

379th District Court

Court Proceedings in the COVID era

by Judge Ron Rangel

The Basics

- All settings are:
 - Set on Zoom
 - Entered into the county system as it's being set
 - The Zoom link is emailed one week prior to the setting
- In-person hearings
 - Defense attorney must specifically request
 - Must provide a good reason why hearing cannot be held remotely (e.g., technology unavailable)
 - Only conducted Mondays and Fridays
- You can contact Trish (court coordinator) anytime for a setting when the parties have an agreement. Inmate cases can be set 24 hours after request is made.

Preindicted / Prehearing Cases

- None are automatically set by the court UNLESS there is a MTR / MTEAG pending on the same defendant.
- Jail still setting dates at booking but date is invalid unless MTR / MTEAG pending.
- Call Trish to set a date if there's an agreement on the resolution of the case.

Trial Dockets

- Trial Dockets are set every Wednesday.
- Only defense counsel and the state are required, not defendants.
- Defense attorney must confirm communication with the defendant.
- If the parties reach an agreement, the plea hearing will be on a different date. Can be set as early as the next day.

Motions to Revoke

Motions to Enter Adjudication of Guilt

- Set on Tuesdays.
- Defendant is required to be present on Zoom.
 - If the defendant is on bond, counsel and the probation officer contact the defendant.
 - If the defendant is in custody, Trish will make arrangements with the jail.

Bond Forfeitures

- No bond forfeitures during the pandemic.
- If a defendant is clearly missing through violation reports, then the court will issue a Judge's Warrant.
- As a result of no BFs, no Affidavits of Surety to Surrender will be presented to the court unless the defendant is already incarcerated.

Miscellaneous

- Preindictment Motions
 - Efile and send a copy to Trish via email.
 - We will determine how to handle them on a case-by-case basis.
 - When hearings are required, Motions to Modify bond conditions, increase or decrease bond amount, psych evaluations all go to Judge Curruthers.
- When a defense attorney desires copies of documents in the court file (e.g., indictments), call the court office at (210) 335-2911. The clerk can email or fax.
- Vouchers – email to Trish in PDF format

QUESTIONS?