

# MEMORANDUM

United States District Court

Chambers of Chief Judge W. Harold Albritton

**TO: Members of Bar, United States District Court,  
Middle District of Alabama**

**FROM: Chief Judge W. Harold Albritton**

**DATE: November 29, 2000**

**RE: Changes in Rules of Civil Procedure**

On December 1, 2000 certain amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure become effective. These amendments will change the procedures this court has used for the early handling of cases, since we will no longer be able to opt out of some requirements of the Rules.

The most significant change, which you will begin to notice immediately, is that Rule 26(f) conferences of the lawyers will now be required for cases in this court, with proposed discovery plans being filed. Rule 16 Scheduling Orders will be issued after the reports are filed. If scheduling conferences are requested, or ordered, before the entry of scheduling orders, we will continue our practice of giving the attorneys the option of holding these by telephone.

Enclosed is a [copy of an order](#) entered by the court vacating an earlier order and certain local rules, since they are now in conflict with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.