

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION**

, Case No.  
  
**Plaintiff,**  
-vs-  
**JUDGE PAMELA A. BARKER**  
  
,  
  
**STANDING ORDER**  
  
**Defendant.**

**I. Governing Rules**

This case is governed by both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Counsel and *pro se* parties are ordered to familiarize themselves with those rules and this Standing Order.

**II. Partial Motions to Dismiss**

The filing of a partial motion to dismiss will not excuse the filing of an answer, compliance with discovery, or any other rules or orders. So as not to delay the overall resolution of the case, proceedings will go forward while the partial motion to dismiss is being briefed and/or is under advisement by the Court. Accordingly, defendants who timely file a partial motion to dismiss under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b), must still file an answer. The deadline to serve an answer shall be calculated as set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a).

**III. Ex Parte Communications**

This Court will not accept ex parte telephone calls to Chambers regarding substantive issues in pending cases. The Court speaks through its docket. While it may be appropriate to call Chambers regarding routine, non-substantive matters (such as requests for the dial-in information for an

upcoming status conference, etc.), it is not appropriate under any circumstances for counsel to call Chambers ex parte for guidance or clarification regarding substantive matters, including matters relating to existing case management deadlines, requests to file briefing, and/or inquiries regarding the status of pending motions. All questions regarding substantive matters in pending cases must be filed as a motion on the public docket, with the following exception. If a dispute arises during a deposition that requires this Court's immediate assistance, the parties may call Chambers for assistance, but must do so jointly (and not on an ex parte basis).

**IV. Protective Orders**

This Court has a strong preference for the use of the protective order as set forth in Appendix L to the Local Civil Rules. If any party seeks a protective order that deviates from Appendix L, the party must email a redlined Word version of the revisions they propose to Appendix L to [Barker\\_Chambers@ohnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Barker_Chambers@ohnd.uscourts.gov). That request must also set forth the basis for any deviations from Appendix L. Joint proposals will be viewed more favorably

**V. Meet and Confers**

At any point in which the parties are directed to meet and confer, such a conference must be conducted in-person, by video conference, or by telephone conference. Email communications will never be sufficient to demonstrate a good faith effort to meet and confer. This Court's separate Discovery Dispute Order more fully sets forth the parties' obligations in the event of a discovery dispute.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

*s/ Pamela A. Barker*  
PAMELA A. BARKER  
U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE