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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10  
11 IN THE MATTER OF  
12 DIRECT ASSIGNMENT OF  
13 CIVIL CASES TO  
14 MAGISTRATE JUDGES

} GENERAL ORDER NO. 24-05  
} (Supersedes General Order No. 12-02)  
}

15 General Order No. 12-02 regarding the direct assignment of civil cases to  
16 Magistrate Judges is amended as follows:

17 1. Every full-time Magistrate Judge who has completed 12 months of service and  
18 maintains his or her regular caseload as determined by the Chief District Judge and Chief  
19 Magistrate Judge in consultation with one another shall be included in the pool of judicial  
20 officers available for random selection as the assigned judge for all civil cases. A full-  
21 time Magistrate Judge with less than 12 months of service who maintains his or her  
22 caseload as determined by the Chief District Judge and Chief Magistrate Judge may  
23 volunteer to be included in the pool of judicial officers available for random selection.  
24 Except in the categories of cases described below, each eligible Magistrate Judge shall be  
25 randomly assigned ten civil cases each month to preside over for all purposes.

26 2. **Cases Excluded.** The following categories of cases are excluded from direct  
27 assignment to Magistrate Judges: death penalty habeas corpus petitions, bankruptcy  
28 appeals or bankruptcy withdrawal of reference cases, and cases where an application for

1 a temporary restraining order accompanies the initiating complaint.

2       3. **Clerk’s Notice and Declination of Consent Form**. When a case is assigned  
3 initially to a Magistrate Judge, the Clerk shall provide a Notice of Assignment to a U.S.  
4 Magistrate Judge (“Notice”) and a Declination of Consent Form to the initiating party.  
5 The initiating party must serve the Notice and Declination of Consent Form (“Form”) on  
6 each newly served party or party added to the case (e.g., intervention) at the time of service  
7 of the summons and complaint or other initiating document (e.g., Notice of Removal).  
8 The Notice will advise each party that: (1) the case has been assigned to a Magistrate  
9 Judge for all purposes, including trial and entry of judgment; and (2) that any party may  
10 decline to consent to having the Magistrate Judge preside over the case by signing and  
11 returning the Form within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of service of the Notice  
12 either by issuance from the Clerk’s Office or when served with the Notice by the initiating  
13 party. Incarcerated plaintiffs who are proceeding pro se may decline to consent to having  
14 the Magistrate Judge preside over the case by signing and returning the Form within  
15 twenty-one (21) calendar days from the date of service of the Notice. The period to decline  
16 consent shall begin upon service of the Notice and Declination of Consent Form, either  
17 by issuance from the Clerk’s Office or when served with the Notice and Form by the  
18 initiating party.

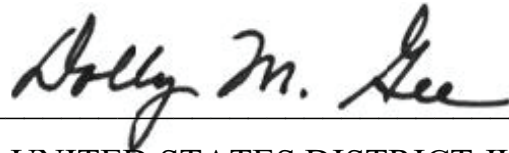
19       4. **Declination of Consent Form**. If a party submits a timely Declination of  
20 Consent Form, the case will be randomly assigned to a District Judge to preside over the  
21 case for all purposes and randomly assigned to a new Magistrate Judge to preside over  
22 discovery. However, if a party fails to submit a Declination of Consent Form within the  
23 specified time, it will be deemed as the party’s consent to proceed for all purposes before  
24 the assigned Magistrate Judge, including trial and entry of final judgment under 28 U.S.C.  
25 § 636(c) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 73. Appeal from a final judgment entered  
26 at a Magistrate Judge’s direction may be taken to the court of appeals as any other appeal  
27 from a judgment entered by a District Judge.

28       5. If, prior to a declination of consent being submitted, a Magistrate Judge has issued

1 an order to show cause why the case should not be dismissed or remanded, and the time  
2 for response to the Order to Show Cause has expired, the determination of whether the  
3 case should be dismissed or remanded shall be made by the Chief District Judge or, in his  
4 or her discretion, be randomly assigned to another District Judge for resolution. If the  
5 District Judge does not dismiss or remand the case, the case shall remain with the  
6 Magistrate Judge for all further proceedings consistent with this General Order and the  
7 Local Rules.

8 6. This General Order shall become effective on December 1, 2024.

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10 IT IS SO ORDERED.



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12 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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14 *Date of Approval by the Court:* June 26, 2024

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16 *Date of Filing by the Clerk:* November 1, 2024