

TITLE IV
Chapter 30 - Partition of Community Property
Rule 30.1 - Court-Appointed Special Masters and Experts
Appendix 30.1 - Court-Specific Rules Concerning Appointed Special Masters and Experts

**First Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Caddo

**Second Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Bienville,
Claiborne and Jackson**

**Third Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Lincoln and
Union**

**Fourth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Morehouse
and Ouachita**

**Fifth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Franklin,
Richland and West
Carroll**

**Sixth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of East Carroll,
Madison and Tensas**

**Seventh Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Catahoula
and Concordia**

**Eighth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Winn

**Ninth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Rapides

**Tenth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Natchitoches

**Eleventh Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Sabine

**Twelfth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Avoyelles

**Thirteenth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Evangeline

**Fourteenth Judicial
District Court**

**SPECIAL MASTERS AND PARTITION
OF COMMUNITY PROPERTY**

Parish of Calcasieu

The Court shall have the power to appoint a Special Master in those cases involving extraordinary, unique, or extremely complex issues of fact and/or law. The costs shall be divided between the parties unless frivolous trial motions are made. The Special Master shall act as the Court's (1) advisor on facts, (2) expert on the law, and (3) organizer of any evidence or experts. The Special Master may take testimony and evidence, if necessary, to complete the report to the Judge. The testimony shall be taken in the same manner as a deposition and evidence/documents may be requested by letter. The Special Master is not to conduct a full trial, but is to advise the Court through written memorandum of the facts the experts have found and submit expert legal opinions on the specific issues needed to be addressed, including how the partition should be decided. The Special Master shall complete his investigation within ninety (90) days. In a written memorandum, the Special Master may request additional time, which may be granted upon good cause shown. A copy of the memorandum shall be provided to the parties by certified mail and they shall report to the Court within ten (10) days of the receipt of the memorandum, if its content is accepted in its entirety or specifically list those items still in dispute, or items to which the party will stipulate. The Court may then indicate whether or not it will follow the memorandum. Either party shall retain the right to a full trial on the merits, should they disagree with the memorandum; however, the Court retains the right to cast one party for all of the Special Master's costs and fees, if that party makes a frivolous motion for a full trial on the merits. La. C.C.P. Arts. 863 and 864 and the Disciplinary Code shall be used to determine if the motion for trial is frivolous.

**Fifteenth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Acadia,
Lafayette and Vermilion**

**Sixteenth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Iberia, St.
Martin and St. Mary**

**Seventeenth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Lafourche

**Eighteenth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Iberville,
Pointe Coupee and West
Baton Rouge**

**Nineteenth Judicial
District Court**

**Parish of East Baton
Rouge**

**Family Court, Parish of
East Baton Rouge**

**For the Parish of East
Baton Rouge**

**Twentieth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of East Feliciana
and West Feliciana**

**Twenty-First Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Livingston,
St. Helena and
Tangipahoa**

**Twenty-Second Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of St. Tammany
and Washington**

- A. At a Hearing Officer Conference addressing community, separate or mixed property issues, the Hearing Officer shall have the authority to make a recommendation to the trial Judge regarding the appointment of an expert and/or special master.
- B. When a special master or expert has been appointed by the Court, there shall be no ex parte communication by the litigants or their attorneys with the special master or expert unless authorized by law or court order, or requested by the special master or expert. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties or authorized by the special master or expert, all verbal communication with the special master or expert shall be by teleconference or meeting in which each party to the proceeding participates either through their attorney or as a self-represented litigant. All written communication or correspondence to the special master or expert, along with any attachments thereto, shall be provided promptly to all parties to the litigation or their attorneys of record.

**Twenty-Third Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Ascension,
Assumption and St.
James**

**Twenty-Fourth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Jefferson

1. The court shall have the power to appoint a special master, with the consent of all parties, in those cases involving extraordinary, unique, or complex issues of fact and/or law. The costs shall be divided between the parties as ordered by the court.
2. The special master shall act as the court's (a) advisor on facts, (b) expert on the law, and (c) organizer of any evidence or experts.
3. The special master may take testimony and evidence, if necessary, to complete the report to the judge. The testimony shall be taken in the same manner as a deposition. Evidence/documents may be requested by letter. The special master is not to conduct a full trial, but is to advise the court through written memorandum of the facts the experts have found and submit expert legal opinions on the specific issues needed to be addressed, including how the partition should be decided.
4. The special master shall complete his investigation within ninety (90) days. In a written memorandum, the special master may request additional time, which may be granted upon good cause shown. A copy of the memorandum shall be provided to the parties by certified mail. Each party shall report to the court within ten (10) days of the receipt of the memorandum, whether its content is accepted in its entirety, or specifically list those items still in dispute, or items to which the party will stipulate.
5. The court may then indicate whether or not it will follow the memorandum. Either party shall retain the right to a full trial on the merits, should they disagree with the memorandum; however, the court retains the right to cast one party for all of the special master's costs and fees, if that party makes a frivolous motion for a full trial on the merits. La. C.C.P. Arts. 863 and 864 and the Disciplinary Code shall be used to determine if the motion for trial is frivolous. See La. R.S. 13:4165.
6. The court shall have the right to appoint any experts needed to perform valuation and/or classification of any property in the community or between the co-owners. The court, in its discretion, shall apportion the cost of the expert(s) between the parties.

**Twenty-Fifth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Plaquemines

**Twenty-Sixth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Bossier and
Webster**

**Twenty-Seventh Judicial
District Court**

Parish of St. Landry

**Twenty-Eighth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of LaSalle

**Twenty-Ninth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of St. Charles

**Thirtieth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Vernon

**Thirty-First Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Jefferson Davis

**Thirty-Second Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Terrebonne

**Thirty-Third Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Allen

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of St. Bernard

**Thirty-Fifth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Grant

**Thirty-Sixth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Beauregard

**Thirty-Seventh Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Caldwell

**Thirty-Eighth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Cameron

**Thirty-Ninth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Red River

**Fortieth Judicial District
Court**

**Parish of St. John the
Baptist**

Civil District Court

Parish of Orleans

Criminal District Court

Parish of Orleans

**Forty-Second Judicial
District Court**

Parish of DeSoto
