

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

AVAILABILITY OF MAGISTRATE JUDGES BY CONSENT

With the consent of the parties, magistrate judges of this court are available to conduct all proceedings in civil cases, including bench and jury trials, and to order the entry of a final judgment. 28 U.S.C. 636(c). Final judgments issued by a magistrate judge are immediately appealable to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, just as if they had been issued by a district judge.

There are several benefits to choosing to proceed before a magistrate judge, including:

- faster case resolution
- earlier and firm trial dates
- reduced delays and duplication of effort associated with the pretrial referral and report and recommendation process

If you wish to proceed before the magistrate judge, **all parties must voluntarily consent**. The process is simple, and the form and instructions are attached to this Notice.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Western District of Louisiana

_____)	
<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: Email this form to the clerk of court at lawdml_consent@lawd.uscourts.gov only if you are consenting to the exercise of jurisdiction by a United States magistrate judge. DO NOT return this form to a judge.