020 establishing a Protocol for Discovery Motions filed before May 5, 2020. In order to facilitate the prompt resolution and docketing of discovery disputes that are filed after May 5, 2020, this Court is ordering that all parties follow this Protocol through July 6, 2020 or until further Notice to the Bar.

For all discovery motions that have been filed between May 5, 2020 and May 27, 2020 the movant shall within 20 days of the date of this Notice, file through the E- filing system an appropriate Praecipe for the Court's review as contained in this Protocol.

For all discovery motions that are filed after May 27, 2020 through July 6, 2020 the movant shall within 20 days of the date of filing the motion, file through the E- filing system an appropriate Praecipe for the Court's review as contained in this Protocol.

The Praecipe must be filed in the <u>EXISTING CASE</u> section of the EFS under the filing category labeled <u>CERTIFICATION REGARDING DISCOVERY MOTION</u>.

- (1) For all Discovery motions that are withdrawn, the moving party shall file a Praecipe to Withdraw, identifying the e-file number, and identifying the party or parties against whom the motion is pending, with the relief sought. See the attached form for the appropriate format to be used for this Praecipe to Withdraw.
- (2) For all Discovery motions entered by agreement, the moving party must file a Praecipe to Enter Discovery Order By Agreement. The praecipe shall identify the e-file number, and identify the party or parties against whom the motion is pending, with the relief sought. Parties may stipulate to entry of sanctions or preclusion through the Praecipe to Enter Discovery Order By Agreement. This praecipe shall request that the Office of Judicial Records enter, upon Court review, the stipulated order marked BY AGREEMENT and prepared by counsel for the movant with an appropriate certification that the other party(s) agree to the terms of the stipulated order. Counsel

for the movant shall retain written proof of the agreement/consent from all counsel in the matter to the stipulated order. See the attached form for the appropriate format to be used for the requisite praecipe and certification.

- (3) For all uncontested Discovery motions, the moving party shall file a Praecipe to Enter Uncontested Discovery Order. The praecipe shall identify the e-file number, and identify the party or parties against whom the motion is pending, with the relief sought. Parties shall not seek entry of sanctions or preclusion through the Praecipe to Enter Uncontested Discovery Order. This praecipe shall request that the Office of Judicial Records enter, upon Court review, the stipulated order marked UNCONTESTED prepared by counsel for the movant with an appropriate certification that the motion is uncontested. Counsel for the movant shall retain written proof of the consent from all counsel in the matter to the stipulated order and the fact that it is uncontested. See the attached form for the appropriate format to be used for the requisite praecipe and certification.
- (4) For all Discovery motions concerning any person or entity which is not a party to the applicable action (collectively referred to as a "Third-party") which are by agreement or uncontested, the moving party or person shall file a Praecipe to Enter Discovery Order Against a Third-party. The praecipe shall identify the e-file number, attach the motion cover sheet of the pending motion, and identify the Third-party or parties against whom the motion is pending, with the relief sought. Sanctions or orders for preclusion may be entered by agreement; however, no sanction or order for preclusion may be entered by way of uncontested motion. This praecipe shall request that the Office of Judicial Records, upon Court review, enter the stipulated order marked by agreement or uncontested with an appropriate certification that the motion is by agreement or uncontested. The certification shall also set forth the means of service of the motion and include a valid electronic means of contacting the third-party against whom the motion is pending. Counsel for the movant shall retain written proof of the consent from the third party to the stipulated order and the fact that it is by agreement or uncontested. See the attached form for the appropriate format of the requisite praecipe and certification to be used for submission to the court hereunder. Movant shall provide the third party with a copy of the Order.
- (5) For all contested Discovery motions (including third-party motions), the moving party or person shall file a Praecipe for Contested Discovery Motion. The praecipe shall identify the e-file number, and identify the party or parties against whom the motion is pending, with the relief sought. This praecipe shall confirm that counsel for the movant has conferred or made reasonable efforts to confer with the opposing party or third-party and/or its counsel to resolve the dispute and despite reasonable efforts, the parties are unable to resolve the dispute without court intervention. The praecipe shall contain a notice to plead. See the attached form for the appropriate format to be used for this praecipe and certification. Upon receipt of the praecipe, the Office of Judicial Records shall assign the Discovery Motion a control number. Respondent(s) shall within 10 days of the filing of the praecipe file a response to the Contested Discovery Motion.

Notes:

Movants who have complied with this protocol for the filing of contested motions, but subsequently determine, prior to the hearing date, that the motion will either be agreed upon or be uncontested, shall file the appropriate praccipe with the Office of Judicial Records and

immediately advise the Court via email to peter.divon@courts.phila.gov. The Movant must copy all parties of record with this email and attach the appropriate, revised praecipe designating the motion as uncontested or by agreement whichever is appropriate.

Be advised: All praecipe and certifications described above shall be made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904 regarding unsworn falsifications to authorities.

Be advised: Any movant who does not comply with this Protocol may have their motion dismissed without prejudice. If a respondent does not comply with this protocol the motion may be granted as uncontested. Within 20 days from the date of such dismissal without prejudice, any party shall have the right to refile any motion which has been dismissed without prejudice as a result of failing to comply with this protocol.

