

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-01401-BJR

**ORDER REGARDING INITIAL
DISCLOSURES, JOINT STATUS
REPORT, AND EARLY
SETTLEMENT**

I. INITIAL SCHEDULING DATES

The Court sets the following dates for initial disclosure and submission of the Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan:

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|---|--------------------|
| Deadline for FRCP 26(f) Conference: | September 8, 2025 |
| Initial Disclosures Pursuant to FRCP 26(a)(1): | September 15, 2025 |
| Combined Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan as Required by FRCP 26(f) and Local Civil Rule 26(f): | September 22, 2025 |

The deadlines above may be extended only by the Court. Any request for an extension should be made by email to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk at CRD_Rothstein@wawd.uscourts.gov.

The parties are directed to meet and confer before contacting the Court to request an extension.

ORDER REGARDING INITIAL DISCLOSURES,
JOINT STATUS REPORT, AND EARLY SETTLEMENT -1

1 In matters that are exempt from initial disclosures, the parties must jointly prepare and
2 submit a Joint Proposed Case Plan, indicating whether the matter may be resolved via dispositive
3 motions or case briefs and proposing a schedule for the filing of such motions or case briefs,
4 oppositions, and replies. The case plan must also contain a statement regarding the possibility of
5 settlement and propose a method to explore settlement. In these types of cases, the Joint
6 Proposed Case Plan shall be filed on the docket and submitted to the court via email within
7 **THIRTY (30) days** of the latest answer deadline, even if dispositive motions are pending.

8 **II. JOINT STATUS REPORT & DISCOVERY PLAN**

9 All counsel and any pro se parties are directed to confer and provide the Court with a
10 combined Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan (the “Report”) by September 22, 2025. This
11 conference shall be by direct and personal communication, whether that be a face-to-face
12 meeting or a telephonic conference. The Report will be used in setting a schedule for the prompt
13 completion of the case. It must contain the following information by corresponding paragraph
14 numbers:

- 15 1. A statement of the nature and complexity of the case.
- 16 2. A proposed deadline for joining additional parties.
- 17 3. The parties have the right to consent to assignment of this case to a full time
18 United States Magistrate Judge, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(c) and Local Rule MJR 13 to
19 conduct all proceedings. The Western District of Washington assigns a wide range of cases to
20 Magistrate Judges. The Magistrate Judges of this district thus have significant experience in all
21 types of civil matters filed in our court. Additional information about our district’s Magistrate
22 Judges can be found at www.wawd.uscourts.gov/judges. The parties should indicate whether
23 they agree that the Honorable S. Kate Vaughan may conduct all proceedings including trial and

1 the entry of judgment. When responding to this question, the parties should only respond "yes"
2 or "no". Individual party responses should not be provided. A "yes" response should be indicated
3 only if all parties consent. Otherwise, a "no" response should be provided.

4 4. A discovery plan that states, by corresponding paragraph letters (A, B, etc.), the
5 parties' views and proposals on all items set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)(3), which includes the
6 following topics:

- 7 (A) initial disclosures;
- 8 (B) subjects, timing, and potential phasing of discovery;
- 9 (C) electronically stored information;
- 10 (D) privilege issues;
- 11 (E) proposed limitations on discovery; and
- 12 (F) the need for any discovery related orders.

13 5. The parties' views, proposals, and agreements, by corresponding paragraph letters
14 (A, B, etc.), on all items set forth in Local Civil Rule 26(f)(1), which includes the following
15 topics:

- 16 (A) prompt case resolution;
- 17 (B) alternative dispute resolution;
- 18 (C) related cases;
- 19 (D) discovery management;
- 20 (E) anticipated discovery sought;
- 21 (F) phasing motions;
- 22 (G) preservation of discoverable information;
- 23 (H) privilege issues;

1 (I) Model Protocol for Discovery of ESI; and

2 (J) alternatives to Model Protocol.

3 6. The date by which discovery can be completed.

4 7. Whether the case should be bifurcated by trying the liability issues before the
5 damages issues, or bifurcated in any other way.

6 8. Whether the pretrial statements and pretrial order called for by Local Civil Rules
7 16(e), (h), (i), and (k), and 16.1 should be dispensed with in whole or in part for the sake
8 of economy.

9 9. Any other suggestions for shortening or simplifying the case.

10 10. The date the case will be ready for trial.

11 11. Whether the trial will be jury or non-jury.

12 12. The number of trial days required.

13 13. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all trial counsel.

14 14. The dates on which trial counsel may have complications to be considered in
15 setting a trial date.

16 15. If, on the due date of the Report, all defendant(s) or respondent(s) have not been
17 served, counsel for the plaintiff shall advise the Court when service will be effected, why it was
18 not made earlier, and shall provide a proposed schedule for the required FRCP 26(f) conference
19 and FRCP 26(a) initial disclosures.

20 17. Whether any party wishes a scheduling conference before the Court enters a
21 scheduling order in the case.

22 If the parties are unable to agree on any part of the Report, they may answer in separate
23 paragraphs. No separate reports are to be filed. If the parties wish to have a status conference with

1 the Court at any time during the pendency of this action, they should notify the Courtroom Deputy
2 Clerk by email at CRD_Rothstein@wawd.uscourts.gov.

3 **III. PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSIBILITY**

4 This Order is issued at the outset of the case, and a copy is sent by the clerk to counsel for
5 plaintiff (or plaintiff, if pro se) and any defendants who have appeared. Plaintiff's counsel (or
6 plaintiff, if pro se) is directed to serve copies of this Order on all parties who appear after this
7 Order is filed. Such service shall be accomplished within ten (10) days after each appearance.
8 Plaintiff's counsel (or plaintiff, if pro se) will be responsible for starting the communications
9 needed to comply with this Order.

10 **IV. ALTERATIONS TO ELECTRONIC FILING PROCEDURES AND** 11 **COURTESY COPIES**

12 Information and procedures for electronic filing can be found on the Western District of
13 Washington's website at www.wawd.uscourts.gov. Pro se litigants may file either electronically
14 or in paper form. JUDGE ROTHSTEIN DOES NOT ACCEPT COURTESY COPIES OF
15 PLEADINGS. In addition, unless the proposed order is stipulated, agreed, or otherwise
16 uncontested, the parties need not e-mail a copy of the order to the Judge Rothstein's e-mail
17 address.

18 IT IS SO ORDERED: The 11th day of August 2025.

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20 

21 BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN
22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
23