

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2018- 01**

**SUBJECT: MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM**

On December 1, 2017, the Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program (Program) ended due to budget cuts in the fiscal year 2018 budget. The Program ran from April 10, 2010 through November 30, 2017 and was implemented as a response to the growing number of foreclosures being filed in Cook County. The number of foreclosure filings pending in Cook County peaked in September 2012 when there were 81,578 cases pending. Since that time, the new filings and pending case load have slowly declined to reach a pending case load of 21,290 as of October 31, 2017. This general administrative order addresses procedural changes that have been previously implemented for the Program.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. The Clerk of the Court shall revise the Mortgage Foreclosure Summons as specified by the Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division. The revised Mortgage Foreclosure Summons, in English and Spanish, shall remove all references to the Program, including the Notice to Homeowners specified in General Administrative Order 2010-01.
2. Upon revision of the Mortgage Foreclosure Summons, Plaintiffs' counsel shall serve the revised Mortgage Foreclosure Summons on all defendants in mortgage foreclosure cases and shall ensure that the 60-day Initial Case Management Conference date is clearly identified on the first page of the Summons.
3. Plaintiffs' counsel shall serve the Notice of Initial Case Management on all defendants of the date, time, and place of the Initial Case Management Conference in each mortgage foreclosure case in the Chancery Division. The Notice of Initial Case Management Conference shall include a Certificate of Service, shall be signed by the attorney of record, and shall contain the following language:

**\*IMPORTANT\***

**NOTICE OF INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

Please take notice that, in compliance with Supreme Court Rule 218, an initial case management conference will be held in this case on \_\_\_\_\_ (Month, day, year), at \_\_\_\_\_ A.M./P.M. before Judge \_\_\_\_\_, or another judge sitting in his/her stead, in Courtroom \_\_\_\_\_, of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois.

In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 218, "counsel familiar with the case and authorized to act shall appear." Defendants are encouraged to appear so that they may receive information regarding resources available to assist homeowners in mortgage foreclosure cases.

4. The Notice of Initial Case Management Conference shall be sent to the mortgagor at the service address and at the property address. The Notice shall also be sent to all counsel of record and to all other defendants not yet represented by counsel at the service address for each defendant.
5. The Notice of Initial Case Management Conference herein replaces and supersedes the Notice of Initial Case Management set forth in General Administrative Order No. 2010-01.
6. In any case where the original case management date is changed for administrative reasons, and in which any defendants have been served but have not filed appearances, plaintiffs' counsel will be required to prepare for those defendants a Notice of Change in Initial Case Management Date. The Notice of Change of Initial Case Management Date set forth in General Administrative Order 2010-03 shall be amended as follows:

**\*IMPORTANT\***

**NOTICE OF CHANGE IN INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT DATE**

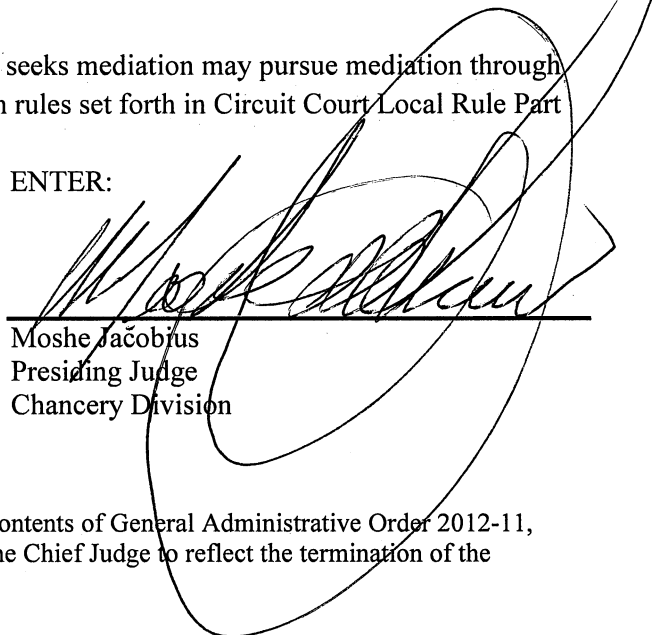
Please take notice that an initial case management conference will be held in this case on \_\_\_\_\_ (Month, day, year), at \_\_\_\_\_ A.M./P.M. before Judge \_\_\_\_\_, or another judge sitting in his/her stead, in Courtroom \_\_\_\_\_, of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Please disregard any notice of any other case management date previously sent or served on you. The date listed above is the correct case management date.

Defendants should appear so that they may receive information regarding resources available to assist homeowners in mortgage foreclosure cases.

7. The remainder of General Administrative Order 2010-03 shall remain in effect.
8. The procedural requirements for residential foreclosure mediations set forth in General Administrative Order 2012-11 are no longer valid as of December 1, 2017 and General Administrative Order 2012-11 is rescinded.
9. Any party in any mortgage foreclosure case that seeks mediation may pursue mediation through the General Chancery Court-Annexed Mediation rules set forth in Circuit Court Local Rule Part 21 (R. 21.01-21.13).<sup>1</sup>

ENTER:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Moshe Jacobus  
Presiding Judge  
Chancery Division

Date: January 16, 2018

<sup>1</sup> Circuit Court Local Rule Part 21.14 specifically enacts the contents of General Administrative Order 2012-11, which is herein rescinded, will be amended by the Office of the Chief Judge to reflect the termination of the Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program.