
THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF MAGISTRATE
JUDGE AVAILABILITY IN CIVIL CASES

GENERAL ORDER
22-009

The Court has entered several General Orders, under 28 U.S.C. § 636 (c), to provide parties with notice of the availability of a magistrate judge to preside over a case, subject to the parties' consent, until completion of the matter and entry of a judgment.

In 2007 General Order [07-001](#) established a pilot program to assign some civil cases to magistrate judges. The pilot program was a success. General Order [11-001](#) superseded General Order [07-001](#) and continued the assignment of some civil cases, to magistrate judges. General Order [20-034](#) addressed assignment of non-prisoner pro se civil cases to magistrate judges. General Order [21-005](#) addressed assignment of cases seeking review of Social Security appeals cases to magistrate judges.

Under each General Order, parties must return a form (Consent Form) to the Clerk's Office indicating their consent to the magistrate judge or requesting reassignment to a district judge. General Orders [11-001](#), [20-034](#), and [21-005](#), however, establish differing deadlines for parties to return the Consent Form. It is cumbersome to manage and track the various deadlines under each of the relevant General Orders. Standardizing the due date in which the parties must return the Consent Form will facilitate the district's ongoing case management. The 21-day deadline established in General Order [21-005](#) will be used.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The Clerk's Office will continue to include all full-time magistrate judges in the civil case assignment process in a proportionate basis.
2. The Clerk's Office will continue to send the Consent Form to parties in civil cases, except cases that are exempt under General Orders [11-001](#) and [20-034](#).

3. After the Clerk's Office sends the Consent Form to a party, the party must return it to the Clerk's Office within 21 days.

4. This General Order takes effect on July 5, 2022, and supersedes deadlines stated in General Orders [11-001](#) and [20-034](#).

5. The court directs the Advisory Committee on the Local Rules of Practice to consider enacting a local rule consistent with this General Order when the local rules are next amended.

SO ORDERED this 21st day of June, 2022.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJS', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

ROBERT J. SHELBY
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE