

**RULE L212.3. PRETRIAL CONFERENCES. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES.**

(1) Pretrial Conferences.

(a) Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, pretrial conferences will be scheduled by the Court Administrator shortly after the trial list closes.

(b) In addition to the matters set forth in Pa.R.C.P. 212.3 for consideration of a pretrial conference, the Court will consider, and attempt to resolve, all motions in limine filed up to that time. All known or anticipated pretrial motions in limine should be presented prior to or at the pretrial conference.

(c) Attorneys present at a pretrial conference must have complete authority to enter into stipulations concerning liability, and other trial-related and evidentiary issues.

*Comment*

*It is expected that by the time of the pretrial conference all depositions for use at trial have been completed and there will be no further depositions, for discovery or for use at trial, to be held between the time of the pretrial conference and the beginning of the upcoming civil trial term. The Court may, on its own, continue the trial to a later term if there are any depositions to be taken after the pretrial conference. By the time the case gets to the pretrial conference stage, the Court expects that all parties are then ready for trial.*

*Comment*

*In compulsory arbitration cases these rules only apply if an appeal is taken.*

(2) Settlement Conferences.

(a) A settlement conference may be held at the discretion of the Court or on written request of a party, which said request shall set forth substantial reasons for the conference. The Court may hold a settlement conference prior to or after a pretrial conference .

(b) At least five (5) days prior to the settlement conference, all plaintiffs shall have made a bona fide written demand and proposal of settlement on all opposing counsel and non-represented parties. By the time of the settlement conference, each defendant or additional defendant shall

respond in writing to such written to demand.

(c) Each party, corporation, and insurance carrier of a party who has an actual interest in the case, or can have an effect on the settlement of the case, shall be personally present at the settlement conference and be represented by someone authorized to speak for such party, corporation or insurance carrier with respect to the trial of the case and the settlement of the case, and who is also authorized to settle the case within any policy limits or up to any plaintiff's demand that is within the policy limits. The Court, on motion filed at least five (5) business days prior to the settlement conference, may for good cause, permit a party or representative to appear by telephone rather than in person.