



## VERMONT SUPREME COURT

Administrative Directive No. 32 is amended as follows (new matter underlined; deleted matter struck through):

### CIVIL CASE DISPOSITION GUIDELINES

The management of the flow of cases in the Civil Division of the Superior Court is the responsibility of the judiciary. In carrying out that responsibility, the judiciary must balance the rights and interests of individual litigants, the limited resources of the judicial branch and other participants in the justice system, and the interests of the citizens of this state in having an effective, fair, and efficient system of justice.

- A. The State Court Administrator and ~~Administrative Judge for Trial Courts~~ Chief Superior Judge are directed, within available resources, to:
1. Assist the Civil Division of the Superior Court in implementing caseflow management plans that incorporate case processing time guidelines established pursuant to this directive;
  2. Gather information from the Civil Division on compliance with case disposition guidelines; and
  3. Assess the effectiveness of management plans in achieving the guidelines established by this directive.
- B. The Civil Division of the Superior Court is directed to:
1. Maintain current caseflow management plans consistent with case processing time guidelines established in this directive;
  2. Collect and maintain accurate caseflow management data;
  3. Cooperate with the ~~Administrative Judge for Trial Courts~~ Chief Superior Judge and Court Administrator's Office in assessing caseflow management plans implemented pursuant to this directive. ;
- ~~C. All plaintiffs shall complete and file the Civil Cover Sheet with their complaint. The Civil Cover Sheet is available online at [vermontjudiciary.org](http://vermontjudiciary.org).~~

The following time guidelines for case processing are provided as goals for the administration of court caseloads. These guidelines do not supersede procedural requirements in court rules or statutes for specific cases or supersede reporting requirements in court rules or statutes.

~~Time periods are measured from either 60 days after the case is filed or the date of service on the last defendant, whichever is earlier.~~

The guidelines provide a goal and for a variety of reasons, some cases may require additional time including ~~Factors that qualify a case for the complex track include~~ (but are not limited to) the following: multiple parties and attorneys, multiple claims, need for extensive discovery, expert

witnesses, out-of-state parties or witnesses, complexity of legal issues, number of motions, and high level of conflict.

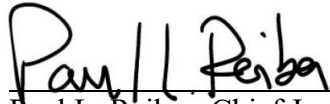
### Civil Case Disposition Guidelines

<u>Case Type</u>	<u>Number of Days to Disposition</u>
<u>Appeals</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Claim Against Government</u>	<u>360</u>
<u>Collections</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Contract</u>	<u>540</u>
<u>Declaratory Relief</u>	<u>360</u>
<u>Employment</u>	<u>540</u>
<u>Foreclosure</u>	<u>600</u>
<u>Government Enforcement</u>	<u>360</u>
<u>Landlord/Tenant</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Prisoner Case</u>	<u>270</u>
<u>Real Property</u>	<u>540</u>
<u>Small Claims</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Stalking</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Tort</u>	<u>720</u>

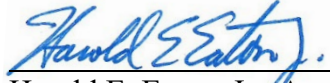
<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Standard Number of Months</b>	<b>Complex Number of Months</b>
Stalking	1	3
Small Claims	4	6
Collections	4	6
Landlord/Tenant	3	6
Miscellaneous	3	6
Appeals	6	12
Claim Against Government	12	18
Declaratory Relief	12	18
Government Enforcement	12	18
Prisoner Case	9	12
Contract	12	18
Real Property	12	18
Foreclosure (open till confirmation)	15	24
Employment	18	24
Tort	18	24

The amended directive is effective immediately.

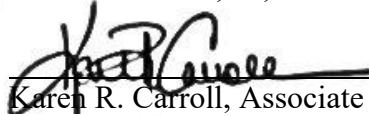
Dated in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.



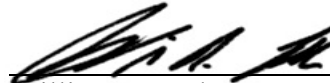
Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice



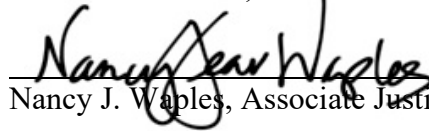
Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice



Karen R. Carroll, Associate Justice



William D. Cohen, Associate Justice



Nancy J. Waples, Associate Justice