

Criminal Differentiated Case Management (DCM) Plan

This Criminal DCM Plan is established in accordance with Md. Rule 16-302(b) which requires the County Administrative Judge to develop and, upon approval by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, implement and monitor a case management plan for the prompt and efficient scheduling and disposition of action in the Circuit Court.

Statement of Purpose

Consistent with the case time standards adopted by the Judicial Council, Constitutional requirements, and applicable Maryland Rules, it is the goal of this Plan to ensure that all criminal cases, jury and non-jury, be concluded within 180 days of the date of first appearance of the defendant or his/her counsel, whichever is earlier. In order to achieve this goal, the Circuit Court is committed to resolving different categories of cases within a regular and predictable time frame warranted by the needs of those cases. For simpler cases, the warranted time frame may be shorter than 180 days.

Case Management

The policies and procedures outlined in this Plan shall be implemented by the Criminal Coordinating Judge and his/her back-up judge and their respective staffs. The Criminal Coordinating Judge reports to the County Administrative Judge. The County Administrative Judge supervises all aspects of criminal case management, and is ultimately responsible for the implementation of this Criminal Case Management Plan, pursuant to Md. Rule 16-302(b). The County Administrative Judge designates certain judges to hear the various criminal matters, and makes final decisions about whether and to whom a case should be specially assigned, when necessary.

The Criminal Coordinating Judge shall have and exercise authority over such criminal case issues and matters as designated by the County Administrative Judge. The Criminal Coordinating Judge shall monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Criminal Case Management Plan. All judges are responsible to comply with and implement in their rulings the provisions of this Plan. Individual judges are responsible for the effective management of cases specially assigned to them; however, the scheduling of specially assigned cases must always be coordinated with the Office of Calendar Management and the jury office. Specially assigned cases should be managed to the extent possible consistent with the provisions of this Plan, including adherence to the case time standards.

Case Types Summary

Circuit Court criminal case processing in Maryland is complex and involves multiple stakeholders, courts, and agencies. It begins with a felony or misdemeanor that typically is first filed as a complaint in the District Court. For some felonies, including homicides, an investigation may occur and an arrest made after an indictment by a grand jury. Even for these cases, the defendant is first brought before a District Court judge.

The Differentiated Case Management (DCM) Plan for Circuit Court criminal casetypes includes both felony and misdemeanor cases. Misdemeanor cases originate in the District Court, after charges are filed by an officer or by a citizen through the District Court commissioner, by a citation issued for a petty offense, or by criminal information by the State's Attorney's Office (SAO). Charges that carry a potential sentence of incarceration are eligible to be removed from the jurisdiction of the District Court by a prayer for a jury trial. Once the defendant prays a jury trial, the District Court is divested of jurisdiction and the case proceeds to trial through the Circuit Court. A jury trial may be prayed any time before trial. Felonies are charged by criminal information by the SAO with the consent of the defendant, or are charged by an officer through a statement of charges and are then presented to the grand jury for indictment or proceed to a preliminary hearing before a District Court judge, who may find probable cause to support the felonies, which allows the State to file the charges in Circuit Court without an indictment. (See Md. Rule 4-201.)

