SUPREME COURT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CONFERENCE PART

Justice: Hon. Joan B. Lefkowitz

Chambers: 17th Floor
Courtroom 1600
(914) 824-5350

1. Purpose:
Medical Malpractice cases involving the Westchester County Medical Center are eligible for a conference before Justice Lefkowitz where at least one plaintiff and one defendant in the litigation consent.

2. Informal Request Procedure:
Counsel for either plaintiff or defendant in a medical malpractice action involving the Westchester County Medical Center, having obtained the consent of at least one adversary, may request a conference with the Medical Malpractice Conference Part by e-mailing such request to the Part Clerk. It is suggested that the consenting parties identify the case by caption and index number, provide the Court with at least two dates they are available for a conference and include e-mail addresses or other contact information of all participants should the conference need to be adjourned. By return e-mail, the Part Clerk will advise counsel of the date, time and location of the conference. Counsel shall, in turn, advise all other counsel/parties/participants of such date, time and location.

3. Conference Days/Time:
Medical Malpractice Conferences shall take place on Wednesdays at 3:00 P.M. in the 17th Floor Chambers of Justice Lefkowitz unless otherwise indicated by the Part Clerk. Upon consent of the Court, additional conferences may be scheduled.

4. Who Must Appear at the Conference:
All counsel who have consented to a conference, the consenting plaintiff, any defendant physician with a consent based insurance policy who is willing to conference but who has not yet expressed a willingness to consent to a settlement within such policy limit, the insurance claims adjuster or risk management officer for any party consenting to the conference shall appear at the conference and any subsequent conference unless the appearance of such party/participant is excused by the Court. A party or party's representative not consenting to a conference shall have a right to attend.

5. No Impact on Existing Court Orders and Directives:
Conferences may be requested at any time prior to trial, however, the request for a conference, consent thereto or participation in same shall not effect any court-ordered discovery, extend the time within which to make applications to the court or effect any scheduled court appearance or trial date.

6. Adjournments:
An adjournment request shall be granted if made by a consenting counsel on notice to all participants and the Court not less than 24 hours before the scheduled conference date and time. The conference may be rescheduled in accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraph 2.