

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

In Re: Amendment of the Local Rules of Court

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**GENERAL ORDER NO. 11-**

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Under authority of the Rules Enabling Act (28 U.S.C. § 2071) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 83, and by unanimous vote of the District Judges of this Court present at a meeting of the Court on October 27, 2011, the following local rules are adopted, effective December 1, 2011, to amend existing local rules bearing the same numbers:

**3.1 Initial Filings**

(a) Civil Cover Sheet. Every complaint or other document initiating a civil action shall be filed in paper with the Clerk, unless filed electronically in the CM/ECF system with prior permission of the Court. In addition, the Court requests an electronic copy of the document in portable document format ("pdf") on the medium required by the ECF Manual, unless the complaint or other initiating document has been filed electronically. This filing shall be accompanied by a completed civil cover sheet on a form available from the Clerk. The civil cover sheet is solely for administrative purposes, and matters appearing only on the civil cover sheet have no legal effect in the action. If the complaint or other document is tendered for filing without a completed civil cover sheet, the Clerk shall file the document and shall give notice of the omission to the party filing the document that the completed civil cover sheet must be promptly filed.

**3.2 Civil Action for False Claims**

Any civil action brought pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730(b) (the False Claims Act) shall be filed *in camera* along with proof of service on the United States of a copy of the complaint and written disclosure of substantially all material evidence and information the plaintiff possesses regarding the claim. The Clerk shall randomly assign a District Judge and maintain the case under seal until the earlier of (a) expiration of sixty days or any Court-approved extension of time or (b) the Government has made an election whether or not to intervene in the action, at which time the Clerk shall notify the assigned judge to unseal the case.

## 16.2 Pretrial Scheduling Orders

Scheduling orders will be issued in conjunction with preliminary pretrial procedures established by the judges of this Court, which normally will be implemented within ninety (90) days after the filing of an action. In any action assigned to a Magistrate Judge for that purpose, the Magistrate Judge is empowered to enter scheduling orders under Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b), and to modify scheduling orders upon a showing of good cause. Unless otherwise ordered, the following categories of cases shall be exempt, as inappropriate, from the requirement that a scheduling order be issued under Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b):

- Social Security disability matters;
- Habeas corpus petitions;
- Forfeitures;
- Foreclosures in which the United States is the plaintiff;
- General collection cases in which the United States is a plaintiff;
- Actions brought pro se by persons in custody.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Susan J. Dlott  
Chief United States District Judge

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