Criminal Tracks

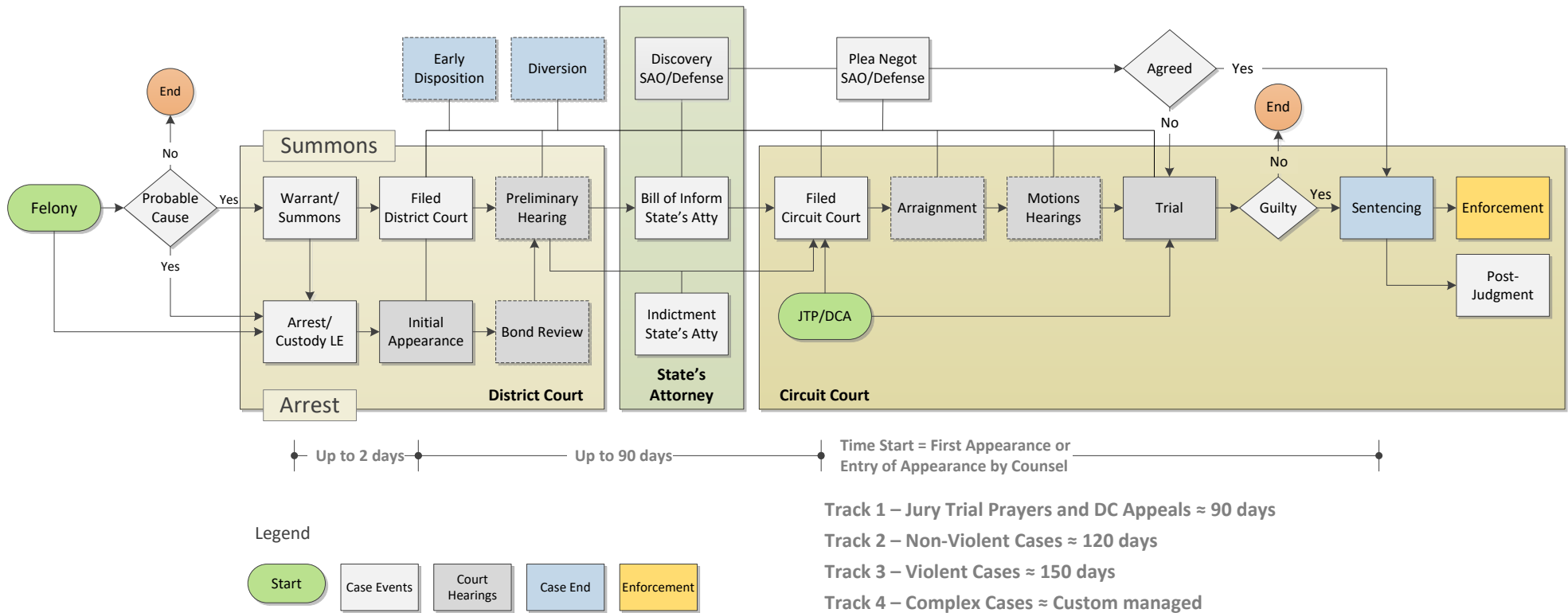
A criminal case may follow one of four distinct tracks to resolution. Tracks are defined at filing of the complaint, based on the casetype or highest charge. Some casetypes may be moved from Track 3 to Track 4 after filing as the result of complicating factors being present. See Table 1.1 below and Diagram 1.1 on the following page. Tracks define expected case processing events, the timing of events, assignment, and the expectations for case duration. The caseflow time standard for Circuit Court criminal cases is 180 days from the first court appearance of defendant or the entry of appearance by counsel to disposition¹ for 98% of cases. For criminal case tracks, expected case durations are based on a consensus of needed time to reach disposition, which may be less than the time standard. Expected case duration is not a time standard.

¹ Disposition may include a number of verdicts, judgments, or other outcomes. It is not sentencing.

Table 1.1 – Criminal Tracks by Casetypes/Highest Charge Types and Outcomes

<i>Track</i>	<i>Casetypes or Highest Charge Types</i>	<i>Expected Case Duration and Notes</i>
Track 1a Jury Trial Prayers and District Court Appeals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cases received in the Circuit Court with an attorney’s appearance 2. Cases received in the Circuit Court without an attorney’s appearance 	60 days to sentencing; track defined at filing.
Track 1b Criminal Information or Indictment Cases with Concurrent Jurisdiction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Misdemeanors 2. Felonies with District Court jurisdiction 3. Handgun Violations 4. Second Degree Assault 5. Fourth Degree Sex Offense 	95 days to sentencing; track defined at filing.
Track 2 Non- Violent Felony Cases	Non-violent felony charge(s): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PWID 2. Forgery and Uttering 3. Burglary 4. Burglary and B&E 5. Escape 	95 days to sentencing; track defined at filing by highest charge. Cases downgraded to a misdemeanor remain Track 2.
Track 3 Violent Felony Cases	Violent felony charge = highest charge; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Degree Assault 2. Robbery (T/A) 3. Robbery with Deadly Weapon (T/A) 4. Physical Child Abuse (with non-life threatening injuries) 5. Third Degree Sexual Offense 6. Carjacking 7. Arson 8. Economic Crimes (can be moved to Track 4) 9. Child Abuse (can be moved to Track 4) 10. Pandering (Human Trafficking) 	115 days to sentencing; track defined at filing by highest charge or after filing by SAO recommendation or court review.
Track 4 Complex Cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auto Manslaughter 2. Attempt Murder/Rape 3. Abduction/Kidnapping 4. Rape 5. Sexual Offenses (First and Second Degree) 6. Serial Rapes and Sexual Offenses 7. Wire Taps 8. Murder 	150 days; custom managed; track defined at filing; or after filing by SAO recommendation or court review. Cases will remain Track 4 regardless of charging decisions by SAO.

