

CONCURRING OPINION BY NAKAMURA, C.J.

I concur in the result. In my view, the trial court has the authority to establish procedures for conducting a settlement conference, including, in appropriate circumstances, requiring some but not all of the parties to attend in person. However, I agree that in this case, the trial court abused its discretion in dismissing Plaintiff-Appellant James Jungblut's complaint with prejudice for Jungblut's failure to personally appear at the settlement conference, without addressing the merits of Jungblut's proffered explanation for his nonappearance.