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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS LIFE AND HEALTH  
INSURANCE COMPANY , et al.

Plaintiff(s),

v.

PRIME HEALTHCARE SERVICES ST.  
FRANCIS, LLC, et al.

Defendant(s).

Case No. 8:26-cv-00023-MRA-ADS

**ORDER SETTING SCHEDULING  
CONFERENCE**

**Date: July 28, 2026**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Courtroom: 9B**

**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT CONTROLS THIS CASE  
AND DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

This case has been assigned to United States District Judge Mónica Ramírez Almadani. This matter is set for a scheduling conference on the above date in Courtroom 9B of the U.S. Courthouse, 411 W. Fourth Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701. Judge Ramírez Almadani's webpage is incorporated in this Order. The parties and counsel shall review and comply with those procedures and notices, which are available at <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-mónica-ramírez-almadani>.

1 **A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

2 **1. Service of Pleadings.** If plaintiff has not already served the operative  
3 complaint on all defendants, plaintiff shall do so promptly and shall file proofs of  
4 service of the summons and complaint within three (3) days thereafter. *See* Fed. R.  
5 Civ. P. 4. Defendants also shall timely serve and file their responsive pleadings (if  
6 not previously done) and comply the requirements of Local Rule 5-3.2. The Court  
7 will not consider motions or stipulations to continue deadlines to respond to the  
8 complaint without the required proofs of service. At the scheduling conference,  
9 the court will set a date by which motions to amend the pleadings or add parties  
10 must be heard.

11 **2. Order Applies to Pro Se Litigants.** “Counsel,” as used in this Order,  
12 includes parties who have elected to appear without counsel and are representing  
13 themselves in this litigation (hereinafter referred to as “*pro se* litigants”). *Pro Se*  
14 litigants must comply with this Order, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and  
15 the Local Rules. *See* L.R. 1-3, 83-2.2.3. *Pro se* litigants are required to participate  
16 in the scheduling conference.

17 **3. Notice to be Provided by Counsel.** Plaintiff’s counsel or, if plaintiff is a  
18 *pro se* litigant, defendant’s counsel, shall provide this Order to all known parties  
19 who have not yet appeared or who appear after the date of this Order. This and all  
20 other applicable orders in this case are available at the bottom of Judge Ramírez  
21 Almadani's webpage ([https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/Jps/honorable-](https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/Jps/honorable-m%C3%B3nica-ram%C3%ADrez-almadani)  
22 [m%C3%B3nica-ram%C3%ADrez-almadani](https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/Jps/honorable-m%C3%B3nica-ram%C3%ADrez-almadani)). The Local Rules are available on  
23 the Central District of California website [https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-](https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-procedures/local-rules)  
24 [procedures/local-rules](https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-procedures/local-rules)).

25 **4. Compliance with Rule 26.** The scheduling conference will be held  
26 pursuant to Rule 16(b). The parties are reminded of their obligations to (i) make  
27 initial disclosures “without awaiting a discovery request” and (ii) confer on a  
28 discovery plan at least **21 days** before the scheduling conference.

1 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1),(f)). The Court encourages counsel to agree to begin  
2 conducting discovery actively before the scheduling conference. At the very  
3 least, the parties shall comply fully with the letter and spirit of Rule 26(a)  
4 and thereby make good faith productions in the early stage of discovery.  
5 At the scheduling conference, the Court will impose strict deadlines to  
6 complete discovery.

7 **5. Participation in the Scheduling Conference. The scheduling**  
8 **conference shall be held via Zoom unless otherwise ordered by the Court.**

9 Any request for remote appearance will be denied automatically as moot pursuant  
10 to this Order. Instructions for joining by Zoom are available on the Court's  
11 webpage. Importantly, lead trial counsel and any unrepresented parties must  
12 attend the scheduling conference, unless excused by the Court for good cause  
13 prior to the conference.

14 **6. Continuance.** A request to continue the scheduling conference will be  
15 granted only for good cause. The Court will not continue the scheduling conference  
16 to allow the parties to explore settlement.

17 **7. Vacating the Conference.** The Court may vacate the scheduling  
18 conference and issue a case management order based on the Rule 26(f) report.