Honorable Jacqueline F. Allen Administrative Judge Trial Division

Honorable Arnold L. New Supervising Judge Trial Division – Civil

Honorable Gary S. Glazer Supervising Judge Trial Division – Commerce

Plaintiffs v.	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA TERM, 20_ NO
Defendants	: : : : : :
PRAECIPE TO WITH To the Office of Judicial Records:	IDRAW DISCOVERY MOTION
[PARTY NAME] hereby withdraw	ws the discovery motion filed [PARTY NAME] on IBER] seeking [relief sought] against [specific party or
	BY:, Esquire
	Attorney for [PARTY NAME]
Date:	

	-
Plaintiffs v.	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA TERM, 20_ NO
Defendants	; : : : :
PRAECIPE TO ENTER DISCO	OVERY ORDER BY AGREEMENT
Court review, kindly enter the Order By Agree To resolve the discovery motion filed of [PARTY NAMES] hereby stipulate to the [MOVANT'S ATTORNEY'S NAME] attorn conferred with counsel for [PARTY NAME sought] against [specific party or parties] is re-	on [DATE] with E-File number [E-FILE NUMBER], the entry of the attached Order By Agreement. I, they for [PARTY NAME], hereby certify that I have $E(S)$ and that the discovery motion seeking [relief the esolved by agreement/stipulation. penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904 regarding unsworm
	BY:, Esquire
	Attorney for [PARTY NAME]
Date:	

Plaintiffs v. Defendants	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA TERM, 20_ NO
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PRAECIPE TO ENTER UNC	ONTESTED DISCOVERY ORDER
To the Office of Judicial Records:	OTTE DESCRIPTION OF THE OTTE OF THE OTTE OTTE OTTE OTTE OTTE OTTE OTTE
Pursuant to the Court's COVID-19 pro	tocol and subject to the below certification, and aft
Court review, kindly enter the Uncontested On	rder attached hereto as Exhibit A.
I, attorney for [PARTY NAME], her	reby certify that I have conferred with counsel f
[PARTY NAME(S)] and that the discovery m	otion filed on [DATE] with E-File number [E-FIL
NUMBER] seeking [relief sought] against [sp	pecific party or parties] is uncontested.
I make this certification subject to the	penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904 regarding unswo
falsifications to authorities. I maintain written	documentation of the agreement that this motion
uncontested.	
	BY:
	, Esquire
	Attorney for [PARTY NAME]
Data	

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	:	
	:	
	:	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	:	PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA
Plaintiffs	:	
	:	
V.	:	TERM, 20
	:	
	:	NO
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	:	
	:	
Defendants	:	
	:	
	:	

PRAECIPE TO ENTER THIRD PARTY UNCONTESTED OR RESOLVED BY AGREEMENT DISCOVERY ORDER

To the Office of Judicial Records:

Pursuant to the Court's COVID-19 protocol and subject to the below certification, kindly, upon court review enter the discovery order, attached hereto as Exhibit A which seeks relief including [movant must enter relief sought here and whether it is by agreement or uncontested].

I, attorney for [PARTY NAME], hereby certify that, on [DATE] and in compliance with Pa.R.C.P. 440, I served third-party respondent [NAME OF ENTITY SUBJECT TO MOTION] with a copy of the motion to [STATE WHAT TYPE OF MOTION e.g. enforce subpoena, for protective order, or other] filed on [DATE] with E-File number [E-FILE NUMBER]. The respondent was properly served with said motion by [DESCRIBE MANNER OF SERVICE].

I also certify that, on [DATE], [THE SUBPOENA or MOTION] was properly served on respondent [NAME OF ENTITY SUBJECT TO MOTION] in compliance with Pa.R.C.P. 234.2 by [DESCRIBE MANNER OF SERVICE].

I further certify that I conferred with a representative of the respondent [NAME OF PERSON OR PARTY SUBJECT TO MOTION] and that the discovery motion filed on [DATE]

with E-File number [E-FILE NUMBER] is [STATE WHETHER UNCONTESTED OR RESOLVED BY AGREEMENT]. The representative for respondent [NAME OF PERSON OR PARTY SUBJECT TO MOTION] can be electronically contacted at [ELECTRONIC CONTACT]. A copy of the discovery order to which respondent [NAME OF PERSON OR PARTY SUBJECT TO MOTION] consents to entry as [UNCONTESTED OR BY AGREEMENT] is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

I make this certification subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904 regarding unsworn falsifications to authorities.

I hereby certify that I have provided a copy of the attached Order to the referenced respondent and I have maintained a written confirmation that this Motion is [STATE WHETHER UNCONTESTED OR BY AGREEMENT].

	BY:	, Esquire
		Attorney for [MOVANT]
Date:		

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Plaintiffs v.		OURT OF COMMON PLEAS HILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA
	:	TERM, 20
	: NO	O
Defendants	: :	
	:	
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PRAECIPE FOR CONTE	ESTED DIS	COVERY MOTION
To the Office of Judicial Records:		
I, [ATTORNEY NAME], am counse [DATE] with E-File number [E-FILE NUMB parties].		ovant in the discovery motion filed or [relief sought] against [specific party or
I certify that I have conferred or made for respondent(s) [PARTY NAME(s)] in an ef despite reasonable and good faith efforts, th Court intervention. I make this certification regarding unsworn falsifications to authorities	ffort to resolve parties are a subject to	e unable to resolve this dispute withou
This Praecipe shall serve as NOTICE motion within 10 days of the date of this Prae		ent to respond to the contested discovery
	BY:	
		, Esquire
		Attorney for [PARTY NAME]
Date:		