



Bits and Bytes™

February 1, 2021

Special Edition

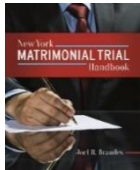
Volume 17, No. 3

Welcome to **Bits and Bytes**,™ an electronic newsletter written for the New York divorce and family law bench and bar, distributed as a public service by **The Law Firm of Joel R. Brandes, P.C.**, 43 West 43rd Street, Suite 34, New York, New York 10036. Telephone: (212) 859-5079, **email to: joel@nysdivorce.com**.



The Law Firm of Joel R. Brandes P.C. concentrates its practice on divorce and family law appeals, and complex divorce, custody and international child abduction litigation. We assist attorneys with trial preparation, and all aspects of a trial or

appeal, including drafting questions for the examination and cross-examination of witnesses and experts.



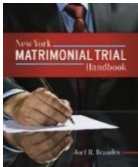
[The New York Matrimonial Trial Handbook Courtroom Edition \(paperback\) by Joel R. Brandes is now available.](#) It is an abridged version of the New York Matrimonial Trial Handbook containing only the procedural law and the law of evidence necessary to try the financial issues in a divorce case. It focuses on the testimony necessary to establish a prima facie economic case for maintenance, child support, counsel fees, special relief and property distribution. There are thousands of suggested questions for the examination of witnesses. The text is up to date through and including December 2020. **NEW!!**

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[The New York Matrimonial Trial Handbook 2020 Update \(paperback\) by Joel R. Brandes is now available.](#) This update to the New York Matrimonial Trial Handbook includes changes in the law and important cases decided by the New York Courts since the original volume was published. It brings the text up to date through and including December 2020. **NEW!!**

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The **[New York Matrimonial Trial Handbook by Joel R. Brandes](#)** is available in a **[hardcover edition](#)**, and in **[Kindle and ebook editions](#)**. It may also be obtained from **[Bookbaby](#)**, **[Amazon](#)**, **[Google books](#)** and **[other booksellers](#)**. (For information click on links) **Purchasers of the**

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Amendments to Uniform Court Rules (22 NYCRR Part 202) Effective February 1, 2021

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New Uniform Court Rules Administrative Order 270-20

(Amended) Section 202.1 to add subdivisions (t) and (g)

(f) Counsel who appear before the court must be familiar with the case with regard to which they appear and be fully prepared and authorized to discuss and resolve the issues which are scheduled to be the subject of the appearance. Failure to comply with this rule may be treated as a default for purposes of Rule 202.27 and/or may be treated as a failure to appear for purposes of Rule 130.2.1.

(g) It is important that counsel be on time for all scheduled appearances.

(Amended) Section 202.5(a).

(a) Index Number; Form; Label.

(1) The party filing the first paper in an action, upon payment of the proper fee, shall obtain from the county clerk an index number, which shall be affixed to the paper. The party causing the first paper to be filed shall communicate in writing the county clerk's index number forthwith to all other parties to the action. Thereafter such number shall appear on the outside cover and first page to the right of the caption of every paper tendered for filing in the action. Each such cover and first page also shall contain an indication of the county of venue and a brief description of the nature of the paper and, where the case has been assigned to an individual judge, shall contain the name of the assigned judge to the right of the caption. In addition to complying with the provisions of CPLR 2101, every paper filed in court shall have annexed thereto appropriate proof of service on all parties where required, and if typewritten, shall have at least double space between each line, except for quotations and the names and addresses of attorneys appearing in the action, and shall have at least one-inch margins. In addition, every paper filed in court, other than an exhibit or printed form, shall contain writing on one side only, except that papers that are fastened on the side may contain writing on both sides, and shall contain print no smaller than 12-point, or 8 ½ x 11 inch paper, bearing margins no smaller than one inch. The print size of footnotes shall be no smaller than 10 point. Papers that are stapled or bound securely shall not be rejected for filing simply because

they are not bound with a backer of any kind.

(2) Each electronically-submitted memorandum of law, affidavit and affirmation, exceeding 4500 words, shall include bookmarks providing a listing of the document's contents and facilitating easy navigation by the reader within the document.

