

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING RANDOM ASSIGNMENT
OF SOCIAL SECURITY CASES TO MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

The full-time magistrate judges of this Court shall be added to the random case draw for presiding judge assignment for cases filed pursuant to § 205(g) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

In a case randomly assigned to a magistrate judge, the magistrate judge is responsible for all case management and scheduling activities and will decide all non-dispositive pretrial and discovery matters. If all parties consent in writing to the magistrate judge's exercise of civil trial jurisdiction, the case will remain assigned to the magistrate judge for all purposes, including trial and entry of final judgment. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(c); Fed. R. Civ. P. 73; D. R.I. LR Civ. 73.

In all cases randomly assigned to a magistrate judge, the Clerk of Court shall send a Notice of Assignment and a Consent/Declination form to each party. Each party will have thirty (30) days from the date the Notice of Assignment was sent to return the Consent/Declination form to the Clerk of Court in the manner outlined in the notice. All other new cases will continue to be assigned in accordance with LR Gen 105(a)(1).

It is so ordered.

By the Court:

Date: November 8, 2016

/s/ William E. Smith, Chief Judge

