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WILLIAM S. WILLIAMS July 12, 1988

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JOSEPH J. REITER, P. A.

Sid J. White, Clerk Supreme Court of Florida Supreme Court Building

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Deputy Clerk Rules for Presuit Screening and Court-Ordered

Arbitration Proceedings

Dear Mr. White:

I have had an opportunity to review the above mentioned Rules and understand that the Court is currently accepting comments concerning these Rules.

As an attorney who represents both plaintiffs and defendants in malpractice litigation, I am encouraged by completeness and clarity of the proposed Rules. The primary difficulty I have experienced with the presuit screening process is many of the professional liability carriers believe that only the claimant has the responsibility of providing discovery information. Section 3 of the proposed Rules clearly requires both parties to participate in the presuit discovery process. Hopefully this will allow Section 768.57, Florida Statutes, to achieve the legislative purpose of weeding out non-meritorious claims and promoting the settlement of those that are meritorious.

Court to approve the Rules as proposed.

LLJr/lf

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no att.