

CIVIL CASE DISPOSITION GUIDELINES

The management of the flow of cases in the Civil Division of the Superior Court is the responsibility of the judiciary. In carrying out that responsibility, the judiciary must balance the rights and interests of individual litigants, the limited resources of the judicial branch and other participants in the justice system, and the interests of the citizens of this state in having an effective, fair, and efficient system of justice.

- A. The State Court Administrator and Administrative Judge for Trial Courts are directed, within available resources, to:
 - 1. Assist the Civil Division of the Superior Court in implementing caseflow management plans that incorporate case processing time guidelines established pursuant to this directive;
 - 2. Gather information from the Civil Division on compliance with case disposition guidelines; and
 - 3. Assess the effectiveness of management plans in achieving the guidelines established by this directive.

- B. The Civil Division of the Superior Court is directed to:
 - 1. Maintain current caseflow management plans consistent with case processing time guidelines established in this directive;
 - 2. Collect and maintain accurate caseflow management data;
 - 3. Cooperate with the Administrative Judge for Trial Courts and Court Administrator's Office in assessing caseflow management plans implemented pursuant to this directive.

- C. All plaintiffs shall complete and file the Civil Cover Sheet with their complaint. The Civil Cover Sheet is available online at vermontjudiciary.org.

The following time guidelines for case processing are provided as goals for the administration of court caseloads. These guidelines do not supersede procedural requirements in court rules or statutes for specific cases, or supersede reporting requirements in court rules or statutes.

Time periods are measured from either 60 days after the case is filed **or** the date of service on the last defendant, whichever is earlier.

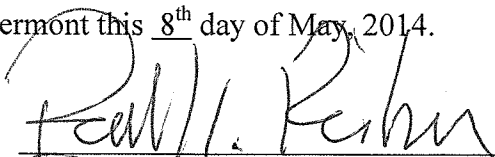
Factors that qualify a case for the complex track include (but are not limited to) the following: multiple parties and attorneys, multiple claims, need for extensive discovery, expert witnesses, out-of-state parties or witnesses, complexity of legal issues, number of motions, and high level of conflict.

Civil Case Disposition Guidelines

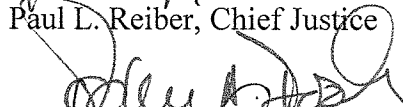
Case Type	Standard Number of Months	Complex Number of Months
Stalking	1	3
Small Claims	4	6
Collections	4	6
Landlord/Tenant	3	6
Miscellaneous	3	6
Appeals	6	12
Claim Against Government	12	18
Declaratory Relief	12	18
Government Enforcement	12	18
Prisoner Case	9	12
Contract	12	18
Real Property	12	18
Foreclosure (open till confirmation)	15	24
Employment	18	24
Tort	18	24

This directive shall become effective immediately.

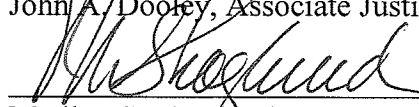
Done in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont this 8th day of May, 2014.



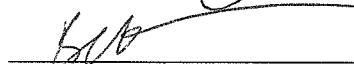
 Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice



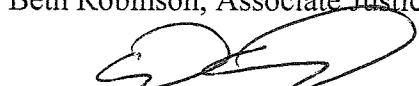
 John A. Dooley, Associate Justice



 Marilyn S. Skoglund, Associate Justice



 Beth Robinson, Associate Justice



 Geoffrey Crawford, Associate Justice