

**PART A:
GENERAL RULES**

I. SCOPE OF RULES

General L.R. 1.1 Scope of Rules

The General Rules set forth in Part A govern both civil and criminal proceedings in this district. The rules set forth in Part A, Part B, and Part C govern civil and criminal litigation in this district. Compliance with the rules is expected. However, the rules are intended to be enforced primarily upon the Court's own initiative, and the filing of motions alleging noncompliance with a rule may be reserved for egregious cases.

General L.R. 3.1 Assignment of Cases

(a) Civil Cases

- (1) At the time an action is filed, except as otherwise provided by general order of the Court, the case must be randomly assigned to a district judge or a magistrate judge. The Clerk of Court must provide the party filing the action with a form advising all parties of their right to consent to the exercise of jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). The plaintiff must serve each defendant with a consent form, together with the summons and complaint. In the case of actions removed from state court, the defendant must serve each other party with a consent form, together with the notice of removal. Each party to the action must return the completed consent form to the Clerk of Court within 20 days after service of the form.
- (2) In cases assigned to a district judge, a magistrate judge must also be assigned. If the parties consent to the magistrate judge's jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), the district judge may refer the case to the magistrate judge by written order, and the parties will be notified of such reference by the Clerk of Court. Whether or not the parties have consented to the reference of the case to the magistrate judge, the district judge assigned to the case may designate the magistrate judge to perform any of the duties authorized by these local rules, including conducting an ADR process.
- (3) The Court may by general order require the Clerk of Court to refer certain categories of the district judges' cases to the magistrate judges for such pretrial processing as specified in the order.

(b) Criminal Cases

Upon the return of an indictment or the filing of an information, all felony criminal cases must be assigned by a method of random allocation to a judge and magistrate judge of this Court.