

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Civil Action No. _____ -cv- _____ - _____

Plaintiff(s),

v.

Defendant(s).

CONSENT/NON-CONSENT TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE IN DIRECT ASSIGNMENT CASES

Under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and D.C.COLO.LCivR 40.1(c) – Assignment of Cases/Direct Assignment to Magistrate Judges, you are notified that this civil action has been randomly assigned to a full time United States magistrate judge of this district to conduct all proceedings in this civil action, including trial, and to order the entry of a final judgment. Exercise of this jurisdiction by a magistrate judge, however, is permitted only if all parties voluntarily consent to the reference under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). An appeal from a judgment entered by a magistrate judge shall be taken directly to the appropriate United States Court of Appeals in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of a district court.

Consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction is voluntary, and no adverse consequence shall result if consent is declined. If any party withholds consent, the identity of the parties consenting or withholding consent will not be communicated to any magistrate judge or to the district judge to whom the case has been assigned. Pursuant to D.C.COLO.LCivR 72.2, no district judge or magistrate judge, court official, or court employee may attempt to influence the granting or withholding of consent to the reference of any civil matter to a magistrate judge under this rule.

You are directed to confer with all parties in this action and execute and file with the Court the attached Election Concerning Consent/Non-Consent to United States Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction, indicating either the unanimous consent of the parties or that at least one party has declined to consent, at the earlier of (1) no later than seven days before the scheduling conference, if any; or (2) 45 days after the filing of the first response, other than an answer, to the operative complaint. All parties must either consent to the exercise of magistrate judge jurisdiction, or any party may decline to

consent. In either event, **filing of the Election Concerning Consent/Non-Consent to United States Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction is mandatory**, indicating either the unanimous consent of the parties or that at least one party has declined to consent.

If all parties consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction, the magistrate judge shall notify the Chief Judge or his/her designee, who shall determine whether to enter an order of reference under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). If an order of reference is entered, the magistrate judge shall conduct all proceedings and order the entry of judgment. The Chief Judge, or his/her designee, may sua sponte for good cause or on motion of a party for extraordinary circumstances vacate the order of reference.

Any party added to the civil action after reference to a magistrate judge shall be notified by the clerk of the obligation to complete and file the mandatory Consent/Non-Consent Form. If any added party does not consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction within 21 days from the date of the notice, the civil action shall be assigned to a district judge under D.C.COLO.LCivR 40.1(a), and the magistrate judge shall continue on the case as if consent had been declined initially.

If consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction is declined by any party, no order of reference is entered or the order of reference is vacated, the civil action shall be assigned to a district judge under D.C.COLO.LCivR 40.1(a), and the magistrate judge shall continue on the case as if consent had been declined initially.

A case assigned directly to a magistrate judge in which there is consent may be assigned randomly to another magistrate judge to conduct an early neutral evaluation or other alternative dispute resolution proceeding under D.C.COLO.LCivR 16.6.

If after direct assignment, a magistrate judge recuses and the action is assigned to another magistrate judge, each party shall complete an Election Concerning Consent/Non-Consent to United States Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction no later than (a) 21 days after assignment to the successor magistrate judge; or (b) the deadlines imposed in the third paragraph of this form, whichever is later.