

TO: ALL DEFENDANTS SET FOR JURY TRIAL

FROM: SHARON HATTEN, PRESIDING JUDGE

RE: Municipal Court Jury Trial Procedures

You have been set for a jury trial on the charges brought against you. The following procedures are in effect for jury trials:

ALL DEFENDANTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT FOR DOCKET CALL AT 8:30 A.M. ON TUESDAY OF THEIR JURY WEEK. (This date should correspond with your trial notices. If it does not, contact the Court immediately.)

1. Docket will be called at 8:30 a.m. The defendants present and ready for trial will be placed on the “ready list.” All defendants absent without previously disposing of their cases will have their bonds forfeited and/or have warrants issued for failure to appear.
2. After the docket call, all “ready list” cases will be assigned a trial time. Preference will be given to cases where subpoenas have been issued. (Trial times may be 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. Wednesday, and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.)
3. At 9 a.m. Tuesday, the Jury Pool will be sworn and qualified. Immediately after qualifications have been completed, jury panels will be selected for each case pending.
4. Voir Dire examinations (jury questioning) and jury selection will take place on Tuesday morning. Six jurors and one alternate will be chosen for each case. Those jurors will be required to return at their case’s assigned time. All prospective jurors without case assignment will be released after Tuesday morning jury selection.
5. The defendant is required to re-appear at his/her designated trial time for trial.
6. You have also been given a pre-trial hearing date. It is unnecessary to appear for your pre-trial hearing unless you or your attorney files pre-trial motions.

The following local rules are also in effect:

All requests for continuance must be filed by eight (8) days preceding the trial date.

All requests for subpoenas must be filed by noon on the 15th day preceding the trial date.

All pre-trial motions must be filed at least seven (7) days before the pre-trial hearing date and in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 28.01.

All plea-negotiations are required to be completed by Friday before 3:30 p.m. All defendants (whether represented by an attorney or not) are encouraged to contact the **City Attorney’s office at 685-7305** if they wish to discuss the case with a prosecutor or wish to negotiate a plea agreement.

All Motions and Requests must be filed in writing before the above deadlines. ***YOU MAY NOT REQUEST A CONTINUANCE OR SUBPOENAS ON THE TELEPHONE.***

Defendants, attorneys and attorney staff may use their own laptop computers, tablets and other electronic devices with permission of the court during trial for purposes of presenting evidence, such evidence, to be submitted in DVD or similar format.

Any party intending to use a laptop or electronic device during trial must be capable of doing so in a manner so as not to unduly delay or disrupt court proceedings. The court does not provide technical assistance.

These rules will be strictly followed. Any deviations will require judicial approval.

If you have any questions regarding these or any of the Court procedures, please contact the Court at 685-7300.