

**United States District Court
District of Idaho**

RE: Inclusion of Magistrate Judges)
 in Civil Case Assignment Process)
_____)

General Order No. 159

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all full-time Magistrate Judges in the District of Idaho shall be included in the civil case assignment process in such a proportionate basis as determined by the Article III District Judges, giving due consideration to the existing caseload.

Upon the filing of the complaint, the case will be randomly assigned to one of the four trial judges in the District of Idaho. If the case is assigned to a Magistrate Judge, a Notice of Assignment to a United States Magistrate Judge to Exercise Jurisdiction and Requirement for Consent will be forwarded to the parties by the Clerk of Court, advising them that they must file a written consent form in order to proceed before the Magistrate Judge. If a case is assigned to one of the Magistrate Judges, a party may request reassignment to a District Judge by filing a written request for reassignment with the Clerk of Court within ten (10) days after the appearance of the last defendant. If such a request is made, the case will be randomly reassigned to one of the District Judges by the Clerk of Court.

If all parties do not file written consent forms or a written request for reassignment, the case will proceed to a scheduling conference before the assigned Magistrate Judge in accordance with the District of Idaho Local Rule 16.1(a). Prior to the scheduling conference, the assigned Judge's courtroom deputy shall contact the parties and/or counsel to determine if the matter will proceed before the Magistrate Judge or if the case shall be reassigned to a District Judge.

If a case is initially assigned to a District Judge, a Notice of Availability of a United States Magistrate Judge to Exercise Jurisdiction and Requirement for Consent will be forwarded to all parties, together with a consent form.

This General Order will become effective July 1, 2000 and will supersede General Order No. 98 and General Order No. 155.

LYNN WINMILL
Chief United States District Judge

EDWARD J. LODGE
United States District Judge

B.

M. BOYLE
Chief United States Magistrate Judge

MIKEL H. WILLIAMS
United States Magistrate Judge

LARRY