19 **B. PARTIES MUST PREPARE AND FILE A JOINT RULE 26(f) REPORT**

20 The Rule 26(f) report must be filed not later than **14 days** before the  
21 scheduling conference. The report shall be drafted by plaintiff (unless plaintiff  
22 is a *pro se* litigant or the parties agree otherwise) but shall be submitted and  
23 signed jointly. "Jointly" means a single report, regardless of how many  
24 separately represented parties exist in the case. The Rule 26(f) report shall  
25 specify the date of the scheduling conference on the caption page. Under  
26 the title, it shall list the dates of the (1) Original Complaint; (2) Removal  
27 (if removed); (3) Responsive Pleading; (4) and Final Pretrial Conference  
28 (Proposed). The Rule 26(f) report shall report all the following information,

1 including information and topics required to be discussed by Rule 26(f) and Local  
2 Rule 26, and use numbered section headings and lettered sub-headings that  
3 correspond to those below:

4 **1. Statement of the Case.** A short synopsis (not to exceed two (2) pages)  
5 of the main claims, counterclaims, affirmative defenses, and procedural history.

6 **2. Subject Matter Jurisdiction.** A statement of the specific basis of  
7 federal jurisdiction, including supplemental jurisdiction. For federal question  
8 jurisdiction, cite the federal law under which the claim arises. For diversity  
9 jurisdiction, state each party's citizenship and the amount in controversy.

10 **3. Legal Issues.** A brief description of all key legal issues, including any  
11 significant procedural, substantive, or evidentiary motions.

12 **4. Parties, Evidence, etc.** A list of parties, percipient witnesses, and key  
13 documents on the main issues in the case. For conflict purposes, corporate parties  
14 must identify all subsidiaries, parents, and affiliates.

15 **5. Damages.** The realistic range of provable damages.

16 **6. Insurance.** Whether insurance coverage exists, the extent of coverage,  
17 and whether there is or will be a reservation of rights.

18 **7. Motions.**

19 (a) **Procedural Motions.** A statement of the likelihood of motions  
20 seeking to add other parties or claims, file amended pleadings, transfer venue, or  
21 challenge the court's jurisdiction. **If plaintiff intends to file a motion to remand  
22 or transfer venue, plaintiff shall explain in details the basis for the motion and  
23 file the motion within 14 days of the filings of the Rule 26(f) report.**

24 (b) **Dispositive Motions.** A description of the issues or claims that  
25 any party believes may be determined by motion to dismiss or motion for summary  
26 judgment. The parties should refer to the Court's webpage  
27 ([https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/Jps/honorable-m%C3%B3nica-  
28 ram%C3%ADrez-almadani](https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/Jps/honorable-m%C3%B3nica-ram%C3%ADrez-almadani)) for specific guidelines governing summary

1 judgment motions.

2 (c) **Class Certification Motion.** For a putative class action, the motion  
3 for class certification must be filed no later than **120 days** from the date of the  
4 scheduling conference, absent good cause shown. The parties shall submit a Class  
5 Certification Plan, reflecting all anticipated class certification discovery deadlines  
6 and the class certification motion briefing deadlines and hearing date. The motion  
7 must be filed sufficiently far in advance of the proposed hearing deadline to allow  
8 for: (i) four (4) weeks for the opposition; (ii) two (2) weeks for the reply; and  
9 (iii) at least three (3) weeks between the filing of the reply and the hearing.  
10 The parties must act diligently and begin discovery immediately, even prior  
11 to the scheduling conference.,

12 **8. Manual for Complex Litigation.** A statement regarding whether all or  
13 part of the procedures of the Manual for Complex Litigation should be utilized.

14 **9. Discovery.**

15 (a) **Status of Discovery.** A discussion of the present state of  
16 discovery, including a summary of pending and completed discovery, and any  
17 current or anticipated disputes.

18 (b) **Discovery Plan.** A detailed discovery plan, as contemplated by  
19 Rule 26(f). State what proposed changes in the disclosures under Rule 26(a) should  
20 be made; if any; the subject(s) on which discovery may be needed and whether  
21 discovery should be conducted in phases or otherwise be limited; whether  
22 applicable limitations should be changed or other limitations imposed; and  
23 whether the Court should enter other orders. A general statement to the effect  
24 that discovery will be conducted on all claims and defenses is unacceptable.

25 (c) **Discovery Cut-off.** A proposed discovery cut-off date governing  
26 the completion of all fact discovery, including resolution of all discovery motions.

27 (d) **Expert Discovery.** Proposed dates for expert witness disclosures  
28 (initial and rebuttal) and expert discovery cut-off under Rule 26(a)(2).

1 (e) **Settlement Conference/Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).**

2 A statement of what settlement negotiations have occurred, excluding any  
3 statement of the terms discussed. If a Notice to Parties of Court-Directed ADR  
4 Program (Form ADR08) was filed in this case, the court will refer the matter for  
5 ADR. The parties must state their preference in the Rule 26(f) Report for:  
6 (i) the magistrate Judge, (ii) the Court Mediation Panel, or (iii) a private  
7 mediator (at the parties' expense). The Court will exercise its discretion to select  
8 an ADR option for the parties if they fail to state a preference. No case will proceed  
9 to trial unless all parties, including an officer of all corporate parties (with full  
10 authority to settle the case), have appeared personally and participated in an  
11 ADR proceeding.

