

## **COURT SETTINGS**

The Court anticipates cases will be disposed of or set for disposition within three settings of the attorney being appointed or retained. Extensions beyond that are on a case by case basis. The presence of the defendant can be waived.

Forfeited bonds will be reinstated if the defendant comes to court shortly after the missed court date.

## **PLEAS AND MOTIONS TO REVOKE**

The Court is always available to take pleas as long as a jury is not in the box.

If there is a requested departure from the plea agreement let the Court know before plea begins.

Virtually all plea bargains are accepted

Open pleas and revocations are done at the bench, depending on the number of witnesses.

The Court is open to numerous drug rehab and outpatient treatment options, typically via the agreement of both sides.

Pleas from other courts are welcome as long as a record does not have to be made.

## **MAGISTRATE COURTS/VISITING JUDGES**

This Court is available to take pleas whenever the attorneys want them. The only time they have to be referred to Magistrate Court is if the Court is in a jury trial. Frequently the other courts on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor will take pleas from CDC 5, and vice versa.

## **COURT APPOINTMENTS**

The Court uses both Public Defenders and court-appointed lawyers. The SB 7 wheel is followed. The Court encourages new lawyers to “second chair” felony trials to get trial experience. Come by the Court on Monday mornings to see what case is going to trial.

## **PRE-TRIAL MATTERS**

Pre-trial motions need to be heard before trial

The Court only needs to be approached on matters in dispute. Pre-trial discussions are conducted in chambers.

This court usually grants motions to substitute counsel and motions to withdraw, but will not allow cases to be continued indefinitely.

Bonds are usually set by agreement. If there is a dispute then both sides need to approach the Court with their concerns. Rulings will not be made ex parte.

Competency hearings and ODL's are conducted in Magistrate Court.

A trial brief is always more effective than a handful of Xeroxed cases. If cases are used then highlighting the appropriate portions speeds things up.

### **COURT DOCKETS**

Jail defendants wanting a jury trial need to be admonished by the Court before the case is set for trial. This frequently resolves disputes and results in pleas or dismissals.

### **TRIALS**

The Court prefers oldest jail cases to go first but will make exceptions. Pleas on the day of trial are fine.

#### ***Trial Motions***

Motions should be presented to the court and argued before trial day.

#### ***Voir Dire***

Generally one hour per side, with more for complicated cases. The attorneys are free to conduct their own voir dire and submit jury questionnaires.

#### ***Trial Decorum***

Civility is required, use of proper objections is expected, and brevity is appreciated.

#### ***Scheduling***

Monday is reserved for jury selection, testimony starts the next day. Jury trials run from 9:00AM to 4:00PM with two breaks plus a lunch hour.

#### ***Audio/Visual Equipment***

Same as all the other courtrooms in Crowley.

### **GENERAL COURTROOM DECORUM**

Bottled water and soda is OK, for both attorneys and jurors.

Attorneys are free to go into the holdover during trial or other court proceedings as long as they do so quietly.