

MEMORANDUM

December 1, 2009

To: Federal Practitioners
From: Michael R. Merz
Re: Amendments to the Local Rules of Practice

Upon recommendation of the Local Rules Advisory Committee, the Court has adopted the following amendments to the Local Civil and Criminal Rules, **effective December 1, 2009.**

Most of these changes were adopted to coordinate with the time change amendments to the Federal Rules of Procedure which also become effective December 1, 2009.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 has been changed to make the answer date twenty-one days after service, instead of the twenty days which had been the rule. Therefore, S. D. Ohio Civ. R. 4.2(c) is amended to require that summonses presented to the Clerk for issuance state that an answer is due in twenty-one, not twenty days.

S. D. Ohio Civ. R. 6.1(a) has been amended to allow counsel to stipulate to a twenty-one day extension of time to answer, move, or otherwise plead. This is to coordinate with new national rule time periods which now are in multiples of seven days.

S. D. Ohio Civ. R. 16.1 has been amended to require the Clerk to notify counsel, in notices of preliminary pretrial conferences, of the place on the Court's website where applicable standing orders of particular judges may be found. This amendment was made to make the Rule conform to existing practice.

S. D. Ohio Civ. R. 83.3(c)(1) has been amended to allow applications for the Southern District bar exam to be filed up to seven days before the exam, in lieu of the prior twenty-day limit.

S. D. Ohio Civ. R. 83.4(c)(1) has been amended to limit withdrawals of trial counsel to before twenty-one days prior to trial, as compared to the prior twenty-day limit, again to make the period a multiple of seven days.

S. D. Ohio Crim. R. 32.1 has been amended to change many – but not all – of the time periods for processing of presentence investigations to multiples of seven days. **Criminal practitioners need to read the amended rule very carefully.**

The Court thanks the Local Rules Advisory Committee, and particularly its Chair, Sandra Anderson, for their continued contribution to the Court's work.