Figure 1.1 – Criminal Case Processing



Track 1a – Jury Trial Prayers and District Court Appeals

Court Event	Timing
Case Initiation	Case filing by State’s Attorney in Circuit Court
Arraignment	3 weeks after jury trial prayer
Discovery	In District Court or no period required
Trial	4-6 weeks after arraignment
Sentencing (if guilty)	Same day or 30 days after verdict typically

Track 1b – Criminal Information or Indictment Cases with Concurrent Jurisdiction

Court Event	Timing
Case Initiation	Case filing by State’s Attorney in Circuit Court
Arraignment	Within 15 days of filing
SA Discovery Complete	30 days after arraignment
Status Conference	30 days after arraignment
Defense Discovery Complete	55 days after arraignment
Trial	65 days after arraignment
Sentencing (if guilty)	Same day or 30 days after trial typically

Track 2 – Non-Violent Felony Cases

Court Event	Timing
Case Initiation	Case filing by State’s Attorney in Circuit Court
Arraignment	Within 15 days of filing
SA Discovery Complete	30 days after arraignment
Status Conference	30 days after arraignment
Motions/Plea	45 days after arraignment
Defense Discovery Complete	55 days after arraignment
Trial	65 days after arraignment
Sentencing (if guilty)	Same day or 30 days after trial typically

Track 3 – Violent Felony Cases

Court Event	Timing
Case Initiation	Case filing by State’s Attorney in Circuit Court
Arraignment	Within 15 days of filing
SA Discovery Complete	30 days after arraignment
Motions/Plea	60 days after arraignment
Defense Discovery Complete	75 days after arraignment
Trial	85 days after arraignment
Sentencing (if guilty)	Same day or 30 days after trial typically

Track 4 - Complex Cases

Court Event	Timing
Case Initiation	Case filing by State's Attorney in Circuit Court
Arraignment	Within 15 days of filing
SA Discovery Complete	60 days after arraignment
Status	75 days after arraignment
Defense Discovery	90 days after arraignment
Motions/Plea	105 days after arraignment
Trial	120 days after arraignment
Sentencing (if guilty)	Same day or 30 days after trial typically

All Tracks –District Court Case Initiation

Criminal cases can be initiated on a summons or by arrest and the filing of a complaint in District Court. Most felony cases are initiated by arrest, but rarely may be issued by summons. See *District Court Case Processing* for the procedures and steps required for a case to reach the Circuit Court. A very small number of cases are initiated at the Circuit Court by indictment and first appearance, without initial arrest and review for probable cause by the District Court.

Summons Cases

A summons is a notice to appear in court to face charges at a trial. Summons cases are primarily for misdemeanors, but occasionally they are used for felonies. Most will only reach the Circuit Court upon a jury trial prayer or appeal from District Court. A small number of felony charge types may be initiated by summons. The majority of summons in Prince George's County are private citizen complaints against another person. A minority of summons are requested by a law enforcement officer following an investigation. A very small number of summons are re-filings by the State's Attorney on reactivation of cases following a Nolle Prosequi (no prosecution) or STET disposition.

Arrest Cases

Arrests may be made on defendants based on an arrest warrant or "on-view" immediately following a crime. Arrest warrants are issued by District Court commissioners at the request of a law enforcement officer and are based on probable cause usually established by the officer in verbal testimony.

Following arrest on a warrant, the defendant must be taken before a District or Circuit Court judicial officer within 24 hours for the District Court and no later than the next session of court in Circuit Court to determine eligibility for pretrial release and advising of rights to counsel.

In Prince George's County, most indictments follow arrest, although in some cases the SAO may investigate a case following a crime and seek an arrest warrant following indictment before the grand jury.

Track 1 –Jury Trial Prayers, District Court Appeals, and Reopened Cases

Jury trial prayers (JTPs) and District Court appeals, primarily for misdemeanor and serious traffic cases, are a constitutionally guaranteed right for most criminal charges in Maryland. The rule-based standard threshold is an offense that is punishable by incarceration or a \$500 fine.

A District Court defendant on misdemeanor charges can request a jury trial at any time during the process, up to and including the trial date in District Court. Many defendants with summary or citation offenses do not generally have a right to a jury trial, simply because the punishment is below the minimum threshold for a jury trial. Appeals from the District Court are for trials de novo (a new trial on the merits) in the Circuit Court.

Filing

JTPs are filed in the District Court upon motion/verbal request of the defense. Once the defendant prays a jury trial, the District Court is divested of jurisdiction and the case proceeds to trial through the Circuit Court. A jury trial may be prayed any time before trial.

