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# NRCP 16.1 – Proposed (Retain Nevada rule with edits)

#### Rule 16.1. Mandatory Pretrial Discovery Requirements.

#### (a) Required Disclosures.

#### (1) Initial Disclosure.

- (A) In General. Except as exempted by Rule 16.1(a)(1)(B) or as otherwise stipulated or ordered by the court, a party must, without awaiting a discovery request, provide to the other parties:
- (i) the name and, if known, the address and telephone number of each individual likely to have information discoverable under Rule 26(b), including for impeachment or rebuttal, identifying the subjects of the information;
- (ii) a copy—or a description by category and location—of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support its claims or defenses, including for impeachment or rebuttal, and, unless privileged or protected from disclosure, any audio and/or visual record, report, or witness statement concerning the incident that gives rise to the lawsuit;
- (iii) when personal injury is in issue, the identity of the relevant medical provider(s) so that the opposing party may prepare an appropriate medical authorization(s) for signature to obtain medical records;
- (iv) a computation of each category of damages claimed by the disclosing party—who must make available for inspection and copying as under Rule 34 the documents or other evidentiary material, unless privileged or protected from disclosure, on which each computation is based, including materials bearing on

(C) Time for Initial Disclosures—In General. A party must make the initial disclosures at or within 14 days after the parties'\_Rule 16.1(b) conference unless a different time is set by stipulation or court order, or unless a party objects during the conference that initial disclosures are not appropriate in this action and states the objection in the Rule 16.1(c) case conference report. In ruling on the objection, the court must determine what disclosure, if any, are to be made and must set the time for disclosure.

(D) Time for Initial Disclosures—For Parties Served or Joined Later. A party that is first served or otherwise joined after the Rule 16.1(b) conference must make the initial disclosures within 30 days after being served or joined, unless a different time is set by stipulation or court order.

(E) Basis for Initial Disclosure; Unacceptable Excuses. A party must make its initial disclosures based on the information then reasonably available to it. A party is not excused from making its disclosures because it has not fully investigated the case or because it challenges the sufficiency of another party's disclosures or because another party has not made its disclosures.

#### (2) Disclosure of Expert Testimony.

- (A) In General. In addition to the disclosures required by Rule 16.1(a)(1), a party must disclose to the other parties the identity of any witness it may use at trial to present evidence under NRS 50.275, 50.285 and 50.305.
- (B) Witnesses Who Must Provide a Written Report. Unless otherwise stipulated or ordered by the court, this disclosure must be accompanied by a written report—prepared and signed by the witness—if the witness is one retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in the case or one whose duties as

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23 24 at deposition and trial, which is satisfied by production of a fee schedule.

(iv) the compensation of the witness for providing testimony

#### (D) Treating Physicians.

(i) Status. A treating physician who is retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in the case, or whose duties as the party's employee regularly involve giving expert testimony on behalf of the party, must provide a written report under Rule 16.1(a)(2)(B). Otherwise, a treating physician may be deposed or called to testify without any requirement for a written report. A treating physician is not required to submit an expert report under Rule 16.1(a)(2)(B) merely because the physician's testimony may discuss ancillary treatment that is not contained within his or her medical chart, as long as the content of such testimony is properly disclosed as otherwise required under Rule 16.1(a)(2)(C)(i).

(ii) Change in Status. A treating physician will be deemed a retained expert witness subject to the written report requirement of Rule 16.1(a)(2)(B) if the party is asking the treating physician to provide opinions outside the course and scope of the treatment provided to the party. However, a treating physician is not a retained expert merely because (1) the patient was referred to the physician by an attorney for treatment; (2) the witness will opine about diagnosis, prognosis, or causation of the patient's injuries; or (3) the witness reviews documents outside his or her medical chart in the course of providing treatment or defending that treatment.

(iii) Disclosure. The disclosure regarding a nonretained treating physician must include the information identified in Rule 16.1(a)(2)(C), to the extent practicable. In that regard, appropriate disclosure may include that the

witness will testify in accordance with his or her medical chart, even if some records contained therein were prepared by another healthcare provider.

