

**MANDATORY INITIAL DISCOVERY PILOT PROJECT  
CHECKLIST**

**Applicability of the MIDP Project General Order:**

- Is this a civil case filed prior to May 1, 2017?
- Is the proceeding exempt from initial disclosure under Rule 26(a)(1)(B)?
- Is this an action under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act?
- Was the case transferred for consolidation by the MDL panel?
  - If the answer is ‘yes’ to any of these questions, the case is not subject to the MIDP.

**Rule 26(f) Conference:**

- The parties must discuss the mandatory initial discovery responses, which probably will have been made by the time of the conference, and seek to resolve any disagreements on the scope of their responses.
- The parties should include a description of their discussions, including resolved and unresolved disagreements or other discovery issues, in their Rule 26(f) report to the Court.
  - Parties must file the Rule 26(f) report in the CM/ECF system using the *Rule 26(f) Report re MIDP* event under the “MIDP Filings” category.

**Responsive Pleadings [answer/counterclaim/crossclaim/reply]:**

- Must be filed within the time set in Rule 12(a).

***Exception:** Upon a showing that a defendant cannot reasonably respond to a complaint within the time set forth in Rule 12(a), the court may, with or without awaiting a response from the opposing party, grant a one-time extension of up to 30 days to respond to the complaint.*

**Initial Discovery Responses:**

- *Party seeking affirmative relief:* must serve its initial discovery responses and file a notice of service with the Court within 30 days after the first responsive pleading filed in response to its complaint, counterclaim, crossclaim, or third-party complaint.
  - Parties must file the notice of service in the CM/ECF system using the *Notice of Service of Mandatory Initial Discovery Responses* event under the “MIDP Filings” category.

- *Party filing a responsive pleading*: must serve its initial discovery responses and file a notice of service with the Court within 30 days after it files its responsive pleading.

- Parties must file the notice of service in the CM/ECF system using the *Notice of Service of Mandatory Initial Discovery Responses* event under the “MIDP Filings” category.

***Exceptions:*** *No discovery responses required if the Court approves a written stipulation by the parties that no discovery will be conducted in the case.*

*Deadline for serving initial discovery responses may be deferred once for 30 days if the parties jointly certify to the Court that they are seeking to settle the case and have a good faith belief that it will be resolved within 30 days of the due date for their responses.*

- Initial responses and later supplements will not be filed with the Court on the date they are served, but a notice of service must be filed with the Court.

- Parties must file the notice of service for initial responses in the CM/ECF system using the *Notice of Service of Mandatory Initial Discovery Responses* event under the “MIDP Filings” category.
- Parties must file the notice of service for supplements in the CM/ECF system using the *Notice of Service of Supplemental Mandatory Initial Discovery Responses* event under the “MIDP Filings” category.

***Exception:*** *Parties must file initial responses and later supplements with their 26(f) report or discovery dispute filings if there is an unresolved dispute regarding the responses or supplements that the Court must resolve.*

- Responses must be signed by the party, under oath, and by counsel under Rule 26(g).

- Limitations to scope of initial response asserted by the parties:

- If based on a claim of privilege or work product, the party must produce a privilege log under Rule 26(b)(5).

***Exception:*** *No privilege log required if the parties agree or the Court orders otherwise.*

- If based on any other objection, the party's response must explain with particularity the nature of the objection and provide a fair description of the information withheld.

□ **Electronically Stored Information (ESI):**

- If the existence of ESI is disclosed or discovered, the parties must confer and address the issues listed in ¶ (C)(2)(a)(i)-(iii) of the General Order.
- The party must produce its ESI within 40 days after serving its initial response (unless modified by the court).
  - ESI must be produced in the form requested by the receiving party, or if no form is specified, in any reasonable form that will enable the receiving party to access, search, and display the ESI.

□ **Rule 16 Conference and Case Management Order:**

- Rule 16 conference should be held within the time specified in Rule 16(b)(2) (as soon as possible but not later than the *earlier* of 90 days after any party has been *served* or 60 days after *appearance* by any party).
- Case management order should set deadline for final supplementation of responses.
  - If the Court fails to set a deadline, final supplementation must occur by the fact discovery deadline set by the Court in its case management order.
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□ **Supplemental Responses:**

- Must be served in a timely manner, and no later than 30 days after the information is discovered or revealed. If new information is revealed in a written discovery response or a deposition in a manner that reasonably informs all parties of the information, the information need not be presented in a supplemental response. A notice of service must be filed when a supplemental response is served.