(Amended) Section 202.5-a. Filing by Facsimile Electronic Transmission.

(a) Papers and correspondence by fax. Papers and correspondence filed by fax shall comply with the requirements of section 202.5 except that papers shall not be submitted to the court by fax without advance approval of the justice assigned. Correspondence sent by fax should not be followed by hard copy unless requested.

(b) Papers submitted in digital format. In cases not pending in the court's Filing by Electronic Means System, the court may permit counsel to communicate with the court and each other by e-mail. Papers and correspondence filed by fax shall comply with the requirements of section 202.5 except that papers shall not be submitted to the court by fax without advance approval of the justice assigned. In the court's discretion, counsel may be requested to submit memoranda of law by e-mail or by other electronic means, such as by a computer flash drive, along with an original and courtesy copy.

(Added) Section 202.8-a. Motion in General

(a) Form of Motion Papers. The movant shall specify in the notice of motion, order to show cause, and in a concluding section of a memorandum of law, the exact relief sought. Regardless of whether the papers are filed electronically or in hard copy or as working copies, counsel must submit as part of the motion papers copies of all pleadings and other documents as required by the CPLR and as necessary for an informed decision on the motion (especially on motions pursuant to CPLR 3211 and 3212). Counsel should use tabs on hard or working copies when submitting papers containing exhibits. Copies must be legible. If a document to be annexed to an affidavit or affirmation is voluminous and only discrete portions are relevant to the motion, counsel shall attach excerpts and submit the full exhibit separately. Documents in a foreign language shall be translated as required by CPLR 2101 (b). Whenever reliance is placed upon a decision or other authority not readily available to the court, a copy of the case or of pertinent portions of the authority shall be submitted with the motion papers.

(b) Proposed orders. When appropriate, proposed orders should be submitted with motions. e.g., motions to be relieved, pro hac vice admissions, open commissions, etc. No proposed order should be submitted with motion papers on a dispositive motion.

(c) Adjournment of Motions. Unless the court orders otherwise, no motion may be adjourned on consent more than three times or for a cumulative total of more than 60 days.

(Added) Rule 202.8-b. Length of Papers.

(a) Unless otherwise permitted by the court: (i) affidavits, affirmations, briefs and memoranda of law in chief shall be limited to 7,000 words each; (ii) reply affidavits, affirmations, and memoranda shall be no more than 4,200 words and shall not contain any arguments that do not respond or relate to those made in the memoranda in chief.

(b) For purposes of paragraph (a) above, the word count shall exclude the caption, table of contents, table of authorities, and signature block.

(c) Every brief, memorandum, affirmation, and affidavit shall include on a page attached to the end of the applicable document, a certification by the counsel who has filed the document setting forth the number of words in the document and certifying that the document complies with the word count limit. The counsel certifying compliance may rely on the word count of the word-processing system used to prepare the document.

(d) The court may, upon oral or letter application on notice to all parties permit the submission of affidavits, affirmations, briefs or memoranda which exceed the limitations set forth in paragraph (a) above. In the event that the court grants permission for an oversize submission, the certification required by paragraph (b) above shall set forth the number of words in the document and certify compliance with the limit, if any set forth by the court.

(Added) Section 202.8-c. Sur-Reply and Post-Submission Papers

Absent express permission in advance, sur-reply papers, including correspondence, addressing the merits of a motion are not permitted, except that counsel may inform the court by letter of the citation of any post-submission court decision that is relevant to the pending issues, but there shall be no additional argument. Materials submitted in violation hereof will not be read or considered. Opposing counsel who receives a copy of materials submitted in violation of this Rule shall not respond in kind.

(Added) Section 202.8-d. Orders to Show Cause

Motions shall be brought on by order to show cause only when there is genuine urgency (e.g., applications for provisional relief), a stay is required or a statute mandates so proceeding. See Section 202.8-e. Absent advance permission of the court, reply papers

(Added) Section 202.8-g. Motions for Summary Judgment; Statements of Material Facts.

