

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION**

Laser Spine Institute, LLC ; CLM AVIATION LLC
Plaintiff

Case No: 19-CA-002762

vs

Division: L

Soneet Kapila
Defendant

CASE MANGEMENT ORDER FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY
REMOTE APPEARANCE HEARINGS IN CIVIL DIVISION L EFFECTIVE APRIL 29,
2020 1:30 PM

Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC20-15 and Thirteenth Circuit Administrative Order S-2020-23 prohibit in-person hearings except in specified circumstances that do not apply in Civil Division L. No one is permitted to come to the courthouse until the emergency orders are lifted. All jury trials and pretrial conferences scheduled through July 2020 are postponed to a date to be determined, but case management orders for those cases are otherwise unaffected by this order. All other hearings in this division will either be conducted by videolink or postponed until after the emergency. Court administration has secured a license to use the Zoom videoconferencing platform for remote appearance.

The process for scheduling hearings is unchanged. Parties that agree to postpone a scheduled proceeding need only notify the judicial assistant, with no reason being necessary. If the hearing was set by order, however, it can be postponed by uploading a proposed order to that effect in JAWS.

If there is disagreement about whether a hearing should proceed, do not obstruct the scheduling or commencement of the hearing, but make the objection at the beginning of the scheduled hearing time.

Hearings will be conducted on the Zoom platform. Counsel and unrepresented parties are required obtain the necessary technology to participate. The Zoom software application is a free download for android, ios, and windows-based systems. The required hardware - a video camera (webcam), computer microphone, and speakers - is built into most recent laptop computers and smart phones. A desktop computer can be suitably outfitted for under \$100. Use of the browser-based desktop application is preferable because of the screen size, as it is possible to share documents in the hearing. Parties who fail to obtain the necessary video technology will be able to participate by Zoom's phone conferencing function, but the court will consider any resultant disadvantages self-inflicted. See <https://support.zoom.us> for instructions on setting up the computer.

The court will not require passwords for each hearing unless disruption becomes a

problem. When the allotted time arrives, **set your application to mute** and access the link at <https://zoom.us/j/4393837898> with Meeting ID 439 383 7898.

Make sure to turn video ON. You will appear in the row of participants, and the system operator will unmute you when it is time to hear from you. Some Zoom meetings may be recorded by the judicial staff, but when a recording exists it is equivalent to the judge's notes and is not part of the official record. Court reporters must be retained by the parties for all hearings of substance.

Zoom has the capacity to share documents as well as observe persons speaking, but the usual practice for providing copies of documents via JAWS in advance of hearings should still be followed. For evidentiary hearings, become familiar with the most recent emergency Administrative Orders of the Supreme Court of Florida governing swearing of witnesses in addition to the usual rules that apply. Documentary evidence can, of course, only be taken in electronic form for the duration of the emergency.

This process is being formulated at a time of great uncertainty, and counsel and parties, as well as the court, need to be flexible in adapting to a new way of practicing our profession.

Done and Ordered in Hillsborough County, Florida this 24th day of April, 2020.

ELECTRONICALLY CONFORMED 4/24/2020

Steven Scott Stephens, Judge

Copies Furnished To:

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LLC

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CINCINNATI LLC

LASER SPINE SURGERY CENTER OF
CLEVELAND LLC

LASER SPINE SURGICAL CENTER LLC

LASER SPINE SURGERY CENTER OF
PENNSYLVANIA LLC

LASER SPINE SURGERY CENTER OF ST LOUIS
LLC

LASER SPINE SURGERY CENTER OF WARWICK
LLC

MEDICAL CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC

SPINE DME SOLUTIONS LLC

TOTAL SPINE CARE LLC

LASER SPINE SURGERY CENTER OF
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