

**FFS RULES – EFFECTIVE DATE JANUARY 1, 2012**

**RULE 12. JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

- A. SETTLEMENT JUDGE.** A judicial settlement conference shall be conducted by a district court judge who shall be selected by the district court judge. Unless specifically approved by the district court judge, the district court judge who presides over the judicial settlement conference shall not be assigned to try the action if it proceeds to trial.
- B. CONDUCTING THE CONFERENCE.** The form and manner of conducting the conference shall be in the discretion of the settlement judge. The settlement judge may not impose a settlement on the parties but will assist the parties in reaching a resolution of all claims.
- A. CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE CONFERENCE.** Judicial settlement conferences shall be conducted in private. No stenographic or other record may be made of the conference. Persons other than the parties and their counsel may attend only with the consent of all parties. The settlement judge will not communicate with anyone the communications made during the conference, except that the judge may report that a settlement was reached and, with the parties' consent, the terms of that settlement.
- D. REPORT OF JUDGE.** Within 10 days after the completion of the judicial settlement conference, the settlement judge shall file a written report with the court using a NCAOC form, stating when and where the conference was held, the names of those persons who attended the conference and the names of any party or attorney known to the settlement judge to have been absent from the settlement conference without permission. The report shall also inform the court whether or not any agreement was reached by the parties. If partial agreement(s) are reached at the settlement conference, the report shall state what issues remain for trial. In the event of a full or partial agreement, the report shall state the name of the person(s) designated to file the consent judgment or voluntary dismissals with the court. Local rules shall not require the settlement judge to send a copy of any agreement reached by the parties to the court