SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

"The mission of the court is to resolve disputes in a fair, just and efficient manner and to interpret and apply the law consistently, impartially and independently."

CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT POLICY

All civil actions except those exempted by San Luis Obispo Court Rule 9.02 will be assigned to one judge for all purposes. All cases subject to these rules will be managed in a manner that will meet the case-disposition goals of the Standards of Judicial Administration Sections 2.1 and 2.3. Chapter 9 of the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Rules describes the policies and procedures of the court for the management of litigated civil disputes. Parties shall be familiar with the rules.

Plaintiff shall serve the documents listed below at the same time the complaint is served. Plaintiff shall serve each of the defendants and file a proof of service within 60 days after the complaint is filed. Documents that must be served with a copy of the complaint include:

1. A copy of the Notice of Case Management Conference;
2. A copy of this Civil Case Management Policy statement;
3. A copy of the Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy Statement
4. A blank Case Management Statement
5. A blank Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The first Case Management Conference will be held approximately 150 days after the complaint is filed. The clerk will enter the date of the conference on Notice of First Case Management Conference when the complaint is filed. **The case will be assigned a trial date in the 12th month after the complaint is filed unless the circumstances and the interests of justice require a different trial date.**

Please note: Failure to comply with the court's case management rules and policies will result in the issuance of an OSC and the imposition of monetary and other sanctions.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy

The San Luis Obispo Superior Court recognizes that civil litigation can be time consuming and expensive. Delay rarely serves anyone's interests. It often imposes intolerable social and economic burdens on the parties and the court. It is the policy of the court to achieve a disposition of all litigation at the earliest date consistent with a fair and just resolution of the dispute.

Nearly all cases are resolved without trial. Many settlements are achieved only after significant amounts of time and money have been spent on pre-trial procedures and investigation. It is the goal of the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court to produce a fair and just settlement of the dispute early in the process. To achieve this goal, it is the policy of the San Luis Obispo Superior Court to encourage the parties to pursue alternative methods of dispute resolution as early in the process as possible. All cases will be assessed at the first Case Management Conference to determine which method of ADR is most likely to achieve an early resolution.

Alternative Dispute Resolution is more thoroughly explained in the form "Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy Statement." It is the obligation of counsel to review the alternatives to trial with their clients and to provide them with a copy of the form.