- **(E) Time to Disclose Expert Testimony.** A party must make these disclosures at the times and in the sequence that the court orders. Absent a stipulation or a court order otherwise, the disclosures must be made:
  - (i) at least 90 days before the discovery cut-off date; or
- (ii) if the evidence is intended solely to contradict or rebut evidence on the same subject matter identified by another party under Rule 16.1(a)(2)(B), (C), or (D) within 30 days after the other party's disclosure. This later disclosure deadline does not apply to any party's witness whose purpose is to contradict a portion of another party's case in chief that should have been expected and anticipated by the disclosing party, or to present any opinions outside of the scope of another party's disclosure.

#### (F) Supplementing the Disclosure.

- (i) In General. The parties must supplement these disclosures when required under Rule 26(e).
- (ii) Non-Retained Experts. A non-retained expert, who is not identified at the time the expert disclosures are due, may be subsequently disclosed in accordance with Rule 26(e). In general, the disclosing party must move to reopen the discovery deadlines or otherwise seek leave of court in order to supplementally disclose a non-retained expert. However, supplementation under this subdivision may be made without first moving to reopen the expert disclosure deadlines or otherwise seeking leave of court, if such disclosure is made
  - (a) in accordance with Rule 16.1(a)(2)(B),

(b) within a reasonable time after the non-retained

#### (2) Timing.

(A) In General. The early case conference must be held within 30 days after service of an answer by the first answering defendant. All parties who have served initial pleadings must participate in the first case conference. If a new party serves its initial pleading after the first case conference, a supplemental case conference must be held within 30 days after service by any party of a written request for a supplemental conference; otherwise, a supplemental case conference is not required.

- (B) Continuances. The parties may agree to continue the time for the early case conference or a supplemental case conference for an additional period of not more than 90 days. The court, in its discretion and for good cause shown, may also continue the time for any case conference. Absent compelling and extraordinary circumstances, neither the court nor the parties may extend the time for the early case conference involving a particular defendant to a date more than 180 days after service of the first answer by that defendant.
- (3) Attendance. A party may attend the case conference in person or by using audio transmission equipment that permits all those appearing or participating to hear and speak to each other, provided that all conversation of all parties is audible to all persons participating. The court may order the parties or attorneys to attend the conference in person.

#### (4) Responsibilities.

(A) Scheduling. Unless the parties agree or the court orders otherwise, plaintiff is responsible for designating the time and place of each conference.

be produced;

(iii) any issues about disclosure, discovery, or preservation of electronically stored information, including the form or forms in which it should

(iv) any issues about claims of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation materials, including—if the parties agree on as procedure to assert these claims after production—whether to ask the court to include their agreement in an order;

(v) what changes should be made in the limitations on discovery imposed under these rules and what other limitations should be imposed;

(vi) any other orders that should be entered by the court under Rule 26(c) or under Rule 16(b) and (c); and

(vii) an estimated time for trial.

#### (c) Case Conference Report.

#### (1) In General.

(A) Joint or Individual Report. Within 30 days after each case conference, the parties must file a joint case conference report or, if the parties are unable to agree upon the contents of a joint report, each party must serve and file an individual case conference report.

(B) After Supplemental Case Conference. After a supplemental case conference, the parties must supplement, but need not repeat, the contents of prior reports. Notwithstanding the filing of a supplemental case conference report, deadlines set forth in an existing scheduling order remain in effect unless the court or discovery commissioner modifies the discovery deadlines.

(C) After Court-Annexed Arbitration. Unless otherwise

ordered by the court or the discovery commissioner, parties to any case wherein a timely trial de novo request has been filed subsequent to arbitration need not hold a further in-person conference, but must file a joint case conference report pursuant to subdivision (c) of this rule within 60 days from the date of the de novo filing, said report to be prepared by the party requesting the trial de novo.

- (2) Content. Whether the report is filed jointly or individually, it must contain:
- (A) A brief description of the nature of the action and each claim for relief or defense;
- (B) A proposed plan and schedule of any additional discovery pursuant to Rule 16.1(b)(2);
- (C) A written list of names exchanged pursuant to Rule 16.1(a)(1)(A);
- (D) A written list of all documents provided at or as a result of the case conference pursuant to Rule 16.1(a)(1)(B);
  - (E) A calendar date on which discovery will close;
- (F) A calendar date, not later than 90 days before the close of discovery, beyond which the parties shall be precluded from filing motions to amend the pleadings or to add parties unless by court order;
- (G) A calendar date by which the parties will make expert disclosures pursuant to Rule 16.1(a)(2), with initial disclosures to be made not later than 90 days before the discovery cut-off date and rebuttal disclosures to be made not later than 30 days after the initial disclosure of experts;
  - (H) A calendar date, not later than 30 days after the discovery cut-

off date, by which dispositive motions must be filed;

- (I) An estimate of the time required for trial; and
- (J) A statement as to whether or not a jury demand has been filed.
- (3) Objections. Within 7 days after service of any case conference report, any other party may file a response in which it objects to all or a part of the report or adding any other matter which is necessary to properly reflect the proceedings that occurred at the case conference.