(a) Upon any motion for summary judgment, other than a motion made pursuant to CPLR 3213, there shall be annexed to the notice of motion a separate, short and concise statement, in numbered paragraphs, of the material facts as to which the moving party contends there is no genuine issue to be tried.

(b) In such a case, the papers opposing a motion for summary judgment shall include a correspondingly numbered paragraph responding to each numbered paragraph in the statement of the moving party and, if necessary, additional paragraphs containing a separate short and concise statement of the material facts as to which it is contended that there exists a genuine issue to be tried.

(c) Each numbered paragraph in the statement of material facts required to be served by the moving party will be deemed to be admitted unless specifically controverted by a correspondingly numbered paragraph in the statement required to be served by the opposing party.

(d) Each statement of material fact by the movant or opponent pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b), including each statement controverting any statement of material fact, must be followed by citation to evidence submitted in support of or in opposition to the motion.

(Added) Section 202.8-e. Temporary Restraining Orders

Unless the moving party can demonstrate significant prejudice by reason of giving notice, or that notice could not be given despite a good faith effort to provide notice, a temporary restraining order should not be issued ex parte. Unless excused by the court, the applicant must give notice of the time, date and place that the application will be made in a manner, and provide copies of all supporting papers, to the opposing parties sufficiently in advance to permit them an opportunity to appear and contest the application. Any application for temporary injunctive relief, including but not limited to a motion for a stay or a temporary restraining order, shall contain, in addition to the other information required by this section, an affirmation demonstrating either that: (a) notice has been given; or (b) notice could not be given despite a good faith effort to provide it or (c) there will be significant prejudice to the party seeking the restraining order by giving of notice. This subdivision shall not be applicable to orders to show cause or motions in special proceedings brought under Article 7 of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, nor to orders to show cause or motions requesting an order of protection under section 240 of the Domestic Relations Law, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(Added) Section 202.8-f. Oral Argument.

(a) Each court or court part shall adopt a procedure governing request for oral argument of motions, provided that, in the absence of the adoption of such a procedure by a particular court or part, the provisions of paragraph (b) shall apply. The procedure to be adopted shall set forth whether oral argument is required on all motions or whether the court will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether oral argument will be heard and how counsel shall request argument and, if oral argument is permitted, when counsel shall appear.

(b) Any party may request oral argument of a motion by letter accompanying the motion papers. Notice of the date selected by the court shall be given. If practicable, at least 14 days before the scheduled oral argument. At that time, counsel shall be prepared to argue the motion, discuss resolution of the issue(s) presented and/or schedule a trial or hearing.

(c) Oral arguments may be conducted by the court by electronic means.

(Amended) Section 202.10 Appearance at Conferences.

(b) Any party may request to appear at a conference by telephone or other electronic means. Where feasible and appropriate, the court is encouraged to grant such requests.

(b) Adjournments of conferences shall be granted upon a showing of good cause. An adjournment of a conference will not change any date in any court order, including but not limited to the preliminary conference order, unless otherwise directed by the court.

(Added) Section 202.11. Parties and nonparties should adhere to the Electronically Stored Information ("ESI") guidelines set forth in Appendix hereto.

(Added) Section 202.20. Interrogatories.

Interrogatories are limited to 25 in number, including subparts, unless the court orders otherwise. This limit applies to consolidated actions as well.

(Added) Section 202.20-a. Privilege Logs.

(a) Meet and Confer. Parties shall meet and confer at the outset of the case, and from time to time thereafter, to discuss the scope of the privilege review, the amount of information to be set out in the privilege log, the use of categories to reduce document-by-document logging, whether any categories of information may be excluded from the logging requirement, and any other issues pertinent to privilege review, including the entry of an appropriate non-waiver order. To the extent that the collection process and parameters are disclosed to the other parties and those parties do not object, that fact may be relevant to the Court when addressing later discovery disputes.

