

State of Michigan



Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

PHILIP E. RODGERS, JR.
THOMAS G. POWER
CIRCUIT JUDGES

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COUNTIES
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SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE DAYS

Settlement conferences before Judge Philip E. Rodgers, Jr. are scheduled to commence at 9 a.m., in **Traverse City**. The following process outlines this Court's format for effective handling of the cases set for each settlement conference day. The system is designed to put the primary responsibility for settlement on counsel and the parties, with the Court's resources applied first to those cases in which counsel and the parties have had productive negotiations and, later, to more difficult cases.

- 1) At 9 a.m., all counsel and unrepresented parties will assemble in the Courtroom for orientation by the Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr. Judge Rodgers will explain the "modified triage system" whereby the cases which require the least intervention by the Court will be dealt with first. As available, the Court or Judge Rodgers' Judicial Staff Attorney will meet next with attorneys and parties who are in process of settlement, i.e., have had recent productive settlement negotiations. Last to be dealt with directly by the Court will be cases which have failed to actively pursue settlement negotiations or claim to be at an impasse.
- 2) Immediately following Judge Rodgers' introductory remarks, settlements will be placed on the record in the order that cases appear on the schedule.
- 3) Attorneys and unrepresented parties who report that they have had recent productive settlement negotiations will meet, in the order that cases appear on the schedule, with the Judicial Staff Attorney. Other counsel and parties are encouraged during this time to commence settlement negotiations.
- 4) Periodically, the Judicial Staff Attorney will check in with counsel and unrepresented parties to learn the status of negotiations. Judge Rodgers will be available for successive meetings with counsel and unrepresented parties. The order of priority for the Judicial Staff Attorney to refer cases to the Judge will be based on the narrowing of issues or settlement figures.
- 5) The Court and its staff intend to work diligently to explore settlement. Counsel, parties and insurance representatives should be prepared to spend the entire day at the Court and should not expect to leave to address other cases or conflicts. The Plaintiff is responsible for promptly notifying the Court of lien claimants, contact persons and their addresses so they may be ordered to attend.
- 6) All written materials and exhibits must be presented to the Court consistent with the Civil Scheduling Conference Order. Dismissal or default will be entered for non-appearance or failure to provide written documents as stated in the Civil Scheduling Conference Order.