

**PRACTICE PREFERENCES**  
**JUDGE GREGORY G. GROGER**

CIRCUIT CIVIL SECTION B  
FORECLOSURE SECTIONS J4 , J8

Judicial Assistant: Gia Reda

Bailiff: Doug Theodore

Mailing Address:

Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center  
38053 Live Oak Avenue, Suite 106A  
Dade City, FL 33523

Phone Numbers:

Office: 352-521-4390  
Hearing Line: 352-559-5654

Hearing Room Address:

Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center  
38053 Live Oak Avenue, Suite 106A  
Dade City, FL 33523

Email:

[CrCivE2@jud6.org](mailto:CrCivE2@jud6.org)

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**REVISED MAY 24, 2019. CHANGES ARE IN BOLD AND UNDERLINED**

## EX PARTE MOTIONS AND ORDERS, EMERGENCY MOTIONS

Orders on Ex Parte motions and emergency motions are made at the discretion of the Court. The materials should be submitted by US Mail or other courier service. Ex Parte motions submitted by email will not be accepted.

The materials should include the following:

1. Cover letter with opposing counsel copied
2. Copy of the Motion. All originals should be filed with the Clerk. The motion should indicate whether opposing counsel has been contacted, and whether there is any objection to the motion. Emergency motions must include the reason why the matter requires the Court's immediate attention, and cannot be set for hearing.
3. Proposed Order. Orders with a stand alone signature page (a page with only "done and ordered..." and the judge's signature line) will be returned with instructions to include some substance of the order on the same page as the signature block.
4. A copy of the Order for each party on the service list.
5. Postage paid envelopes addressed to each party on the service list.

The following is a list of items that the Court would consider ex parte:

- Motion for Substitution of Counsel
- Motion to Withdraw (with written consent of the client)
- Motion for Extension of Time
- Motion to Appoint Guardian ad Litem / Attorney ad Litem
- Motion to Re-Schedule Foreclosure Sale
- Motion for Writ of Possession
- Motion for Voluntary Dismissal
- Motion for Rehearing / Reconsideration
- Motion to Vacate Final Judgment
- Motion to Disqualify
- Motion to Return Original Documents
- Motion for Default
- Agreed Upon or Stipulated Orders
- Motions to Compel Discovery (pursuant to Administrative Order 2017-072 PA/PI-CIR)

**ALL MOTIONS SEEKING ENTRY OF FINAL JUDGMENT MUST BE SET FOR HEARING.**

## SPECIAL SET HEARINGS

### JUDGE GROGER HAS NEW PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING SPECIAL SET HEARINGS

1. Requests for special set hearing should be made by email to Judge Groger's Judicial Assistant, Gia Reda, at [CrCivE2@jud6.org](mailto:CrCivE2@jud6.org).
2. The email should provide the following information:
  - a. The name of the motion to be set;
  - b. Verification that the motion has already been filed;
  - c. Whether the motion requires an evidentiary hearing;
  - d. Verification that counsel has made reasonable efforts to confer with opposing counsel to attempt to resolve the matter without a hearing. Please see Sixth Judicial Circuit Administrative Order 2015-52, RE: Professionalism Committee and Standards of Professional Courtesy;
  - e. The amount of time needed for the motion;
  - f. Whether telephonic appearance is requested. For any hearing longer 15 minutes, counsel should file a separate motion requesting telephonic appearance.
  - g. All opposing counsel and unrepresented parties should be copied on the hearing request email.
3. For all motions requiring an evidentiary hearing, motions for summary judgments, or any other motion seeking the entry of judgment, the Judicial Assistant will provide available hearing dates and times.
4. For all other motions, the Judicial Assistant will request that counsel provide an electronic copy of the motion, a proposed Order on the motion in Microsoft Word format, and a current service list (which may be contained within the motion's certificate of service). All opposing counsel and unrepresented parties should be copied.
  - a. Judge Groger will review the motion and determine whether the motion can be ruled upon without a hearing.
  - b. Counsel should be familiar with Sixth Judicial Circuit Administrative Order 2015-056 PA/PI-CIR, RE: MOTIONS DECIDED UPON WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS – CIVIL DIVISION. Any written response should be provided to the Court by email within ten (10) days.
  - c. If a hearing is necessary, the Judicial Assistant will provide available hearing dates and times.
5. Confirmation of scheduled hearing:
  - a. The Judicial Assistant will place the hearing on the court's calendar once there is confirmation that all necessary parties have agreed upon a hearing date/time, or if there is no response from opposing counsel, a certification that at least three attempts were made to coordinate a date and time without any response.

- b. Counsel for the moving party is responsible for issuing and serving a notice of hearing.
6. HEARINGS
- a. The Court endeavors to be fully prepared for hearings so that counsel will have ample opportunity to expound upon arguments made in the motion or memorandum of law.
  - b. At least seven (7) days prior to the hearing, counsel for the moving party should provide to the Court a paper copy of the motion, any responses in opposition, and any legal authority.
  - c. Opposing counsel should also provide paper copies of legal authority supporting its argument

#### TELEPHONIC APPEARANCES

For hearings set for 15 minutes or less, counsel for any party may appear telephonically with prior notice to opposing counsel and the court. For hearings longer than 15 minutes, counsel must submit a motion and order to the court stating the reasons why telephonic appearance is requested. Motions for telephonic appearance should be submitted to the Court at least 2 business days prior to the hearing.

For matters that are scheduled on the Court's calendar for uncontested nonjury trials and motions for summary judgment, personal appearance is required where a law firm has two or more cases scheduled on the calendar.

Telephonic appearance is made by calling the Court's conference line: 352-559-5654.

#### UNIFORM MOTION CALENDAR (UMC)

The Uniform Motion Calendar has been discontinued as of April 1, 2018 due to lack of volume. All hearings are to be special set.

**FORECLOSURE AND OTHER NONJURY TRIALS:**

To set a foreclosure case for non-jury trial, a Notice of Readiness for Non-Jury Trial should be filed and submitted to the court by US Mail. Postage paid envelopes properly addressed to all parties on the service list must be included with notice. The Judicial Assistant will set the case on the trial calendar and issue the Trial Order. NOTICES SENT BY EMAIL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The Notice of Readiness for Non-Jury Trial should indicate whether the matter is contested or uncontested; the anticipated duration of the trial, and the most current service list. A matter is considered “uncontested” if all defendants have either defaulted, consented, or do not oppose entry of judgment. Any objections to whether the matter is uncontested or to the stated duration of the trial should be made and submitted to the Court within seven (7) days of the filing of the Notice. A Case Management Conference will be scheduled to resolve any objections to the Notice. If no objections are received, the Judicial Assistant will set the matter for trial on one of the following days. A Pretrial Conference will be scheduled for contested trials but not for uncontested trials. If the scheduled trial date creates a conflict, the party should file the appropriate motion after conferring with opposing counsel and request a hearing date from the Judicial Assistant. The Judicial Assistant will not unilaterally reschedule a trial date. PLEASE REVIEW THE PRACTICE PROCEDURES REGARDING TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE FOR UNCONTESTED MATTERS.

For other civil, non-jury trials (excluding foreclosure trials), the party filing the Notice of Readiness for Non-Jury Trial should indicate the anticipated duration of the trial. A case management conference will be set for the purpose of specially setting the trial date. Non-jury trials will be conducted in the judge’s hearing room, which has limited space for parties and exhibits. Please advise the court at the case management conference if a courtroom will be needed so that it can be taken into consideration in setting the trial date and necessary accommodations can be made.

**CONTESTED FORECLOSURE TRIAL DATES**

Trial Date 9:00am or 1:30pm	PreTrial Conference 10:30am
1/3/2019	12/3/2018
2/7/2019	1/4/2019
3/7/2019	2/4/2019
4/4/2019	3/4/2019
5/2/2019	4/1/2019
6/6/2019	4/29/2019
7/3/2019	6/3/2019
8/1/2019	7/1/2019
9/5/2019	7/29/2019
10/3/2019	9/3/2019
11/7/2019	10/1/2019
12/5/2019	11/4/2019

**CONTESTED FORECLOSURE TRIAL DATES**  
**2020**

<b><u>Trial Date</u></b> <b><u>9:00am or 1:30pm</u></b>	<b><u>PreTrial Conference</u></b> <b><u>10:30am</u></b>
<b><u>01/09/2020</u></b>	<b><u>12/02/2019</u></b>
<b><u>02/06/2020</u></b>	<b><u>01/06/2020</u></b>
<b><u>03/05/2020</u></b>	<b><u>02/03/2020</u></b>
<b><u>04/02/2020</u></b>	<b><u>03/02/2020</u></b>
<b><u>05/07/2020</u></b>	<b><u>03/30/2020</u></b>
<b><u>06/04/2020</u></b>	<b><u>05/04/2020</u></b>
<b><u>07/02/2020</u></b>	<b><u>06/01/2020</u></b>
<b><u>08/06/2020</u></b>	<b><u>06/29/2020</u></b>
<b><u>09/10/2020</u></b>	<b><u>08/03/2020</u></b>
<b><u>10/08/2020</u></b>	<b><u>09/08/2020</u></b>
<b><u>11/02/2020</u></b>	<b><u>10/05/2020</u></b>
<b><u>12/03/2020</u></b>	<b><u>11/02/2020</u></b>

## UNCONTESTED FORECLOSURE TRIALS AND MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Uncontested trials and motions for summary judgment includes those matters in which all defendants have been defaulted, have consented to judgment, or are otherwise not contesting the entry of final judgment. These cases will be set for on the dates below. **A party must request the judicial assistant to set a matter for hearing. A party is not permitted to unilaterally set a hearing without approval of the judicial assistant.** PLEASE NOTE THAT PERSONAL APPEARANCE WILL BE REQUIRED IF A LAW FIRM HAS TWO OR MORE HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR THAT DAY. Hearings begin at 9:00am **(except as noted)**. Please see the bailiff and advise if you have retained a court reporter and whether any unrepresented party is present. Telephonic hearings will be heard after those hearings in which counsel has personally appeared.

- January 22
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5
- July 2
- July 31
- September 4 **(1:30pm)**
- ~~October 2~~
- **October 16 (1:30pm)**
- October 30 **(1:30pm)**
- December 4 **(1:30pm)**

### 2020 Dates

**All hearings and trials are scheduled to begin at 1:30pm.**

- **January 8**
- **February 5**
- **March 4**
- **April 1**
- **May 6**
- **June 3**
- **July 1**
- **August 5**
- **September 9**
- **October 7**
- **November 4**
- **December 2**

## JURY TRIALS

To set a case for jury trial, a Notice of Readiness for Jury Trial should be filed and submitted to the court by US Mail. Notices sent by email will not be accepted. The Notice should indicate the anticipated duration of the trial, including jury selection, and if the matter to be tried involves more than one party or if other accommodations are anticipated. Any trial that is expected to be longer than five (5) days, that involves multiple parties, or needs additional accommodations will be set for a case management conference prior to the setting of trial.

Any objections to the Notice should be filed and submitted to the Court within seven (7) days of the filing of the Notice. A Case Management Conference will be set to resolve any objections. If no objections are received, the Judicial Assistant will set the matter for trial on one of the following dates. If the scheduled date creates a conflict, the party should file the appropriate motion after conferring with opposing counsel and request a hearing date from the judicial assistant. The Judicial Assistant will not unilaterally reschedule a trial date.

### 2019 JURY TRIAL CALENDAR

(Revised October 8, 2018)

The following are Section B trial weeks for 2019. Each trial week is a one week trial docket unless indicated.

Jury Trial Week	PreTrial Conference (9:00am)	Calendar Call
01/07/19 01/14/19	12/3/18	01/04/19
02/11/19	01/04/19	02/08/19
03/11/19	02/04/19	03/08/19
04/22/19	03/04/19	04/05/19 2:00PM
05/06/19	04/01/19	05/03/19 2:00PM
06/10/19	04/29/19	06/07/19 2:00 PM
07/08/19	06/03/19	07/01/19 2:00 PM
08/12/19 (two week docket)	07/01/19	08/09/19 9:00AM
09/09/19 (two week docket)	07/29/19	09/06/19 9:00AM
10/07/19*	09/03/19	10/04/19 9:00AM
11/04/19	10/01/19	11/01/19 9:00AM
12/09/19	10/28/19	12/06/19 9:00AM

\* Four day trial week. Court is closed on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 for Yom Kippur.



## 2020 JURY TRIAL CALENDAR

The following are Section B trial weeks for 2019. Each trial week is a one week trial docket unless indicated.

<u>Jury Trial Week</u>	<u>PreTrial Conference (9:00am)</u>	<u>Calendar Call (9:00am)</u>
<u>01/13/2020</u>	<u>12/2/2019</u>	<u>1/10/2020</u>
<u>02/10/2020</u>	<u>01/06/2020</u>	<u>02/07/2020</u>
<u>03/09/2020</u>	<u>02/03/2020</u>	<u>03/06/2020</u>
<u>04/06/2020</u> <u>(two week docket)</u>	<u>03/02/2020</u>	<u>04/03/2020</u>
<u>05/11/2020</u>	<u>03/30/2020</u>	<u>05/08/2020</u>
<u>06/08/2020</u>	<u>05/04/2020</u>	<u>06/05/2020</u>
<u>07/06/2020</u> <u>(three week docket)</u>	<u>06/01/2020</u>	<u>06/29/2020</u> <u>(1:30pm)</u>
<u>08/10/2020</u>	<u>06/29/2020</u>	<u>08/07/2020</u>
<u>09/14/2020</u>	<u>08/03/2020</u>	<u>09/11/2020</u>
<u>10/12/2020</u>	<u>09/08/2020</u>	<u>10/09/2020</u>
<u>11/09/2020*</u>	<u>10/05/2020</u>	<u>11/06/2020</u>
<u>12/07/2020</u>	<u>11/02/2020</u>	<u>12/04/2020</u>

\* Four day trial week. Court closed on Wednesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day.