(b) Court Order. Agreements and protocols agreed upon by parties shall be memorialized in a court order. In the event the parties are unable to enter into an agreement or protocol, the court shall by order provide for the scope of the privilege review, the amount of information

to be set out in the privilege log, the use of categories to reduce document by-document logging, whether any categories of information may be excluded from the logging, whether any categories of information may be excluded from the logging requirement, and any other issues pertinent to privilege review, including the entry of an appropriate non-waiver order, and the allocation of costs and expenses as between the parties.

(Added) Section 202.20-b. Limitations on Depositions.

(a) Unless otherwise stipulated to by the parties or ordered by the court:

(1) the number of depositions taken by plaintiffs, or by defendants, or by third party defendants, shall be limited to 10; and

(2) depositions shall be limited to 7 hours per deponent.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1) of this Rule, the propriety of and timing for depositions of non-parties shall be subject to any restrictions imposed by applicable law.

(c) For the purposes of subsection (a)(1) of this Rule, the deposition of an entity through one or more representatives shall be treated as a single deposition even though more than one person may be designated to testify on the entity's behalf.

(d) For the purposes of this Rule, each deposition of an officer, director, principal or employee of an entity who is also a fact witness, as opposed to an entity representative pursuant to CPLR 3106(d), shall constitute a separate deposition.

(e) For the purposes of subsection (a)(2) of this Rule, the deposition of an entity shall be treated as a single deposition even though more than one person may be designated to testify on the entity's behalf. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the cumulative presumptive durational limit may be enlarged by agreement of the parties or upon application for leave of Court, which shall be freely granted.

(f) For good cause shown, the court may alter the limits on the number of depositions or the duration of an examination.

(g) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed to alter the right of any party to seek any relief that it deems appropriate under the CPLR or other applicable law.

(Added) Section 202.20-c. Requests for Documents.

(a) For each document request propounded, the responding party shall, in its Response and Objections served pursuant to CPLR 3122(a) (the "Response"), either:

(1) state that the production is made as requested; or

(2) state with reasonable particularity the grounds for any objection to production.

(b) Each Response shall state: (i) whether the objection(s) interposed pertains to all or part of the request being challenged; (ii) whether any documents or categories of documents are being withheld, and if so, which of the stated objection(s) forms the basis for the responding party's decision to withhold otherwise responsive documents or categories of documents; and (iii) the manner in which the responding party intends to limit the scope of its production.

(c) In each Response, the responding party shall verify, for each individual requests: (i) whether the production of documents in its possession, custody or control and that are responsive to the individual request, as propounded or modified, is complete; or (ii) that there are no documents in its possession, custody or control that are responsive to the individual request as propounded or modified.

(d) Nothing contained herein is intended to conflict with a party's obligation to supplement its disclosure obligations pursuant to CPLR 310 I (h).

(e) The parties are encouraged to use the most efficient means to review documents, including electronically stored information ("ESI"), that is consistent with the parties' disclosure obligations under Article 31 of the CPLR and proportional to the needs of the case. Such means may include technology-assisted review, including predictive coding, in appropriate cases. The parties are encouraged to confer, at the outset of discovery and as needed throughout the discovery period, about technology-assisted review mechanisms they intend to use in document review and production.

(f) Absent good cause, a party may not use at trial or otherwise any document which was not produced in response to a request for such document or category of document, which request was not objected to or, if objected to, such objection was overruled by the court.

(Added) Section 202.20-d. Depositions of Entities; Identification of Matters

(a) A notice or subpoena may name as a deponent a corporation, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government, or governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(b) Notices and subpoenas directed to an entity may enumerate the matters upon which the person is to be examined, and if so enumerated, the matters must be described with reasonable particularity.

(c) If the notice or subpoena to an entity does not identify a particular officer, director, member or employee of the entity, but elects to set forth the matters for examination as

contemplated in section (b) of this Rule, then no later than ten days prior to the scheduled deposition:

(1) the named entity must designate one or more officers, directors, members or employees, or other individual(s) who consent to testify on its behalf;

(2) such designation must include the identity, description or title of such individual(s); and

(3) if the named entity designates more than one individual, it must set out the matters on which each individual will testify.

