IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

ORDER AMENDING LOCAL RULES

Pursuant to rule 83, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and by vote of the district judges following public notice and an opportunity for comment, the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia are hereby amended as follows:

7.4   PAGE LIMITATION.

Except upon good cause shown and leave given by the court, all briefs in support of a motion or in response to a motion are limited in length to twenty (20) pages; the movant's reply brief may not exceed ten (10) pages. Objections to a Report and Recommendation are limited in length to twenty (20) pages. A party seeking permission to exceed these limitations shall do so by filing a written motion no later than five (5) days in advance of the deadline for filing the brief or objections and by specifying the number of pages requested.

9.2   SERVICE.

In cases arising under 42 U.S.C. §405(g) or 42 U.S.C. §1383(c)(3), the plaintiff will file a Complaint with the Clerk, along with a Social Security Identification Form containing the full name and complete Social Security number of the plaintiff, including that of a minor plaintiff not otherwise identified by his or her full name. If the plaintiff's application for Social Security benefits was filed on another person's wage-record, that person's full name and Social Security number shall also be provided. The identifying information is necessary for the Commissioner to obtain and produce the certified administrative record. The Social Security Identification Form will be lodged in CM/ECF as a restricted document and sent via Notice of Electronic Filing to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia and Regional Counsel for the Social Security Administration through the CM/ECF system. After the Administrative Record is filed, the Clerk shall remove the Social Security Identification Form from the docket.

Service will be considered complete when CM/ECF generates electronic service of the Complaint and Social Security Identification Form on the U.S. Atttorney's Office and Regional Counsel for the Social Security Administration. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia and the Regional Counsel for the Social Security Administration agree not to raise insufficient service as a defense if service of those documents is made electronically through CM/ECF. The agreement not to raise insufficient service as a defense is intended to more efficiently move the processing of Social Security disability cases through the litigation life cycle. Nothing in Local Rule 9.2 will be deemed a waiver of service under Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(d). Local Rule 9.2 does not apply to any other complaints or claims besides Social Security disability claims against the Commissioner of Social Security in his or her official capacity under 42 U.S.C. §405(g) or 42 U.S.C. § 1383(c)(3).

83.1.4   WITHDRAWAL OF ATTORNEYS IN CIVIL CASES.

It is the longstanding policy of this court that attorneys will investigate claims before filing a complaint and, if a complaint is filed, that the attorney will remain with the case until its conclusion. Nevertheless, if there is a compelling reason to withdraw, the attorney must comply with the following procedure.

If co-counsel remains in the case, or if substitute counsel enters an appearance prior to, or contemporaneous with the withdrawal, then the attorney who wishes to withdraw as counsel for a party continuing to be represented may, and without leave of the court, withdraw from representing a party upon filing a notice of withdrawal.

If the withdrawal would leave the client unrepresented, then the attorney who wishes to withdraw as counsel for any party therein, shall submit a written motion for an order of court permitting such withdrawal. Such motion shall state that the attorney has given due written notice to his client respecting such intention to withdraw fourteen (14) days (or such lesser time as the court may permit in any specific instance) prior to submitting the request to the court and/or that such withdrawal is with the client's consent. Such request may be granted unless in the judge's discretion to do so would delay the trial of the action or otherwise interrupt the orderly operation of the court or be manifestly unfair to the client. The attorney requesting an

order permitting withdrawal shall give notice to opposing counsel and shall file with the clerk in each such action and serve upon his client personally or at his last known address, a notice which shall contain at least the following information:

(a)   that the attorney wishes to withdraw;

(b)   that the court retains jurisdiction of the action;

(c)   that the client has the burden of keeping the court informed respecting where notices, pleadings or other papers may be served;

(d)   that the client has the obligation to prepare for trial or hire other counsel to prepare for trial when the trial date has been set;

(e)   that if the client fails or refuses to meet these burdens, the client may suffer adverse consequences, including, in criminal cases, bond forfeiture and arrest;

(f)   the dates of any scheduled proceedings, including trial, and that holding of such proceedings will not be affected by the withdrawal of counsel;

(g)   that services of notices may be made upon the client at his last known address; and,

(h)   unless the withdrawal is with the client's consent, the client's right to object within fourteen (14) days of the date of the notice.

The client shall have fourteen (14) days from the date of the notice to file objections to the withdrawal. If the court enters an order permitting withdrawal, the client shall be notified at his last known address by the Clerk's Office of the effective date of the withdrawal; thereafter all notices or other papers may be served on the party directly by mail at the last known address of the party until new counsel enters an appearance.

So Ordered, this 7th day of March, 2022.

s/ Marc T. Treadwell
MARC T. TREADWELL
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE