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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JANICE WATKINS AND LOWELL WATKINS, Plaintiffs, CASE NO.: 01-2022-CA-002662

v.

EXACTECH, INC. Defendant.

ORDER SCHEDULING PRETRIAL CONFERENCE AND JURY TRIAL (With Expert Disclosure Schedule) [Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200, 1.440]

**THIS ACTION** is at issue according to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.440, and is ready to be set for trial. Therefore, it is,

## **ADJUDGED** that:

- PRETRIAL CONFERENCE: Trial counsel for the parties and all parties representing themselves *pro se* are directed to appear before the undersigned Judge in Chambers, Room 416, 201 E University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida on Monday, March 17, <u>2025, at 9:00am</u>, for a Pretrial Conference to be conducted under the provisions of Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200. The time allotted for the conference is thirty (30) minutes.
- TRIAL DATE: This action is set for Jury Trial on Monday, April 7, 2025, commencing at 9:00am, before the undersigned Judge, or another judge assigned to conduct the trial, in Courtroom tba, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 E University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. The time allotted for Jury Trial, including jury selection, is 10 days. The attorneys and parties shall appear before the trial judge for the commencement of trial at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, April 7, 2025, unless they are specifically notified otherwise. All trial counsel are required to appear for the reading of the jury verdict, unless excused by the presiding trial judge, for good cause.
- 3. **EXPERTS**: The following requirements shall govern the use of one or more experts whose testimony may be offered at trial.
  - a. Plaintiffs shall disclose the names and addresses of expert witnesses to be used at trial and **three (3) available dates per witness for their depositions to be taken**, together with said witnesses' curricula vitae, all reports prepared by the expert, and a reasonable description of said witnesses' anticipated testimony no later than <u>September 30, 2024</u>.
  - b. Plaintiffs shall make their experts available for deposition at a mutually agreed upon time and place no later than **October 30, 2024**.

- c. Defendants shall disclose the names and addresses of expert witnesses to be used at trial, **three (3) available dates per witness for their depositions to be taken**, together with said witnesses' curricula vitae, all reports prepared by the expert, and a reasonable description of said witnesses' anticipated testimony no later than **November 1, 2024**.
- d. Defendants shall make their experts available for deposition at a mutually agreed upon time and place no later than **December 1, 2024**.
- e. Plaintiffs shall disclose the names and addresses of rebuttal expert witnesses, if any, to be used at trial, together with said witnesses' curricula vitae, expert report, and a reasonable description of said witnesses' anticipated testimony no later than **December 1, 2024**; and shall make said expert(s) available for deposition no later than **January 1, 2025.**

## 4. ADDITIONAL DEADLINES:

- a. Plaintiff and Defendant Supplemental Fact Sheets are due May 18, 2024.
- b. Core Depositions are due September 13, 2024.
- c. Dispositive Motions are due March 1, 2025.
- d. Daubert Motions and Motions in Limine are due March 1, 2025.
- e. Responses to Dispositive Motions are due March 7, 2025.
- f. Parties' Affirmative Deposition Designations, if any, are due February 15, 2025.
- g. Responsive Deposition Designations, if any, are due February 25, 2025.
- h. Objections to Responsive Deposition Designations, Responses to Objections to
- Affirmative Designations are due February 31, 2025.
- i. Opposition to Motions in Limine are due March 10, 2025.
- j. Hearing on Motions in Limine, Dispositive Motions, and Daubert Motions shall be on or before March 14, 2025.
- 5. **WITNESS LIST**: No later than **December 1, 2024**, each party shall **file** and **serve** a complete list of witnesses who are expected to testify at trial, together with their last known addresses, telephone numbers, and a concise description of the subject matter of their testimony. Retained expert witnesses shall be identified as such. Non-retained experts, from whom a party expects to elicit opinion testimony regarding standard of care, causation, or any matter beyond the scope of a fact witness, shall also be identified as such.
- 6. **<u>EXHIBITS</u>**: No later than **December 1, 2024**, each party shall **file** and **serve** a schedule of all exhibits and documentary evidence that the party will offer during trial.
- 7. **EXCLUSION OF EVIDENCE**: No witnesses, documents, exhibits, experts or other evidence shall be permitted to testify or be admitted into evidence if not disclosed as required by the foregoing schedule, except by consent of the parties or order of the Court.
- 8. **MEDIATION**: The attorneys and parties will schedule, conduct, and conclude mediation on or before **January 15, 2025**. If the mediation is conducted remotely, all participants must have video cameras which shall be turned on and all participants, regardless of their location, shall be visible at all times while conferring with the

mediator, unless excused by the mediator.