State's Attorney

A charging document filed in the Circuit Court may be:

- An indictment (see Track 2 below);
- An information (see Track 2 below); or
- A District Court charging document for an offense on which the defendant demands a jury trial or appeal from judgment.

Assignment

Following filing, Track 1a JTPs and District Court appeals are immediately assigned to a specialty docket for trial according to the following guidelines:

- All JTPs and District Court appeals are given a trial date within 4-6 weeks after the arraignment is held.
- JTPs and District Court appeals with defense witnesses declared (added to complaint form) are given a trial date within 4-6 weeks after the arraignment is held.

Track 1b cases are scheduled for a trial date within 65 days. No specific judge is assigned to hear the case until within two weeks of the trial date.

Arraignment

For Track 1a cases, arraignment will be held approximately 3 weeks after the jury trial prayer is made by the defendant. Arraignment for Track 1b cases will be held within 15 days of filing.

Discovery (Motions Hearings)

For most JTPs and District Court appeals, formal discovery is not required, with the assumption that discovery took place in the District Court. For Track 1b cases motions hearings may be requested at the status conference and will be scheduled within two weeks by the Office of Calendar Management.

Trial

For JTPs and criminal appeals, upon transfer, the attorney of record in District Court is automatically entered into in the Circuit Court.² The attorneys of record in the District Court are usually not the same attorneys in Circuit Court. In Prince George's County, most JTPs and District Court appeals are not resolved by a jury trial. Many are resolved by plea bargaining. In resolving these matters, Circuit Court judges shall exercise the full weight, authority, and discretion of their office.

Sentencing

For some cases, both plea bargains and trials, and depending on the status of the defendant, a sentence is imposed by a judge immediately following adjudication. For reopened cases, final orders may include a modification of a prior sentence, or other outcome, as determined by a judge. Judges may also order a presentence investigation (PSI) to help make a sentencing decision.

For JTPs and District Court appeals, a PSI is rarely ordered by the judge. If ordered, the sentencing will held on a later date following the completion of the PSI. In most cases, a judge will require that the State's Attorney provide a criminal history of the defendant in order to determine an appropriate sentence. Previous convictions are considered in the sentencing guidelines. Time spent in custody must be subtracted from any sentence that includes incarceration. The critical path issue for sentencing is a PSI. In most courts, sentencing may be postponed up to 60 or more days for a long form PSI or 30-45 days for a short form PSI. The outcome of a guilty verdict may be incarceration, a fine, or probation.

² MD Rule 4-214(a).
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Tracks 2, 3, 4 – Non-Violent, Violent and Complex Felony Cases. Circuit Court Tracks 2, 3, and 4 are primarily felony cases under the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. All are initiated in the Circuit Court by the State's Attorney by criminal information or criminal indictment. The rules of procedure are the same following filing in Circuit Court. Both an indictment and a criminal information are forms of a charging document. The primary distinction is that probable cause is determined by the District Court for a criminal information, and by a grand jury for an indictment. A criminal indictment includes the words "against the peace, government, and dignity of the State" and must be signed by the State's Attorney or his or her representative.

Criminal Information

Criminal Information cases arise from charges directly filed in the Circuit Court by the State's Attorney. These matters have not been presented to a grand jury and may not be filed if the request for a preliminary hearing in the District Court has been made within 10 days of the defendant being informed by a judicial officer of the right to a preliminary hearing.

Criminal Indictments

Criminal Indictments are cases that have been brought before a grand jury for determination of probable cause and indictment. The type and number of cases assigned to a grand jury are determined by the SAO. In Prince George's County, almost all felonies are indicted by the grand jury. In most felony cases following an arrest, the SAO investigates and proceeds with an indictment of suspects before the grand jury, during the preliminary hearing process in the District Court, whether released on bail or in custody.

State's Attorney. Indictments may take place while a defendant is being processed in District Court, following an arrest. Following a grand jury indictment, a defendant is served with a summons to appear in Circuit Court (Md. Rule 4-212). An arrest warrant is issued by a Circuit Court judge upon request of the State's Attorney, and a finding of probable cause and that there is a substantial likelihood that the defendant will not respond to a summons. A warrant may also be issued for a defendant in custody for the same or another offense for which the defendant has previously been determined ineligible for release. A detainer is issued on a defendant who is incarcerated on another offense.

A charging document must include the name of the defendant, the facts of the offense, and a citation of the statute or other authority. In addition, the charging document advises the defendant of basic rights, including to appear before a judicial officer to determine eligibility for release, to a lawyer, and to a lawyer from the Public Defender's Office if eligible. A peace officer or a judicial officer must sign a statement of charges. An information or indictment may be signed by the State's Attorney or other authorized authority.

