



Jeffrey W. Hendriks
Judge of County Court
St. Lucie County

State of Florida
Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

222 Courthouse Addition
218 South 2nd Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Phone: (772) 462-1957

JUDGE HENDRIKS' DIVISION - RULES AND PROCEDURES:

*(Updated – 10/02/2019)

Arraignments: All Defendants are required to be present *unless* counsel appears for them or a written plea and waiver of arraignment is filed by Counsel prior to the start of Court on the arraignment day.

“A” Docket: The “A” docket is the 1st docket call after the Arraignment day. All defendants are required to be present *unless* counsel appears on their behalf to request a continuance and waive speedy trial. The Court will grant all motions for continuance with a waiver of speedy trial at the “A” docket. No justifications need be presented by Counsel.

“B” Docket: All defendants and Counsel are required to be present at the “B” docket *unless* counsel appears on their behalf and a written waiver of appearance is filed by Counsel prior to the start of Court on the “B” Docket. (Note – this procedure is subject to change in the future, depending on how receptive & successful the follow on jury selection dates prove to be.).

All counsel should make every effort to be ready to resolve a case on the “B” docket whether through a negotiated plea, open plea to the Court, or announce ready for Trial.

Only for good cause shown will the Court grant further continuances at the “B” docket.

Defense counsel, both private and public defender, shall inform their clients prior to the B docket that if the defense announces “ready for trial” all plea offers are withdrawn.

Further, the defense attorney shall inform the defendant (client) that any subsequent decision to enter a plea after announcing ready for trial will be a *plea to the Court*, and inform the defendant (client) of the minimum and maximum penalties they could receive from the Court under the law at the time of sentencing.

Jury Selection: Jury Selection will commence either the day after the above “Dockets” or on the week after’s Jury Selection date. Typically, this will be the next day (Tuesday) or the following week on a Tuesday. The specific request from the attorney’s will determine the date of Jury Selection. It is the intention of the Court to allow both sides, State and Defense, to adequately prepare for the trial after announcing “ready for trial,” recognizing that at times this will merit the jury selection to commence the week after the announcement of “ready for trial.”

The Court will conduct multiple jury selections on these days, if required.



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A total of two weeks will be available to conduct Jury Trials for all cases announcing ready for Trial at the "B" docket.

The intention of the Court is to remain on a "three week rotation" as it involves jury trials. That is, if "ready for trial" at any Docket Call is announced and the Court cannot conduct that jury trial in the next two weeks, that jury trial will simply be set on the next jury trial rotation, which will be two weeks away..

Court will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the Court will determine the order of trials for the week at that time.

*The Clerk of Court (Jury personnel) are directed to send sufficient notices to ensure at least **50** Jurors are available*