(d) If the notice or subpoena to an entity does identify a particular officer, director, member or employee of the entity, but elects to set forth the matters for examination as contemplated in section (b) of this Rule, then:

(1) pursuant to CPLR 3106(d), the named entity shall produce the individual so designated unless it shall have, no later than ten days prior to the scheduled deposition, notified the requesting party that another individual would instead be produced and the identity, description or title of such individual is specified. If timely notification has been so given, such other individual shall instead be produced;

(2) pursuant to CPLR 3106(d), a notice or subpoena that names a particular officer, director, member, or employee of the entity shall include in the notice or subpoena served upon such entity the identity, description or title of such individual; and

(3) if the named entity, pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of this Rule, cross-designates more than one individual, it must set out the matters on which each individual will testify.

(e) A subpoena must advise a nonparty entity of its duty to make the designations discussed in this Rule.

(f) The individual(s) designated must testify about information known or reasonably available to the entity.

(g) Deposition testimony given pursuant to this Rule shall be usable against the entity on whose behalf the testimony is given to the same extent provided in CPLR 3117(2) and the applicable rules of evidence.

(h) This Rule does not preclude a deposition by any other procedure allowed by the CPLR.

(Added) Section 202.20-e. Adherence to Discovery Schedule.

(a) Parties shall strictly comply with discovery obligations by the dates set forth in all case scheduling orders. Applications for extension of a discovery deadline shall be made as soon as practicable and prior to the expiration of such deadline. Non-compliance with such

an order may result in the imposition of an appropriate sanction against that party or for other relief pursuant to CPLR 3126.

(b) If a party seeks documents from an adverse party as a condition precedent to a deposition of such party and the documents are not produced by the date fixed, the party seeking disclosure may ask the court to preclude the non-producing party from introducing such demanded documents at trial.

(Added) Section 202.20-f. Disclosure Disputes.

Disclosure Disputes

(a) To the maximum extent possible, discovery

disputes should be resolved through informal procedures, such as conferences, as opposed to motion practice.

(b) Absent exigent circumstances, prior to contacting the court regarding a disclosure dispute, counsel must first consult with one another in a good faith effort to resolve all disputes about disclosure. Such consultation must take place by an in-person or telephonic conference. In the event that a discovery dispute cannot be resolved other than through motion practice, each such discovery motion shall be supported by an affidavit or affirmation from counsel attesting to counsel having conducted an in-person or telephonic conference, setting forth the date and time of such conference, persons participating, and the length of time of the conference. The unreasonable failure or refusal of counsel to participate in a conference requested by another party may relieve the requesting party of the obligation to comply with this paragraph and may be addressed by the imposition of sanctions pursuant to Part 130. If the moving party was unable to conduct a conference due to the unreasonable failure or refusal of an adverse party to participate, then such moving party shall, in an affidavit or affirmation, detail the efforts made by the moving party to obtain such a conference and set forth the responses received.

(c) The failure of counsel to comply with this rule may result in the denial of a discovery motion, without prejudice to renewal once the provisions of this rule have been complied with, or in such motion being held in abeyance until the informal resolution procedures of the court are conducted.

(Added) Section 202.20-g. Rulings at Disclosure Conferences.

The following procedures shall govern all disclosure conferences conducted by non-judicial personnel.

Prior to the conclusion of the conference, at the request of any party

(1) all resolutions shall be dictated into the record, and either the transcript shall be submitted to the court to be "so ordered," or the court shall otherwise enter an order incorporating the resolutions reached;

(2) the parties shall prepare a writing setting forth the resolutions reached and submit the writing to the court for approval and signature by the justice presiding; or

(3) prior to the conclusion of the conference, the parties shall prepare an outline of the material terms of any resolution and shall thereafter agree upon and jointly submit to the court within one (1) business day of the conference a stipulated proposed order, memorializing the resolution of their discovery dispute. If the parties are unable to agree upon an appropriate form of proposed order, they shall so advise the court so that the court can direct an alternative course of action.