- 9. **<u>DISCOVERY</u>**: ALL DISCOVERY PROCEDURES ALLOWED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, INCLUDING THE TAKING OF ALL DEPOSITIONS FOR USE AT TRIAL, SHALL BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN **JANUARY 1, 2025**.
- 10. <u>ADMISSIBILITY CONFERENCE</u>: No later than **thirty (30) days** before the Pretrial Conference, the parties shall meet and exhibit to each other all documentary and tangible evidence, exhibits and visual aids to be used at trial, and shall specifically designate all portions of depositions intended to be offered or used at trial, and shall make a good faith effort to stipulate in writing as to the admissibility and use thereof. Stipulations may be conditioned on a showing at trial of such things as authenticity, relevance, foundation, and other predicates for admissibility.
- 11. **PLAINTIFF'S PRETRIAL STATEMENT**: No later than **twenty (20) days** before the Pretrial Conference, Plaintiff(s) shall file and serve on all parties, and deliver a copy to the undersigned judge, a Pretrial Statement setting forth the following:
  - a. The names of all counsel who will appear at trial on behalf of Plaintiff;
  - b. A short statement of the case and the facts on which Plaintiff bases the cause(s) of action;
  - c. An itemized statement of the special damages Plaintiff expects to prove;
  - d. If the Defendant has filed a counterclaim, Plaintiff will comply with Defendant's instructions 11(a) and 11(b);
  - e. A schedule of all exhibits and documentary evidence Plaintiff will offer during the trial;
  - f. A complete list of witnesses to be used at trial, together with their current addresses and current telephone numbers;
  - g. All stipulations regarding the authenticity, admissibility and use of exhibits and visual aids;
  - h. A memorandum of law particularly applicable to this case, with copies of cited authority;
  - i. Plaintiff's proposed jury instructions and verdict form.
- 12. **DEFENDANT'S PRETRIAL STATEMENT**: No later than **twenty days (20)** before the Pretrial Conference, Defendant(s) shall file and serve on all parties, and deliver a copy to the undersigned judge, a Pretrial Compliance setting forth the following.
  - a. The names of all counsel who will appear at trial on behalf of Defendant;
  - b. A statement of the facts constituting Plaintiff's cause(s) of action, including damages, which Defendant will admit;
  - c. If Defendant has filed affirmative defenses, a statement of the facts on which Defendant bases such defenses;
  - d. If Defendant has filed a counterclaim or crossclaim, Defendant will comply with Plaintiff's instructions 10(a) and 10(b);
  - e. A schedule of all exhibits and documentary evidence Defendant will offer during the trial;

- f. A complete list of witnesses to be used at trial, together with their current addresses and current telephone numbers;
- g. All stipulations regarding the authenticity, admissibility and use of exhibits and visual aids;
- h. A memorandum of law particularly applicable to this case, with copies of cited authority;
- i. Defendant's proposed jury instructions and verdict form.
- 13. <u>MOTIONS</u>: ALL MOTIONS MUST BE HEARD ON OR BEFORE **MARCH 14, 2025**. FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE AND SCHEDULE A HEARING ON A MOTION IS NOT GROUNDS FOR A CONTINUANCE. UNTIMELY FILED MOTIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE COURT
- 14. <u>SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE</u>: Within **forty-eight (48) hours** immediately before the Pretrial Conference, the parties shall meet or communicate via telephone and conduct good-faith settlement negotiations.
- 15. **OBJECTIONS TO WITNESS LISTS, JURY INSTRUCTIONS AND EXHIBITS**: No later than **February 17, 2025**, each party shall file and serve any objections to proposed jury instructions and objections to witness and exhibit lists and shall be fully prepared to advise the Court of the precise objection, if any, to each of the opposing party's lists.
- 16. <u>**COMPLIANCE WITH SCHEDULE**</u>: The times for compliance with the schedule stated in this Order may be extended only for good cause shown upon timely application.
- 17. <u>**TIME LIMIT FOR TRIAL**</u>: The time limits provided in this Order may be extended only for good cause shown upon timely application.
- 18. <u>CANCELATION</u>: The trial shall not be canceled or postponed without a prior order of the Court for good cause shown. Each party shall notify the Court immediately, via email to the judicial assistant followed by a confirmatory telephone call/voice mail, in the event the trial should be canceled because the case has settled and/or been dismissed. In order to cancel the trial, the Court may require the parties to submit a written acknowledgment of their settlement agreement, or to appear on the scheduled trial date and announce their settlement on the record.
- 19. **<u>BINDING EFFECT OF THIS ORDER</u>**: During the trial, the parties will be bound in all particulars by this Order and the Pretrial Order to be entered following the Pretrial Conference. Before being offered or used at trial, all depositions and exhibits shall be redacted or edited according to rulings made by the Court, including elimination of superfluous matter.
- 20. <u>SANCTIONS</u>: The failure of a party or an attorney to comply with this Order shall subject that party or attorney to such sanctions as the Court shall determine to be just and proper under the circumstances, such as the sanctions provided for in Rule 1.200(c), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

21. DUTY TO INFORM COURT OF SETTLEMENT: Plaintiff's counsel (or Defense counsel, if Plaintiff is pro se) shall immediately inform the Court of any settlement reached in this case. Notification required shall include the filing of a Notice of Settlement, through the e-portal, with a courtesy copy of that notice emailed to the undersigned's judicial assistant within three (3) business days of settlement. If the settlement occurs within 72 hours of trial, Plaintiff's counsel (or Defense counsel, if Plaintiff is pro se) shall immediately file the Notice of Settlement, send a courtesy copy to the judicial assistant, AND leave a telephone message for the presiding judge and for Court Administration. Failure to timely inform the Court of settlement of this cause may result in the imposition of sanctions, including, but not limited to: requiring the parties and counsel to appear, in person, at the courthouse on the day scheduled for trial; the imposition of fines, fees or costs; the reporting of counsel to the applicable Professionalism Panel and/or the Florida Bar; and/or any other legal or equitable sanction, at the discretion of the presiding judge.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Alachua County, Florida on this Thursday, February 29, 2024.

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Donna M. Keim, Circuit Judge 01-2022-CA-002662 02/29/2024 05:58:14 PM

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above has been served to the parties listed below by First Class US Mail or by E-Service on this Friday, March 1, 2024.

JOSEPH H SAUNDERS, ESQ

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Theresa Hall, Judicial Assistant 01-2022-CA-002662 03/01/2024 06:45:32 AM

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.