

## California Joint Powers Risk Management Authority

### Mandatory Case Reporting Policy

Pursuant to Section VII (Conditions) of the Memorandum of Coverage, the following rule is applicable to all cases reported to CJPRMA.

The Authority shall be entitled to complete access to the covered party's claim file, the defense attorney's complete file, and all investigation material and reports, including all evaluations and information on negotiations. The covered party shall be responsible to report the progress of the litigation and any significant developments at least quarterly to the Authority, and to provide the Authority with simultaneous copies of all correspondence provided to the covered party by its defense attorneys and/or its agents.

In addition, the CJPRMA Board of Directors has adopted the following mandatory case reporting standards:

- 1) Defense counsel is expected to provide a written analysis of liability and exposure in any reported claim no later than ninety days following receipt of the file from the member agency. CJPRMA understands that the liability picture may develop as discovery is ongoing, but this does not excuse the responsibility of providing an early, objective analysis of the file, subject to later developments. An early analysis not only permits the JPA member to set an accurate reserve level, but also permits the member entity to decide whether to actively litigate the case, try to settle the case, or limit discovery based upon the exposure.
- 2) The initial status report should provide, at a minimum, a brief synopsis of the facts giving rise to the lawsuit; the status of the pleadings, including any discussions of demurrers or motions to dismiss, or cross-complaints; a summary and analysis of plaintiff's injuries, damages and exposures in the case; an initial impression of liability; any requests for additional investigation; a brief outline of the discovery planned; and an evaluation of anticipated litigation costs. The report need not be lengthy, and typically might not exceed three to five pages, but must address the issues directly and in a straightforward manner so that the member entity and CJPRMA can set cost and loss reserves as necessary.
- 3) Defense counsel is responsible to report, in writing, the setting of a trial date, settlement conference date, hearing date on motion for summary judgement or similar dispositive motion in any litigated case, within one week of the date on which a court establishes such date.

- 4) Defense counsel is responsible to report, in writing, all settlement demands or offers within one week of the time the offer is made or the demand is received.
- 5) Defense counsel is responsible to report, in writing, on the substance of all depositions taken in the case. This need not be a multi-page deposition summary, but must, at a minimum, include a concise report of major events occurring at the deposition, and an evaluation of the effect of the deposition testimony on the case.
- 6) Finally, no later than sixty days before the date set for trial in any case, defense counsel is responsible to report, in writing, on (1) an assessment of liability in the case, (2) the adverse potential exposure if liability is found, (3) a concise summary of injuries sustained and/or claims, (4) an assessment of any other factors (such as local jury tendencies, appearance of important witnesses, etc.) that may affect the liability analysis or exposure assessment, and (5) an opinion on the settlement value of the case.
- 7) All status reports from defense counsel must be copied to the CJPRMA Board member whose entity is involved in the claim.

This policy is designed to protect the member entity and CJPRMA, so that they can make informed litigation decisions on reported cases. Past experience has shown that defense counsel retained by the member entities of CJPRMA are high-caliber, hardworking attorneys who have done very well for their clients, and CJPRMA is grateful for their efforts. Defense counsel are cautioned, however, that case reporting is given a high priority by CJPRMA and its members, and is a major consideration in evaluating counsel's performance.

**Please send all documents to:**

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