(Added) Section 202.20-h. Pre-Trial Memoranda, Exhibit Book and Requests for Jury Instructions.

(a) Counsel shall submit pre-trial memoranda at the pre-trial conference, or such other time as the court may set. Counsel shall comply with CPLR 2103(e). A single memorandum no longer than 25 pages shall be submitted by each side. No memoranda in response shall be submitted.

(b) On the first day of trial or at such other time as the court may set, counsel shall submit an indexed binder or notebook, or the electronic equivalent, of trial exhibits for the court's use. A copy for each attorney on trial and the originals in a similar binder or notebook for the witnesses shall be prepared and submitted. Plaintiffs exhibits shall be numerically tabbed, and defendant's exhibits shall be tabbed alphabetically.

(c) Where the trial is by jury, counsel shall, on the first day of the trial or such other time as the court may set, provide the court with case-specific requests to charge and proposed jury interrogatories. Where the requested charge is from the New York Pattern Jury Instructions -Civil, a reference to the P JI number will suffice. Submissions should be by hard copy and electronically, as directed by the court.

(Added) Section 202.20-i. Direct Testimony by Affidavit.

The court may require that direct testimony of a party's own witness in a non-jury trial or evidentiary hearing shall be submitted in affidavit form, provided, however, (a) that the court may not require the submission of a direct testimony affidavit from a witness who is not under the control of the party offering the testimony and (b) the opposing party shall have the right to object to statements in the direct testimony affidavit, and the court shall rule on such objections, just as if the statements had been made orally in open court. Where an objection to a portion of a direct testimony affidavit is sustained, the court may direct that such portion be stricken. The submission of direct testimony in affidavit form shall not affect any right to conduct cross-examination or re-direct examination of the witness.

(Added) Section 202.23. Consultation prior to Preliminary and Compliance Conference

Counsel for all parties shall consult prior to a preliminary or compliance conference about (i) resolution of the case, in whole or in part; (ii) discovery, including discovery of electronically stored information, and any other issues to be discussed at the conference, (iii) the use of alternate dispute resolution to resolve all or some issues in the litigation; and (iv) any voluntary and informal exchange of information that the parties agree would help aid early settlement of the case. Counsel shall make a good faith effort to reach agreement on these matters in advance of the conference.

(Added) Section 202.23. Staggered Court Appearances.

Staggered court appearances are a mechanism to increase efficiency in the courts and to decrease lawyers' time waiting for a matter to be called by the courts. While this rule is intended to streamline the litigation process, it will be ineffectual without the cooperation and participation of litigants. Improving the process of litigation by instituting staggered court appearances, for example, requires not only the promulgation of rules such as this one, but also, and more importantly, the proactive and earnest adherence to such rules by parties and their counsel and the court.

(a) Each court appearance for oral argument on a motion shall be assigned either a set time or a time interval during which the appearance is expected to be held. The assignment of time or time interval, and the length of time allotted to a case is solely in the discretion of the court.

(b) In order for the court to be able to address any and all matters of concern to the court and in order for the court to avoid the appearance of holding ex parte communications with one or more parties in the case, even those parties who believe that they are not directly involved in the matter before the court must appear at the appointed date and time assigned by the court unless specifically excused by the court.

(c) Since the court is setting aside a specific time or time interval for the case and since there are occasions when the court's electronic or other notification system fails or occasions when a party fails to receive the court-generated notification, each attorney who receives notification of an appearance on a specific date and time is responsible for notifying all other parties by e-mail that the matter is scheduled to be heard on that assigned date and time. All parties are directed to exchange e-mail addresses with each other at the commencement of the case and to keep these e-mail addresses current, in order to facilitate notification by the person(s) receiving the court notification.

(d) Requests for adjournments shall be transmitted in writing to the court and to all parties, in such manner as the court may direct, so as to be received no later than 48 hours before the hearing and shall set forth whether the other parties consent to the adjournment.

(Amended) Section 202.26. Settlement and Pretrial Conference.

