

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT
SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL RULES
FOR COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION (CRLJ)
New CRLJ 3.1 – INITIAL CASE SCHEDULE

- (a) When a summons and complaint are filed, and unless exempted pursuant to this rule, the court shall issue an initial case schedule with at least the following deadlines:
1. Initial Discovery Conference. The parties shall hold an initial discovery conference no later than 45 weeks before the trial commencement date.
 2. Discovery Plan and Status Report. The parties shall file a discovery plan and status report no later than 43 weeks before the trial commencement date.
 3. Initial Disclosures. The parties shall serve initial disclosures no later than 39 weeks before the trial commencement date.
 4. Expert Witness Disclosures.
 - A. Each party shall serve its primary expert witness disclosures no later than 26 weeks before the trial commencement date.
 - B. Each party shall serve its rebuttal expert witness disclosures no later than 20 weeks before the trial commencement date.
 5. Discovery Cutoff. The parties shall complete discovery no later than 13 weeks before the trial commencement date.
 6. Dispositive Motions. The parties shall file dispositive motions no later than nine weeks before the trial commencement date.
 7. Pretrial Report. The parties shall file a pretrial report no later than four weeks before the trial commencement date.
 8. Pretrial Conference. The court shall conduct a pretrial conference no later than three weeks before the trial commencement date.

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9. Trial Commencement Date. The court shall commence the trial no later than 52 weeks after the filing of the complaint.
- (b) If application of subsection (a) would result in a deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the deadline shall be the next day in the future that is neither a Saturday, Sunday, nor legal holiday.
- (c) The party instituting the action shall serve a copy of the initial case schedule on all other parties no later than ten days after the court issues it.
- (d) Permissive and mandatory case schedule modifications.
1. The court may modify the case schedule on its own initiative or a motion demonstrating: good cause; the action’s complexity; or the impracticality of complying with this rule because of the nature of the action. At a minimum, good cause requires the moving party to demonstrate due diligence in meeting the requirements of the case schedule. As part of any modification, the court may revise expert witness disclosure deadlines, including to require the plaintiff to serve its expert witness disclosures before the defendant if the issues in the case warrant staggered disclosures.
2. No case schedule shall require a party to violate the terms of a protection, no-contact, or other order preventing direct interaction between persons. The court shall modify the case schedule on its own initiative or a motion to enable the parties to respect the terms of such an order.

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(e) The court, on a motion or its own initiative, may exempt any action or type of action for which compliance with this rule is impractical.