#### (d) Discovery Disputes.

(1) Automatic Referral to Discovery Commissioner. Where available or unless otherwise ordered by the court, all discovery disputes (except those presented at the pretrial conference or trial) must first be heard by the discovery commissioner.

#### (2) Report and Recommendation.

- (A) In General. Following each discovery motion before a discovery commissioner, the commissioner must prepare a report with the commissioner's recommendations for a resolution of each unresolved dispute. The commissioner may direct counsel to prepare the report. The commissioner must cause the report to be filed with the court and a copy to be served on each party.
- (B) Objections. Within 7 days after being served with a copy, any party may serve and file written objections to the recommendations. Written authorities may be filed with an objection, but are not mandatory; however, if written authorities are filed, any other party may serve and file responding authorities within 7 days.

(3) Review. Upon receipt of a discovery commissioner's report, any objections, and any responding authorities, the court may affirm, reverse, or modify the commissioner's ruling, set the matter for a hearing, or remand the matter to the commissioner for further action, if necessary.

#### (e) Failure or Refusal to Participate in Pretrial Discovery; Sanctions.

- (1) Untimely Case Conference. If the conference described in Rule 16.1(b) is not held within 180 days after service of an answer by a defendant, the case may be dismissed as to that defendant upon motion or on the court's own initiative, without prejudice, unless there are compelling and extraordinary circumstances for a continuance beyond this period. This provision does not apply to a defendant who serves its answer after the first case conference, unless a party has served a written request for a supplemental conference in accordance with NRCP 16.1(b)(2)(A).
- (2) Untimely Case Conference Report. If the plaintiff does not file a case conference report within 240 days after service of an answer by a defendant, the case may be dismissed as to that defendant upon motion or on the court's own initiative, without prejudice. This provision does not apply to a defendant who serves its answer after the first case conference, unless a party has served a written request for a supplemental conference in accordance with NRCP 16.1(b)(2)(A).
- (3) Other Grounds for Sanctions. If an attorney fails to reasonably comply with any provision of this rule, or if an attorney or a party fails to comply with an order entered pursuant to subsection (d) of this rule, the court, upon motion or upon its own initiative, shall impose upon a party or a party's attorney, or both, appropriate sanctions in regard to the failure(s) as are just, including the following:
  - (A) any of the sanctions available pursuant to Rule 37(b)(1) and

Rule 37(f); or

(B) an order prohibiting the use of any witness, document or tangible thing which should have been disclosed, produced, exhibited, or exchanged pursuant to Rule 16.1(a).

- (f) Complex Litigation. In a potentially difficult or protracted action that may involve complex issues, multiple parties, difficult legal questions, or unusual proof problems, the court may, upon motion and for good cause shown, waive any or all of the requirements of this rule. If the court waives all the requirements of this rule, it shall also order a conference pursuant to Rule 16 to be conducted by the court or the discovery commissioner.
- **(g) Self-Represented Litigants.** The requirements of this rule apply to any self-represented party.

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Subdivision (a) is amended to conform to the style and language found in the analogous federal rule, with two significant exceptions. The initial disclosure requirement regarding witnesses in subdivision (a)(1)(A)(i) has not changed, and is therefore broader than the current federal requirement. The requirement in subdivision (a)(1)(A)(ii) partially adopts the federal language by requiring that a party disclose materials that it may use to support its claims or defenses. However, the disclosure requirement also includes any audio and/or visual record, report, or witness statement concerning the incident that gives rise to the lawsuit. The initial disclosure requirement of a "report" under this subdivision is to be liberally interpreted to include, but not be limited to: incident reports; records; logs and summaries; maintenance records; prior repair and inspection records and receipts; sweep logs; and any written summaries of such documents. It is intended that documents identified or produced pursuant to this subdivision include those that are prepared or exist at or near the time of the subject incident. The reasonable time required for production of such documents will depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. If privilege is raised as a defense to disclosure, a privilege log must be prepared and produced.

