

DIVISION 14 VIDEO PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

JUDGE: Patricia L. Stowbridge

JUDICIAL ASSISTANT: Jessica Blow; EMAIL: ctjajb4@ocnjcc.org

Video PTC Schedule

March 30, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

March 30, 2022 - Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

May 4, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

May 4, 2022 -- Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

June 8, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

June 8, 2022 -- Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

July 13, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

July 13, 2022 -- Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

August 17, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

August 17, 2022 -- Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

September 21, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

September 21, 2022 - Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

October 26, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

October 26, 2022 - Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

November 30, 2022 -- Private Defense Attorney Cases. 9:00am-12:00pm

November 30, 2022 - Public Defender/RCC Cases. 1:30pm-4:30pm

ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEYS: Please convey plea offers to Defense Counsel, or indicate there is no offer, **at least three business days prior to the Pre-Trial.** All Assistant State Attorneys may appear by video at PT.

PRIVATE DEFENSE COUNSEL, ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS AND RCC: Please ensure that any plea offers are conveyed in advance of PT. All Defense Counsel may appear by video at PT, unless their client wishes to be personally present, or is in custody and requests to be transported for PT.

DEFENDANTS: Defendants may appear via video link, however a Defendant's appearance will NOT be required, unless they are representing themselves, or the Court

has ordered them to be present. Defendants who are in custody and wish to appear for PT may do so. Please notify the Judicial Assistant by 12:00 p.m. on the day before PT of any Defendants who request to be transported for PT.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIRTUAL/VIDEO PRE-TRIAL

1. Private Defense Attorney Motion to Continue/Order to Continue: **e-file** the Motion to Continue ONLY, and **email** a copy of the Motion to Continue **AND** a corresponding proposed Order to Continue with the case name and case number filled out to Jessica Blow at CTJAJB4@ocnjcc.org (*please remember not to e-file proposed orders*):

a. **The deadline for filing UNOPPOSED motions to continue is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday of the week preceding the Pre-Trial.** Upon the receipt of a signed Order granting the continuance, you will be excused from appearing at the video PT.

b. **The deadline for filing OPPOSED motions to continue is 12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday of the week preceding the Pre-Trial.** The Court will consider these Motions on a case by case basis. If the motion is granted over objection, the parties will be notified and you will receive an email confirming you (and your client) will not need to attend PT. If a hearing will be required, you will be notified of the date and time, or you will be instructed to address the motion at the PT.

c. All Motions to Continue must state, with specificity, the reasons for the continuance and the amount of additional time needed to prepare the case for trial.

d. Cases which have previously been granted a "Final Continuance" must articulate why the previously granted continuance was not sufficient for the case to be ready for trial.

e. If a Motion to Dismiss, Motion to Suppress, or other fully or partially case dispositive Motion is the reason for the requested continuance, Counsel must insure that the Motion has been filed in the court file, and that a date for the hearing has been requested from the Judicial Assistant prior to the PT.

****All Motions to Continue filed by the Public Defender and/or RCC will be addressed on the record at the Video PTC.****

2. Participation in Diversion or Specialty Court: e-file, and email a copy to Jessica Blow at CTJAJB4@ocnjcc.org:

a. If a referral has been made to PTD Level III, the attorneys can email the Judicial Assistant, who will provide a future status date and you will be excused from PT.

b. If the Defendant will be offered PTD Level II (Drug Diversion), the parties will still need to attend the PT, and will need to file a copy of the signed PTD Level II contract in the court file.

c. If the Defendant has been accepted into a Specialty Court program (i.e., Drug Court, Veterans Court, Mental Health Court), the Judicial Assistant will reach out to you with further instructions.

3. Cases Which Will Resolve By Plea

a. If the case will resolve by plea, a plea date will be coordinated during the PT. Please note that a Plea scheduled during PT is a control date and cannot be rescheduled or cancelled without a Motion being filed and an Order being entered.

4. Cases Which Will Require Resolution By Jury Trial

a. If the case will require resolution by a jury trial, a Trial Management Conference must first be set. At the Trial Management Conference, the State should be prepared to announce the “last and best offer” it is willing to make to resolve the case short of a trial. Defendants should be advised that, with few exceptions, the Court does NOT accept negotiated pleas after the Trial Management Conference. If circumstances have significantly changed, either party can file a Motion requesting a second Trial Management Conference, based upon the changed circumstances.

b. Unless the Court agrees to schedule a new Trial Management Conference once a Defendant declines the State’s offer at the Trial Management Conference, the only plea resolution that will be accepted is a Plea to the bench. The Court will consider the recommendations of the State and Defense, but will not agree to be bound by those positions.

c. If either party believes that the case is not adequately prepared for Trial Management Conference, a Motion for Continuance outlining the reasons, should be submitted to chambers at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled Trial Management Conference. The opposing party’s position should be stated in the Motion and an appropriate Order should be submitted with a blank date and time for a rescheduled Trial Management Conference.

*****If you do not receive an email excusing you and/or your client’s appearance at the Video Pre-Trial, you are required to attend by video, as outlined in Paragraph 1 above. The Court may consider bench warrants for Defendants and/or speedy trial**

waivers for non-appearance of Defendants and/or their Defense Counsel who have not been excused from appearing.****