12 (f) **Trial.**

13 i. **Trial Estimate.** Provide a realistic estimate, in days, of the  
14 court time required for trial and whether trial will be by jury or by court. Each side  
15 should specify (by number, not by name) how many witnesses it contemplates  
16 calling. If the time estimate for trial given in the Rule 26(f) Report exceeds four  
17 (4) court days, counsel shall be prepared to discuss in detail the basis for the  
18 estimate.

19 ii. **Jury or Court Trial.** Specify whether trial will be by jury  
20 or by court. The default will be a court trial if the parties fail to specify.

21 iii. **Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge.** Whether the  
22 parties agree to participate in the District's Voluntary Consent Program and try the  
23 case (either by jury or court trial) before a magistrate judge. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636  
24 (requiring party consent); C.D. Cal General Order No. 24-06. The parties are  
25 strongly encouraged to consider consenting to trial before a magistrate judge. One  
26 benefit to giving such consent is that the parties almost always will be able to  
27 proceed to trial sooner than on a district judge's calendar. Additionally, the parties  
28 are free to select from among all magistrate judges participating in the Voluntary

1 Consent Program, not just the magistrate judge assigned to the parties' case. The  
2 magistrate judges have experience and expertise in a variety of areas, including  
3 patent and trademark litigation. The parties shall carefully review the Notice of  
4 Counsel issued in this matter at case initiation regarding the Voluntary Consent  
5 Program. **If the parties consent to trial before a magistrate judge, the parties**  
6 **shall submit the appropriate consent form no later than 14 days prior to the**  
7 **scheduling conference in lieu of the Rule 26(f) report.**

8 **iv. Lead Trial Counsel.** List the name of the attorney who will  
9 serve as lead trial counsel, as well as other attorneys who will participate in the  
10 trial. Only one attorney for a party may be designated as lead trial counsel unless  
11 otherwise permitted by the Court. If a second lead trial counsel is permitted by the  
12 Court, both counsel must attend the Pretrial Conference.

13 **(g) Independent Expert or Master.** State whether this is a case in  
14 which the Court should consider appointing a master pursuant to Rule 53 or an  
15 independent scientific expert. The appointment of a master may be especially  
16 appropriate if there are likely to be substantial discovery disputes, numerous claims  
17 to be construed in connection with a summary judgment motion, a lengthy *Daubert*  
18 hearing, a resolution of a difficult computation of damages, etc.

19 **(h) Other Issues.** A statement of any other issues affecting case  
20 management, including unusually complex technical issues, related litigations,  
21 disputes over protective orders, extraordinarily voluminous document production,  
22 non-English speaking witnesses, reasonable ADA accommodations, discovery in  
23 foreign jurisdictions, the applicability of foreign law, the advanced age or health of  
24 parties or key witnesses, and any proposals concerning severance, bifurcation, or  
25 other ordering of proof.

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1 **C. PARTIES MUST PREPARE AND FILE SCHEDULE OF PRETRIAL**  
2 **DATES WORKSHEET**

3 Complete the text-fillable Schedule of Pretrial Dates Worksheet  
4 (“Worksheet”), *see* Appendix A, which is also available at the bottom of Judge  
5 Ramírez Almadani's webpage. In addition to filing the Worksheet and the Rule  
6 26(f) Report, **counsel must email the text-fillable copy of the Worksheet to**  
7 **Chambers** at MRA\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov. The Court will then issue  
8 an order setting the schedule governing the case. The parties must make every  
9 effort to agree on all pretrial dates.

10 In civil cases, the Court sets a trial date at the final pretrial conference at  
11 which the Court expects the parties to be ready to proceed to trial. The parties shall  
12 confer before the final pretrial conference to identify mutually agreeable trial  
13 date(s) within the 90 days following the final pretrial conference. The trial date  
14 shall be set at the earliest date permitted by the Court's calendar. The Court will  
15 not consider motions or stipulations to continue the final pretrial conference  
16 absent a showing of good cause. The parties shall be diligent in preparing their case  
17 for trial and not expect such motions to be granted.

