

Rule 600 - Case Management Conference

- (a) The Judicial Council has implemented state rules for the management of civil cases (Cal. Rules of Court, Chapter 2 Trial Court Management of Civil Cases, rules 10.900, et. seq.).

In recognition of the state rules requiring the court to implement a case management Plan, the court elects to follow California Rules of Court, rule 3.714.

- (1) At the time the complaint is filed, the clerk will issue a hearing date for the Case Management Conference (CMC) to plaintiff that is no less than 120 days after the filing of the complaint. Plaintiff must serve a Notice of CMC on each defendant along with the summons and complaint.
- (2) Any party who files and serves a cross-complaint prior to the CMC must serve on each cross-defendant who is a new party to the action, a copy of the Notice of CMC along with the summons and cross-complaint. If a new cross-defendant is served after the initial CMC, the cross-complainant must serve the new cross-defendant with notice of any pending CMC, any assigned mediation date, trial, or settlement conference dates, and any other dates set by the court or orders made at the CMC.
- (3) If the plaintiff adds a new defendant or identifies a fictitiously named defendant after the initial CMC, along with the summons and complaint, plaintiff must serve the newly named defendant with notice of any pending CMC, any pending mediation date, any assigned trial and settlement conference dates, and any other dates set by the court or orders made at the CMC.
- (4) Proof of service of Notice of the CMC must be filed with the court within 60 days from the date the complaint is filed and may be included in the proof of service of the summons and complaint or cross-complaint.
- (5) This court has found that mediation is highly desirable and orders the parties to meet and confer prior to the CMC date regarding an agreed upon mediator and mediation date and time. A list of mediators and their fees are provided by the court in its ADR package, which can be obtained on the court's website at <https://www.tulare.courts.ca.gov/divisions/civil>. The mediator must be agreed upon before the CMC and the mediation date and time cleared with the mediator so the court may enter the date in the court's minute order.
- (6) Under California Rules of Court, rule 3.725, no later than 15 calendar days before the date set for the CMC, each party must file a CMC statement and serve it on all other parties in the case. Parties must use the mandatory CMC Statement (Judicial Council form CM-110). All applicable items on the form must be completed.
- (7) In lieu of each party's filing a separate case management statement, any two or more parties may file a joint statement.

- (8) In the event all parties stipulate in writing presented to the clerk at least 15 days prior to the Case Management Conference, any matter will be assigned for all purposes to the South County Justice Center. Requests to transfer made after the deadline for filing a stipulation will be at the discretion of the assigned judge.
- (b) Presence Required - Counsel and unrepresented parties are required to be present, either in person; by remote appearance as permitted by law (see <https://www.tulare.courts.ca.gov/online-services/request-remote-hearings> for information on remote appearances); or by telephonic appearance pursuant to The Superior Court of Tulare County, Local Rules, rule 108, and must have: (1) sufficient information and understanding of the case to evaluate it accurately, and (2) sufficient authority to enter into binding agreements such as the diversion of the case to arbitration, including binding arbitration, the setting of a trial date and mandatory settlement conference date, the dismissal of doe defendants or other parties, and the setting of a further case management conference.
- (c) Compliance - Failure to attend the case management conference will result in the court making whatever orders and imposing whatever sanctions as may be necessary and appropriate to obtain compliance with these rules, including but not limited to, a waiver of the right to a jury trial and a waiver of the right to object to a referral to arbitration or other alternate dispute resolution procedure.
- (d) Waiver of Notice - When all parties are present at the case management conference and a trial date and settlement conference dates are agreed to by the parties or ordered by the court, such presence is an effective waiver of a separate or formal notice of settlement conference and trial date. (01/01/03) (Revised 01/01/07, 01/01/09, 07/01/11, 07/01/17, 07/01/24)