

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITEDHEALTHCARE OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
	:	
v.	:	NO. 25-7187
	:	
NORTHSTAR ANESTHESIA OF PENNSYLVANIA, LLC	:	

ORDER

AND NOW, this 11th day of February 2026, upon considering the parties' Motion (ECF 20) to amend our January 9, 2026 Order (ECF 9) granting them leave to respond to the Complaint by no later than February 13, 2026, mindful the parties seemingly only recently agreed upon a mediator suggested over a month ago, but finding good cause for limited relief to confirm fulsome good faith settlement discussions before incurring more fees and to then hear from selected mediator Judge Walsh (*Ret.*) as to the good faith discussions and efforts to resolve before further delaying the progress of this matter under Rule 1, it is **ORDERED** we:

1. **GRANT in part** the Motion (ECF 20) granting Defendant leave to respond to the Complaint by no later than **March 6, 2026** relying upon the parties' good faith representations of immediate efforts to meaningfully participate in fulsome mediation before Judge Walsh as soon as practicable and remain in mediation until Judge Walsh discharges the parties;

2. **REQUIRE** Defendant file a Notice not exceeding three pages by no later than **February 20, 2026** and if warranted, **February 27, 2026** detailing the parties' progress towards settlement including an update on active negotiations with Judge Walsh; and,

3. **APPOINT** the Honorable Joseph P. Walsh (*RET.*) as a Rule 53 settlement master with leave to meet ex parte with parties as warranted to forthwith begin discussions at his normal hourly rate and terms of payment as soon as practicable and convenient to him and the parties' counsel so as to allow the parties to resolve their dispute or move forward in closing the pleadings consistent with this Order including Judge Walsh submitting the Rule 53 Affidavit of no conflict by no later than **February 13, 2026** confirming his ability to promptly meet with the parties compliant with this second extension of pleading obligations.



KEARNEY, J.