(a) Settlement Conference. At the time of certification of the matter as ready for trial or at any time after the discovery cut-off date, the court may schedule a settlement conference which shall be attended by counsel and the parties, who are expected to be fully prepared to discuss the settlement of the matter.

(b) Pre-Trial Conference. Prior to Trial, counsel shall confer in a good faith effort to identify matters not in contention, resolve disputed questions without need for court intervention and further discuss settlement of the case. Where a pre-trial conference is scheduled, or otherwise prior to the commencement of opening statements, counsel shall be prepared to discuss all matters as to which there is disagreement between the parties and settlement of the matter, and the court may require the parties to prepare a written stipulation of undisputed facts.

(c) Consultation Regarding Expert Testimony. The court may direct that prior, or during, trial, counsel for the parties consult in good faith to identify those aspects of their respective experts' anticipated testimony that are not in dispute. The court may further direct that any agreements reached in this regard shall be reduced to a written stipulation.

(Amended) Section 202.28. Discontinuance of Civil Actions and Notice to the Court.

(a) If an action is settled, discontinued, or otherwise disposed of, counsel shall immediately inform the assigned judge or court part by submission of a copy of the stipulation or a letter directed to the clerk of the part along with notice to the chambers of the assigned judge via telephone, or email. This notification shall be made in addition to the filing of a stipulation with the county clerk.

(b) Counsel, including self-represented litigants, are under a continuing obligation to notify the court as promptly as possible in the event that an action is settled, discontinued or otherwise disposed of or if a case or motion has become wholly or partially moot, or if a party has died or filed a petition in bankruptcy. Such notification shall be made to the assigned judge in writing.

(Added) Section 202.29. Settlement Conference Before a Justice Other than the Justice Assigned to the Case.

In any civil action or proceeding, should counsel wish to proceed with a settlement conference before a justice or judge other than the justice or judge assigned to the case, counsel may jointly request that the assigned justice or judge grant such a separate settlement conference. The request may be made at any time in the litigation. Such request will be granted in the discretion of the justice or judge assigned to the case upon finding that such a separate settlement conference would be beneficial to the parties and the court and would further the interests of justice. If the request is granted, the assigned justice or judge shall make appropriate arrangements for the designation of a "settlement

judge."

(Added) Section 202.34. Pre-Marking of Exhibits

Counsel for the parties shall consult prior to trial and shall in good faith attempt to agree upon the exhibits that will be offered into evidence without objection. Prior to the commencement of the trial, each side shall then mark its exhibits into evidence, subject to court approval, as to those to which no objection has been made. All exhibits not consented to shall be marked for identification only. If the trial exhibits are voluminous, counsel shall consult the clerk of the part for guidance. The court will rule upon the objections to the contested exhibits at the earliest possible time. Exhibits not previously demanded which are to be used solely for credibility or rebuttal need not be pre-marked.

(Added) Section 202.37. Scheduling Witnesses

At the commencement of the trial or at such time as the court may direct, each party shall identify in writing for the court the witnesses it intends to call, the order in which they shall testify and the estimated length of their testimony, and shall provide a copy of such witness list to opposing counsel. Counsel shall separately identify for the court only a list of the witnesses who may be called solely for rebuttal or with regard to credibility. The court may permit for good cause shown and in the absence of substantial prejudice, a party to call a witness to testify who was not identified on the witness list submitted by that party. The estimates of the length of testimony provided by counsel are advisory and the court may permit further testimony from a witness notwithstanding that the time estimate for such witness has been exceeded.

(Amended) Section V of Appendix A of the Uniforms Civil Rules amended as follows:

V. The requesting party shall defray the nonparty's reasonable production expenses in accordance with Rules 3111 and 3122(d) of the CPLR.

Bits and Bytes™ is written by Joel R. Brandes, the author of [Law and The Family New York, 2d \(9 volumes\)](#), [Law and the Family New York Forms 2d](#), [Law and the Family New York Forms 2019 Edition](#), [Law and the Family New York Forms 2020 Edition \(Thomson Reuters\)](#) and the [New York Matrimonial Trial Handbook\(Bookbaby\)](#).

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