

Scheduling Final Hearing in Contested Matters; Case Management Conference

In order to obtain a final hearing (trial without jury) in a contested domestic relations matter, the parties must attend a case management conference. This will replace the traditional docket call.

Pursuant to Rule 12.200, Fla. Fam. L. R. P, either upon the court's own motion, or upon receipt of a Notice for Trial or Motion for Case Management Conference, a case management conference will be ordered by the court. All parties and their counsel are required to attend this conference.

At the conference, the Court may hear pending motions; schedule, order, or expedite discovery; schedule disclosure of expert witnesses and discovery of facts known; pursue the possibilities of settlement; refer parties to mediation; refer the cause for a home study or psychological evaluation; and schedule other conferences or determine other matters that may aid in the disposition of the action. If full settlement has been reached, and the matter is uncontested and all requirements have been met, the case may proceed to final hearing at the case management conference.

The court will schedule a final hearing (trial without jury) when either party writes a letter to Judge McManus enclosing a copy of pre-trial stipulation, signed by counsel for each party and by unrepresented parties, which conforms to the case management conference order. If a party submits a notice that the other party has refused to comply with the CMC order, the court will issue an order to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed on the delinquent party.