

327TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT STANDING RULES REGARDING HEARINGS

All hearings are for the benefit of the court. All discussions and negotiations should be done PRIOR to the hearing, NOT at the hearing.

Arrest Deadline

Waivers of arraignment will be emailed to attorneys prior to the deadline. Waivers, or a courtesy copy of the efiled waiver, must be provided to the court by 5 PM on the deadline date. If the arraignment is not received by then, a show cause hearing will be scheduled on the following Friday afternoon and the attorney shall hand deliver the waiver of arraignment at that hearing.

Discovery Hearing

Negotiations, discussions, discovery, and best and final plea offers by the state should be complete PRIOR to this hearing. If there is discovery outstanding that has been requested in a timely manner, a discovery status hearing will be provided. If there are motions to be heard, they are to be requested at this hearing. Otherwise, the court will set either a final hearing, a plea or a jury trial. If asking for a jury trial, the court will ask if both sides are ready.

Discovery Status

This is the last discovery hearing. If there is anything outstanding, the Court asks that subpoenas be issued for those entities that are holding up the discovery for either side. Negotiations, discussions, discovery, and best and final plea offers by the state should be complete PRIOR to this hearing. If there are motions to be heard, they are to be requested at this hearing. Otherwise, the court will set either a final hearing, a plea or a jury trial. If asking for a jury trial, the court will ask if both sides are ready.

Final Hearing

This hearing is set to provide time for the attorneys to attend to final matters with their defendants or their witnesses. All discussions between the attorneys must be done PRIOR to the hearing. At this hearing, attorneys must either announce ready for a jury trial or set for a plea. Defendant appearance will be required at this hearing.

Plea Hearing

Plea papers must be submitted prior to the plea date. Plea hearings will be set approximately 2 weeks after the last hearing.

Jury Trial

Jury trials will be set approximately 45 days after announcing ready. Exceptions will include cases requiring an outcry hearing or special settings. Outcry hearings will be heard approximately 30 days prior to the jury trial date. Pleas can be heard up to one day prior to the jury trial.

Order of Jury Trials

All cases set for jury trial should be prepared. There is no order to the cases and any one of them, regardless of severity or age, may be the trial that goes forward.

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Probation Status Hearing

This hearing works the same way as a pre-revocation hearing. Discussion between attorneys must be done prior to this hearing. The probation officer will be present to provide the status of the probationer as well as to answer any questions. The court will ask if an agreement has been reached by the attorneys and whether they are asking for a plea of true, a revocation hearing, modifications or one final probation status hearing. The probation officer will not be required to attend a final probation status hearing. If the attorneys have reached an agreement prior to either the probation status or final probation status hearing, they may email the court with that agreement and the hearing will be cancelled.

Bond Hearings

Bond hearings will be scheduled as soon as possible. If the attorneys reach an agreement regarding the bond prior to the hearing, they are to submit that agreement to the court via email for possible approval and signature. Both State and Defense attorney signatures are required on the agreement.