

**United States District Court
for the Middle District of North Carolina**

Local Civil Rules Amendments Summary

June 1, 2026

Local Rule	Change	Description
5.4	Motions to seal	Checklists must be filed on the public docket.
7.3(d)(3)	Incorporation by reference	Clarified that the prohibition extends to all portions of a brief, not just an argument section.
7.3(e)	Remove reference to former rule	Paragraph (g) no longer exists. Reference to it is deleted.
26.1	Commencement of discovery	Upon agreement of the parties, discovery may begin before a scheduling order is entered.
40.1	Trial briefs to include meet-and-confer on jury instructions	This change requires parties in a jury case to meet and confer about proposed jury instructions and to submit one file of agreed-upon instructions to the trial judge's ECF mailbox. Word limitation for trial briefs does not include proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.
54.1	Taxation of costs	Clarifies the timeline for filing bills of costs and objections thereto. Specifies certain non-taxable costs and that the rule does not pertain to attorneys' fees.
54.2	Attorneys' fees	Specifies that the rule is not applicable if attorneys' fees must be proved at trial as an element of damages; it also does not apply to Social Security appeals. Requires meet-and-confer to be by video, by phone, or in person. Clarifies the timeline for filing motions. Lists required and optional supporting materials.

72.1	Authority of magistrate judges to conduct any proceedings under the FCPA	This amendment addresses the situation encountered in <i>United States v. Henson</i> , 127 F.4th 1054 (7th Cir. 2025).
83.1(e)	Withdrawal of attorney	Clarifies that there are two ways for attorneys to withdraw from a case. One is by leave of the court through a motion. The other is by filing a Notice of Withdrawal, which does not require leave of court. This is permitted only if there is already an attorney from the same firm, organization, or agency who has entered an appearance. If the attorney has already left the employer, the new attorney can file the Notice of Withdrawal on his or her behalf.
83.9c	Federal judges as mediators	Adds a provision that allows any federal judge (district, magistrate, or bankruptcy) to serve as a mediator or neutral without obtaining certification from the North Carolina Supreme Court.