Disclosure of impeachment and rebuttal material remains part of each party's initial disclosure obligations—specifically, as to witnesses likely to have discoverable information, and materials a party intends to use or intends to use if the need arises. If a party believes that the initial disclosure of specific impeachment or rebuttal material that it may use is not appropriate (e.g., a surveillance recording prepared

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by the party's attorney or insurance company representative), then at the early case conference it must inform opposing parties about the nature of that material, object to its disclosure under subdivision (a)(1), and subsequently state that objection in the case conference report. The court will thereafter determine the extent to which that material must be disclosed. Otherwise, all impeachment and rebuttal information that a party may use must be provided with that party's initial disclosures.

Determining whether a party may use specific material for impeachment or rebuttal may not always be practicable at the time initial disclosures are due. Sometimes, the intention to use a witness or document will not be formed until additional information about an opposing party's claims or defenses is received during the discovery process. Nevertheless, when a party realizes that it may use that material (e.g., a document that may be used to question an opposing party during a deposition, or to support a motion or opposition thereto), it must promptly supplement its initial disclosures and provide the material to all other parties.

Subdivision (a)(1)(iii) is new. An "appropriate" authorization must comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, commonly referred to as HIPAA.

Subdivision (a)(1)(B) includes a list of case types that are exempt from the initial disclosure requirements, most of which require no elaboration. Practitioners are reminded that domestic matters are subject to the mandatory disclosure requirements of NRCP 16.2 and NRCP 16.205. Probate proceedings are exempted from these requirements as an initial matter; but under NRS 155.170 and 180, courts remain free to apply these provisions as they deem appropriate.

Subdivision (a)(2) adopts the federal rule requirement that the report of a

retained expert witness disclose "the facts or data considered by the witness" in forming his or her opinions. The prior language—"the data or other information considered by the witness"—has been construed broadly by most federal courts to include drafts of expert reports and virtually any communications between counsel and the expert. The new language is intended to avoid that result.

Subdivision (a)(2)(C) requires the disclosure of more information than the analogous federal provision. In addition, guidance concerning the disclosure of treating physicians as nonretained testifying expert witnesses previously was provided in commentary to this rule. Subdivision (a)(2)(C) essentially shifts those provisions from commentary into subsections of this rule. As appropriate, these provisions may be applied to other types of non-retained experts by analogy.

Subdivision (a)(2)(E) has been revised to include cases in which simultaneous disclosure of expert testimony may not be appropriate. In such a case, if the parties are unable to stipulate to the timing of such disclosures, either or both may seek a court order to schedule the disclosures of each expert.

An initial expert may also serve as a rebuttal expert and offer rebuttal opinions as long as those opinions are disclosed at the time of the rebuttal expert disclosure, or as a required supplement in accordance with NRCP 26(e)(1).

A treating physician's opinions need not be formed at the exact time of the treatment, so long as the physician's opinions are formed from the physician's medical chart and those medical records received by the physician from other health care providers in the regular course of treatment, and the treating physician is properly disclosed as a witness at the time of the initial non-retained expert disclosure under NRCP 16.1(a)(2).

Unlike its federal counterpart, subdivision (a)(3) retains the requirement that a party's pretrial disclosures identify those witnesses who have been subpoenaed for trial.

Subdivision (b) is reorganized in the style of the federal rules. Subdivision (b)(1) is new and it specifies the circumstances when a case conference is not required. Subdivision (b)(2) contains new provisions addressing the timing of supplemental case conferences. Subdivision (b)(3) makes clear that parties are not required to attend a case conference in person, although the court can order attendance. Subdivision (b)(4) includes the federal requirements that parties discuss and address issues pertaining to the preservation of discoverable information, including electronically stored information, and issues pertaining to privilege and work-product claims (e.g., inadvertent disclosure).

The changes in subdivision (c) are stylistic.

Subdivision (d) is reorganized in the style of the federal rules. The rule also makes clear that if an objecting party provides written authorities to the court, any other party has the right to file responding authorities.

The changes to subdivision (e) are stylistic, and subdivision (g) has been reworded for enhanced clarity.