

## **Rule 12. Proceedings by the Court**

(a) *Calling the calendar.* After the judge takes the bench, the Clerk will call the cases remaining on the calendar for that day and the Court will inquire in each instance as to the nature of the claims, the defenses, and any other matters which will serve the ends of justice. In the course of these inquiries the Court shall make an earnest effort to help the parties settle their differences by conciliation. In cases involving unrepresented defendants alleged to be in arrears in the payment of rent, the Court shall specifically ask the defendant:

(1) Whether the defendant has not in fact paid the rental amount alleged by the plaintiff to be due and

(2) If the rent has not been paid, the defendant's reasons for not so paying.

(b) *Setting of trial.* Should the case remain unresolved, the Court shall set a non-jury trial date, or in the case of a defendant wishing to request a jury trial pursuant to SCR-LT 6, the Court may continue the matter for two weeks for the filing of a verified answer, except for good cause shown. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the parties' ability to consent to further proceedings.

(c) *Motions.* The Court may consider such other matters as have been scheduled on the Court's calendar pursuant to SCR-LT 13.

(d) *Plaintiff's non-appearance.* If in any case the plaintiff shall fail to appear without prior notice, the action may be dismissed without prejudice for want of prosecution, or the case may be continued or returned to the files for further proceedings on a later date, as the Court may direct.