

STATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

STANDING ORDER IN CRIMINAL CASES

The following procedures and policies shall govern all criminal cases in Division E, pending before Judge Jane Morrison.

Entry of Appearance

Counsel representing defendants must file a formal entry of appearance, plus provide and maintain current e-mail and telephone contact information to Judge Morrison's Criminal Case Litigation Manager, Mr. Reid Martin: reid.martin@fultoncountyga.gov; telephone (404) 613-4315. Once an entry of appearance is filed, counsel of record may waive arraignment, provided such waiver is made in writing, filed with the clerk's office, and a courtesy copy provided to Litigation Manager Martin in advance of the arraignment date.

Arraignment

At arraignment, defendants may expect to receive a copy of charges and an offer from the prosecutor outlining any negotiated plea terms. After arraignment, cases may be resolved through negotiation with the Assistant Solicitor assigned to the case. The Solicitor's Office may be reached via: (404) 612-4800. Counsel are encouraged to negotiate and seek resolution of cases between scheduled calendars.

Trial Calendar

Following arraignment, cases before Judge Morrison will be placed on a Trial Calendar. At the call of the Trial Calendar, the Court will confirm:

- that all discovery issues are resolved;
- that a plea offer has been extended to and considered by the defendant;
- whether the defendant is accepting or rejecting the State's offer for a negotiated plea.

The call of the Trial Calendar shall be the last date for a negotiated plea to be announced. The Court will not accept a negotiated plea to resolve any case after the call of the Trial Calendar absent a showing of good legal cause or material change in circumstance.

Any defendant entering a pre-trial diversion program or accountability court program (DUI Court), must have applied for and been accepted into that program before the call of the Trial Calendar.

At the call of the Trial Calendar the Court will confirm the charges on which the State is ready to go forward. The State is not to announce "ready" until the State has confirmed the availability of its witnesses. All parties must confirm if they are proceeding with any motions in advance of trial and specify on what issues they wish to be heard.

Appearance Required

All defendants and their counsel of record must appear at all calendar calls and hearings unless specifically excused by the Court. A defendant's failure to appear may result in bond forfeiture and issuance of an arrest warrant. Counsel's failure to appear may result in sanctions and/or penalties, including but not limited to charges of contempt of court.

Motions

All motions must be timely filed with the Court in accordance with the Uniform Rules of State Court. Motions hearings will be scheduled according to the Court's schedule. Parties requesting emergency relief should designate their motions as such and must provide a courtesy copy to the Litigation Manager.

Trial Scheduling and On Call List

If a case is announced "ready for trial" it will be scheduled or placed on the Court's On Call List to be tried during the weeks of the trial calendar. The Court will make every effort to provide reasonable notice of actual court dates and times; however, counsel and self-represented defendants are required to stay in touch with the Litigation Manager throughout the trial calendar period. All cases are subject to call in on two hours' notice.

To conserve court resources, including but not limited to the expense of summoning and scheduling potential jurors, it is expected that after a "ready" announcement the case will be tried. Disregard for judicial resources will subject parties and/or their counsel to potential contempt charges, penalties, and/or assessment of costs.

Jury Selection & Voir Dire Questions

All parties must submit, by or before the published date of the initial call of the Trial Calendar, a written list of the general questions they wish to ask the jury panel.

Jury Charges

At the start of each trial, counsel for each party shall deliver to the Court a courtesy copy of his or her requested jury charges. Requested charges must include reference, by section number, to the Georgia State Bar Criminal Jury Instructions, published by the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia, current edition, or other supporting legal authority. Requests to charge should be numbered and submitted one charge per page.

SO ORDERED, this 23rd day of August, 2022.



Jane Morrison, Judge

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