**DISCOVERY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES**

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE BRIAN K. EPPS

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unites States District Court

Southern District of Georgia

600 James Brown Blvd.

Augusta, Georgia 30901

Courtnay Capps, Courtroom Deputy

(706) 849-4404

courtnay\_capps@gas.uscourts.gov

 If parties reach an impasse regarding a discovery dispute, any party may request a court conference by email to Courtroom Deputy Clerk Courtnay Capps at Courtnay\_Capps@gas.uscourts.gov. The email should copy all counsel, describe only the general nature of the discovery dispute, certify a good faith effort to resolve the dispute, and attach a copy of any relevant written discovery requests or subpoenas. The parties shall provide no further information to the Court in advance of the telephone conference.

 The Court will conduct a video or telephone conference as expeditiously as possible, usually within forty-eight hours of the email request. The goal of the conference is to resolve the discovery dispute quickly and efficiently before the filing of a motion to compel and, if advisable, to memorialize the resolution in a consent order. The effort is without prejudice to the parties’ right to file formal motions and seek a formal ruling from the Court.

 This informal resolution procedure is not a prerequisite to the filing of a motion to compel. Judge Epps leaves to the discretion of counsel whether to attempt an informal resolution before filing a motion to compel.