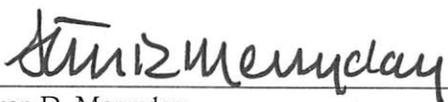


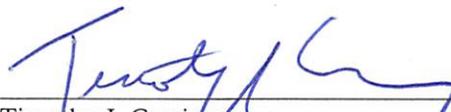
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

With the parties' consent, a district judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) can refer any civil matter to a magistrate judge for any or all proceedings, including the resolution of any motion, a jury or non-jury trial, and entry of final judgment. Although the same law, rules, and procedure govern before both the district judge and the magistrate judge, reference to the magistrate judge often results in an earlier and more reliable trial date (a magistrate judge's trial calendar need not accommodate criminal trials, which are subject to the requirement of constitutional and statutory "speedy trial"). A final judgment entered by the magistrate judge is appealable directly to the United States Court of Appeals.

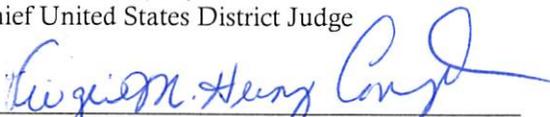
The parties can formalize consent to the magistrate judge on an AO 85 "Notice, Consent, and Reference of a Civil Action to a Magistrate Judge," a copy of which is attached. Consent requires the signature of each party's counsel and the signature of any unrepresented party. The district judges of the Middle District of Florida request that each party and each counsel carefully consider the benefits to the public, to the court, and to the parties of consent to proceed before the magistrate judge. Of course, consent is entirely voluntary, and — without any adverse substantive consequence — a party for any reason can withhold consent and continue the action before the district judge.



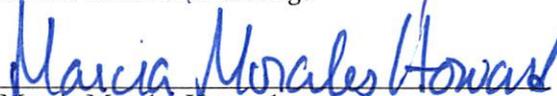
Steven D. Merryday  
Chief United States District Judge



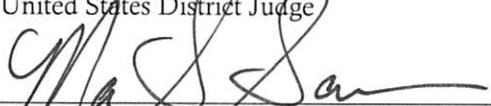
Timothy J. Corrigan  
United States District Judge



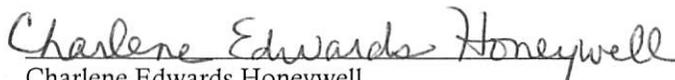
Virginia M. Hernandez Covington  
United States District Judge



Marcia Morales Howard  
United States District Judge



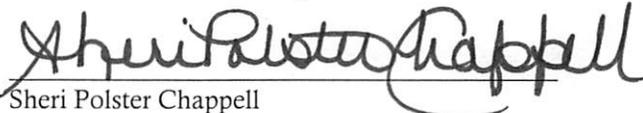
Mary S. Scriven  
United States District Judge



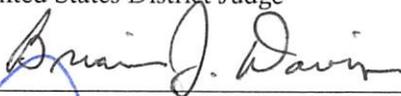
Charlene Edwards Honeywell  
United States District Judge



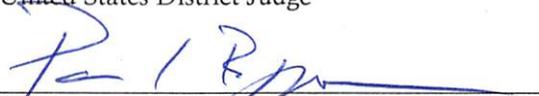
Roy B. Dalton, Jr.  
United States District Judge



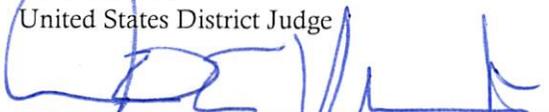
Sheri Polster Chappell  
United States District Judge



Brian J. Davis  
United States District Judge



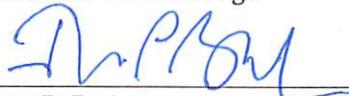
Paul G. Byron  
United States District Judge



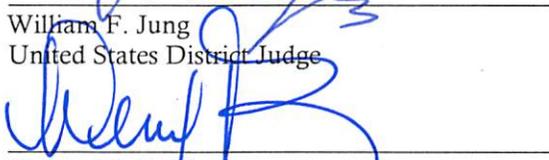
Carlos E. Mendoza  
United States District Judge



William F. Jung  
United States District Judge



Thomas P. Barber  
United States District Judge



Wendy W. Berger  
United States District Judge

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

\_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_

_____ )	
<i>Plaintiff</i> )	
v. )	Civil Action No.
_____ )	
<i>Defendant</i> )	

## NOTICE, CONSENT, AND REFERENCE OF A CIVIL ACTION TO A MAGISTRATE JUDGE

*Notice of a magistrate judge's availability.* A United States magistrate judge of this court is available to conduct all proceedings in this civil action (including a jury or nonjury trial) and to order the entry of a final judgment. The judgment may then be appealed directly to the United States court of appeals like any other judgment of this court. A magistrate judge may exercise this authority only if all parties voluntarily consent.

You may consent to have your case referred to a magistrate judge, or you may withhold your consent without adverse substantive consequences. The name of any party withholding consent will not be revealed to any judge who may otherwise be involved with your case.

*Consent to a magistrate judge's authority.* The following parties consent to have a United States magistrate judge conduct all proceedings in this case including trial, the entry of final judgment, and all post-trial proceedings.

<i>Printed names of parties and attorneys</i>	<i>Signatures of parties or attorneys</i>	<i>Dates</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Reference Order

**IT IS ORDERED:** This case is referred to a United States magistrate judge to conduct all proceedings and order the entry of a final judgment in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*District Judge's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Printed name and title*

Note: Return this form to the clerk of court only if you are consenting to the exercise of jurisdiction by a United States magistrate judge. Do not return this form to a judge.