

FILED

Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

OCTOBER 28, 2024

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

By: R. Mina, Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

IN RE PATHWAY CASE MANAGEMENT FOR
PERSONAL INJURY CASES INVOLVING MOTOR
VEHICLES

GENERAL ORDER

(Effective November 12, 2024)

Introduction and Statement of Purpose

The Court has identified personal injury cases involving motor vehicles as a case type with characteristics that will benefit from a “pathway approach” to case management. Decades of research show that pathway case management affords litigants straightforward, fair, and prompt resolution of their disputes without unnecessary delay and cost. A pathway approach employs a system of case triage at the time of filing, a determination of the appropriate judicial and staff resources necessary to move the case toward resolution, and active management toward that resolution. The pathway approach furthers Standard 2.2(f)(1) of the Judicial Council Standards of Judicial Administration which provides that: “[t]he goal of each trial court should be to manage unlimited civil cases from filing so that: (A) 75 percent are disposed of within 12 months; (B) 85 percent are disposed of within 18 months; and (C) 100 percent are disposed of within 24 months.”

Cases indicated as Motor Vehicle Personal Injury/Property Damage on the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum will be promptly assigned after filing to a “pathway,” as described in more detail below. This pathway approach will be implemented on a pilot basis in the Court’s East District and Northwest District.¹

¹ Note that the Standing Orders for Procedures in the Personal Injury Hub Courts do not apply to any personal injury cases that are not filed or pending in a Personal Injury Hub Court.

1 **1. THE PATHWAY PROCESS**

2 **1.1 Notice.** The Plaintiff(s) will receive a Notice of Pathway Requirements and a copy of
3 this General Order upon filing the complaint. The Plaintiff must serve the General
4 Order and the Notice of Pathway Requirements on all parties and attorneys of record
5 with the Summons and Complaint. Any cross-complainant must likewise serve the
6 General Order and the Notice of Pathway Requirements on all cross-defendants and
7 attorneys of record.

8 **1.2 Scheduling.** The following dates will be scheduled upon the filing of complaints that
9 are designated by the Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum as Unlimited Jurisdiction,
10 Motor Vehicle – Personal Injury/Property Damage cases:

- 11 • **Case Management Conference/Order to Show Cause Hearing:** 120 calendar
12 days after filing date;
- 13 • **Required Filing of Post Mediation Joint Report:** 60 days before trial date (see
14 paragraph 4.2 below);
- 15 • **Final Status Conference:** Approximately 10 court days before trial date; and
16 • **Trial:** Approximately 14 months after filing date.

17 **1.3 Continuances.** Absent a showing of good cause, the scheduled deadlines, hearings,
18 and trial date will not be continued.

19 **2. SANCTIONS**

20 **2.1 Proof of Service.** Failure to file and serve the Proof of Service of the Summons,
21 Complaint, General Order and Notice of Pathway Requirements within 60 days after
22 filing of the complaint as required by California Rules of Court, rule 3.110, will result
23 in the imposition of at least \$250 in sanctions payable to the Court pursuant to Code
24 of Civil Procedure, section 177.5, unless the plaintiff provides at the Order to Show
25 Cause Hearing a showing of good cause for the failure.

26 **2.2 Case Management Statement.** Failure to complete and file the Case Management
27 Statement (Judicial Council Mandatory Form CM-110) required by California Rules
28 of Court, rule 3.725, no later than 15 days prior to the scheduled Case Management

1 Conference will result in the imposition of at least \$250 in sanctions payable to the
2 Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure, section 177.5, unless the party provides at
3 the Case Management Conference a showing of good cause for the failure.

4 **3. HEARINGS**

5 **3.1 Case Management Conference.** If the Court determines that all pathway
6 requirements and certain conditions have been met, the Case Management
7 Conference will convert to a non-appearance case review pursuant to California Rules
8 of Court, rule 3.722. Appearance of a party or the attorney for the party is required at
9 the Case Management Conference unless the Court provides notice in advance of the
10 Case Management Conference that the party or the attorney for the party need not
11 appear.

12 **3.2 Order to Show Cause Hearing.** Failure to timely file the Proof of Service and/or
13 Case Management Statement will result in the conversion of the scheduled Case
14 Management Conference to an Order to Show Cause Hearing. The party or the
15 attorney for the party that is the subject of the Order to Show Cause is ordered to
16 appear at the Order to Show Cause Hearing.

17 **4. SETTLEMENT/ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

18 **4.1 Mediation.** Cases in the pathway will be routed within five court days of the filing of
19 the Case Management Statement or other referral from a judicial officer to the
20 Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Office for assignment to a mediator
21 affiliated with the Court's Mediation Volunteer Panel or other appropriate court-
22 affiliated mediation program. ADR staff will send a Notice of Referral to Mediation
23 to the plaintiff. The plaintiff must submit a response to the Notice of Referral to
24 Mediation within 20 calendar days of receiving the Notice in writing, by calling (213)
25 830-0458, or by sending an electronic mail message to PathwayADR@lacourt.org. If
26 the parties prefer to participate in a private mediation, the response must state that
27 private mediation will be scheduled and completed at least 60 days prior to the trial
28 date.

1 **4.2 Post Mediation Joint Report.** The parties must jointly file a Post Mediation Joint
2 Report not to exceed three pages in length no later than 60 days prior to the trial date
3 to provide the Court with an update on the parties' completion of mediation, the
4 outcome of the mediation efforts, and the settlement status of the case. Should the
5 parties reach a settlement at mediation or prior to the deadline to file the Post
6 Mediation Joint Report and notify the Court pursuant to paragraph 4.4, the Post
7 Mediation Joint Report need not be filed. If the parties fail to file the Post Mediation
8 Joint Report, the matter will be calendared for an Order to Show Cause Re Failure to
9 File a Post Mediation Joint Report on the same date as the Final Status Conference.
10 The failure to file a Post Mediation Joint Report will result in the imposition of at
11 least \$250 in sanctions payable to the Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure,
12 section 177.5, unless the parties provide a showing of good cause for the failure.

13 **4.3 Mandatory Settlement Conference.** If the Post Mediation Joint Report indicates that
14 mediation did not occur or that the outcome did not result in settlement of the entire
15 case, the parties are ordered to participate in a Resolve Law LA virtual mandatory
16 settlement conference before the date of the Final Status Conference. To schedule a
17 Resolve Law LA virtual mandatory settlement conference, visit the Resolve Law LA
18 website (www.resolve-law.com).

19 **4.4 Settlement.** If the case settles at mediation, during the mandatory settlement
20 conference, or otherwise, the plaintiff(s)/attorney for the plaintiff(s) must notify the
21 ADR Office as soon as practicable by calling or sending a message using the contact
22 information in paragraph 4.1. Upon this notification to the ADR Office, an Order to
23 Show Cause Re Settlement will be scheduled 60 calendar days from the date of
24 notice. Appearance of all parties or their attorneys is required. If a Settlement
25 Document as defined in paragraph 4.5 is filed prior to the scheduled hearing, the
26 Order to Show Cause Re Settlement will be removed from the calendar. Failure to file
27 a Settlement Document as required by paragraph 4.5 below within 45 days of the date
28 the settlement agreement is reached will result in the imposition of at least \$250 in

sanctions payable to the Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure, section 177.5, unless the party provides at the Order to Show Cause Re Settlement hearing a showing of good cause for the failure.

4.5 Settlement Documents. Within 45 calendar days of the date the settlement agreement is reached, the plaintiff(s)/attorney for plaintiff(s) must file, pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1385, a Notice of Settlement of Entire Case (Judicial Council Form CM-200), Stipulated Judgment or Request for Dismissal of Entire Action.

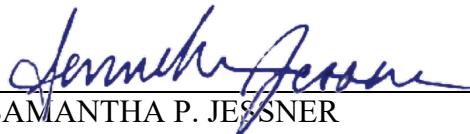
5. DEADLINES FALLING ON A WEEKEND OR COURT HOLIDAY.

5.1 Deadlines or hearing dates calculated under this Order that fall on a weekend or Court holiday will be moved to the next court day.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 28, 2024





SAMANTHA P. JESSNER
Presiding Judge