18 **1. Weeks Before FPTC.** The “Weeks Before FPTC” column reflects what  
19 the Court believes is appropriate for most cases and will allow the Court to rule on  
20 potentially dispositive motions sufficiently in advance of the final pretrial  
21 conference. However, counsel may ask for earlier last dates by which the key  
22 requirements must be completed. Each date should be stated as month, day, and  
23 year (e.g., 10/17/2025).

24 **2. Hearings.** Hearings shall be on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Santa Ana.  
25 The final pretrial conference shall be at 1:30 p.m. All other non-hearing dates  
26 and deadlines can be set for any day of the week. Counsel must avoid holidays.  
27 The Court may order different dates than those requested. Believing that young  
28 lawyers need more opportunities for appearances than they usually receive, the

1 Court encourages lead trial counsel to permit junior counsel of five or fewer  
2 years out of law school to fully participate in Court proceedings, including  
3 arguing motions and examining witnesses.

4 **3. Discovery Cut-Off Date.** The discovery cut-off date is the last date by  
5 which all depositions must be completed, responses to previously served written  
6 discovery must be provided, and motions concerning discovery disputes must be  
7 heard.

8 **4. Motions Cut-Off.** The cut-off date for motions is the **last date on**  
9 **which motions may be heard, not filed.**

10 **5. Additional Dates.** If the parties wish the Court to set dates in addition to  
11 those on the Worksheet, they may so request by a separate stipulation and  
12 proposed order. This is often appropriate for class actions, patent cases, and  
13 ERISA cases. For ERISA cases involving benefits claims, the parties may receive  
14 a scheduling conference order as a matter of course. Because the ordinary pretrial  
15 and trial schedule does not apply to these ERISA cases, the parties need only  
16 submit a joint status report identifying any special issues that should be considered.  
17 The parties should proceed with the preparation of the administrative record and  
18 briefing without delay upon service of the complaint. A court trial, ordinarily  
19 limited to oral argument on the administrative record, will be scheduled within  
20 six months from the filing of the original complaint, unless good cause for  
21 additional time is shown in the status report. If the Court concludes that the  
22 decision would not benefit from oral argument, the matter may be submitted for  
23 decision on the papers.

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**D. COUNSEL MUST DELIVER ORDER TO CLIENTS.**

Counsel are ordered to deliver to their clients a copy of this Order, which will contain the schedule that the Court sets at the scheduling conference. This and all other generally applicable orders of this court are available on the Central District of California website, [www.cacd.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov).

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: April 28, 2026



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HON. MONICA RAMIREZ ALMADANI  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

**APPENDIX A**  
**JUDGE MÓNICA RAMÍREZ ALMADANI**  
**SCHEDULE OF PRETRIAL DATES WORKSHEET**

Please complete this worksheet jointly and file it with your Joint Rule 26(f) Report.  
**The Court ORDERS the parties to make every effort to agree on dates.**

<b>Case No.</b>	<b>Case Name:</b>		
<b>Final Pretrial Conference Dates</b>	<b>Parties' Joint Date mm/dd/yyyy</b>	<b>Court Order</b>	
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Jury Trial or <input type="checkbox"/> Court Trial <b>[The Court sets the trial date at the Final Pretrial Conference]</b> Estimated Duration, in days: _____	NA	NA	
Final Pretrial Conference ("FPTC") [L.R. 16] <b>[Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., within 12 months of Scheduling Conference]</b>			
<b>Event <sup>1</sup></b> <b>Note: Motion</b> Hearings must be on <b>Tuesdays</b> at 10:00 a.m. Other dates can be any day of the week.	<b>Weeks Before FPTC<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Parties' Joint Date mm/dd/yyyy</b>	<b>Court Order</b>
Opposition to Motions in Limine Filing Deadline	3		
Motions in Limine Filing Deadline	4		
Settlement Conference Completion Date [L.R. 16-15] <b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Mag. Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Panel <input type="checkbox"/> Private	5		
Last Date to <b>HEAR Daubert</b> Motions <b>[Tuesday]</b>	8		
Last Date to <b>HEAR</b> Non-Discovery Motions <b>[Tuesday]</b> (see Procedures page for Rule 56 Motion deadlines)	12		
Expert Discovery Cut-Off	14		
Expert Disclosure (Rebuttal)	17		
Expert Disclosure (Initial)	21		
Non-Expert Discovery Cut-Off (no later than deadline for <i>filing</i> dispositive motions)	24		
Last Date to <i>Hear</i> Motions to Amend Pleadings/Add Parties <b>[Tuesday] 90 days after Rule 16 Scheduling Conference]</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Once issued, this "schedule may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent." Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4).  
<sup>2</sup> This is the Court's recommended default timeline for certain events. The parties may propose alternate dates based on the needs of each individual case.