

QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY BENCH TRIAL PROGRAM (SBT)
INFORMATION SHEET

Essential Features:

- A Summary Bench Trial is a binding, on-line, one-day bench trial with relaxed rules of evidence.
- Non-jury trials are conducted on-line via Microsoft Teams to take real-time witness testimony.
- A Supreme Court Justice presides over the trial.
- Medical evidence can be submitted without live medical testimony.
- “Hi/Low” parameters can be stipulated to, i.e., \$0/\$25k, \$50k/\$250k, etc.
- No right to appeal.
- All filed and pending motions are withdrawn, and the parties agree not to bring any new motions.
- The Court provides a date certain for trial.
- The Court provides a remote court reporter.

General Rules:

- There must be a binding, written stipulation by attorneys to participate - which must include a waiver of the right to appeal, a waiver of the right to make new motions, an agreement to withdraw all filed and pending motions, and an agreement that no new injuries or damages will be claimed after the date of the stipulation.
- A Trial Binder is exchanged between the parties and provided to the Court that must be in a three-ringed binder, tabbed, and have a table of contents OR be presented in a single PDF **one week before trial**.
- The Trial Judge will conduct a pre-trial conference to resolve evidentiary issues and address other pretrial issues.
- Medical records need not be certified or affirmed.
- Video/pre-recorded testimony is permitted.
- The Trial Judge will issue a written decision or a decision on the record.

General Procedure:

- 10-minute opening and closing statements for each side.
- One hour for case presentation for each side, and cumulative cross-examination shall not exceed one hour.
- Each litigant to present no more than two (2) witnesses.