

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO DIVISION**

HONORABLE KATHLEEN CARDONE

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ALL CIVIL CASES

STANDING ORDER

1. This Order will govern all civil cases assigned to this Court.
2. The following matters are hereby referred to United States Magistrate Judges Richard P. Mesa, Michael S. McDonald and Norbert J. Garney for determination:
 - a. All discovery issues;
 - b. All requests to proceed *in forma pauperis* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915; and
 - c. All suits brought to review the final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security Administration. Such determination will be in the form of a report and recommendation rather than a final decision, unless the parties consent to a final decision by the magistrate judge to whom the case is referred.
3. Assignment of the cases referred pursuant to this Order shall be determined according to the final digit in the docket number as follows:
 - a. United States Magistrate Judge Richard P. Mesa is assigned all cases ending in the numbers 1, 2 or 3;
 - b. United States Magistrate Judge Michael S. McDonald is assigned all cases ending in the numbers 4, 5 or 6;
 - c. United States Magistrate Judge Norbert J. Garney is assigned all cases ending in the numbers 7, 8, 9 or 0.

4. All parties appearing in a civil proceeding before this Court, with the exception of proceedings involving appeals from the decisions of administrative agencies, habeas corpus proceedings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241, 2254 and 2255 and civil complaints by incarcerated prisoners, are required to participate in formal mediation after the filing of a responsive pleading but prior to the scheduled settlement conference date. The failure of a named defendant to file a responsive pleading within the time set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in no way obviates this requirement, in which case the parties that have appeared are obligated to notify this Court of such failure to appear and proceed in mediation.
5. This Order amends and supersedes this Court's Standing Order of September 18, 2003.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at El Paso, Texas, September 22, 2003.



Kathleen Cardone
United States District Judge