Discovery

In most indictment cases, an investigation is conducted by the SAO working with the police, following a crime. The investigation may occur at any time, both before the filing of an information or indictment, or during the Circuit Court case. The purpose of an investigation is to gather evidence and information relating to a crime and the possible involvement of a person. Time limits on investigations are generally governed by statutes of limitations on prosecuting a crime.

While not considered a significant event in terms of the use of judicial time, discovery and the issues surrounding it are critical to the challenge of early dispositions, diversion, and trial readiness. Effective, transparent discovery promotes procedural justice. Plea negotiations are a key component of early dispositions and diversion and should be conducted as early as possible in the process, in order to increase communication and a just resolution as early as possible.

Case Filing in the Circuit Court

A charging document filed in the Circuit Court may be:

- A criminal information
- A criminal indictment; or
- A District Court charging document for an offense on which the defendant demands a jury trial or appeal from judgment.

Arraignment

An arraignment is required in Circuit Court, unless waived by defense counsel, when a defendant has been arrested on a warrant and brought directly to Circuit Court, or appears by written notice of counsel following a summons. The purpose of the arraignment is to:

- Inform defendant of charges;
- Ensure that the defendant has a copy of the charging document; and
- Enter a plea.

At the Arraignment, if the defendant does not have counsel, the judge will advise the defendant of his or her rights to counsel and notify him or her of the availability and/or location of the Public Defender's Office. For most felony cases, attorneys who have entered their appearance in District Court must reenter their appearance in Circuit Court.

Assignment and Scheduling

By rule, the trial date must be set within 30 days after the entry of appearance of counsel or the first appearance of the defendant, whichever comes first. The trial date shall not be set later than 180 days after these events.³ When the trial date is set at the arraignment, the defendant is served with a summons to appear. If the arraignment has been waived because the defendant is represented by counsel, a summons is served by mail or in person for the next scheduled event. Re-arraignments, or postponements, are rescheduled for 1-4 weeks out. In Prince George's County, the following guidelines apply for the assignment and scheduling of felony cases:

- All felony cases are set for an arraignment within 15 days of filing, unless an attorney has entered his or her appearance with the Circuit Court as part of the filing process. An attorney may enter his or her appearance up to and including at the Arraignment Hearing. If an attorney has entered his or her appearance, the arraignment is waived.
- All trial dates are set at the arraignment or within 30 days of the entry of appearance by counsel, whichever is earlier.
- Track 2 Non-violent felony cases are scheduled for a trial date within 65 days of arraignment. No specific judge is assigned to hear the case until within two weeks of the trial date.

³ Md. Rule 4-271(a).
11/21/2019

- Track 3 violent felony cases are scheduled for a trial date within 85 days of the arraignment or initial appearance. No specific judge is assigned to hear the case until within two weeks of the trial date.
- Track 4 cases are specially assigned to a trial judge. A status conference is set within 75 days of arraignment or the initial appearance. A trial date is scheduled within 120 days of arraignment or initial appearance.

Motions Hearings

Motions hearings may be heard in court or decided by a judicial ruling on paper, without a hearing. A response to a motion, if made, must be filed within 15 days after service of the motion. Rulings on motions are required, where practical, to be heard before the day of trial, although a motion to dismiss pursuant to the speedy trial rule may be deferred until the day of trial. Most dispositive and evidentiary motions must be heard in open court. In Prince George's County, all motions are heard by a judge, who may not be the assigned trial judge.

Mandatory motions⁴ include matters that must be raised, or are automatically waived by the Court if not filed within 30 days after the first appearance of the defendant or the entry of appearance by counsel, except as a result of discovery and filed within 5 days of discovery. Mandatory motions include:

- Defect in the institution of the prosecution;
- Defect in the charging document;
- Unlawful search and seizure, wiretap or pretrial identification;
- Unlawfully obtained admission, statement or confession; and
- Request for joint or separate trial of defendants or offenses.

A motion for transfer to juvenile court, though not considered mandatory, must be filed separately and is considered waived under the same time restrictions as mandatory motions. Subsequent hearing dates, other than the trial date, are not defined by the Maryland Rules, but may include scheduling conference, motions hearings, status conferences, pretrial hearings, and plea hearings.

Plea Negotiations

Plea negotiations between the SAO and defense counsel may occur at any time in the process.

Trial- Tracks 2, 3, and 4

The trial judge will be the assigned judge through sentencing, including following any postponements. No more than three cases will be set before a judge for a Tracks 2 and 3 criminal trial docket except for the pending docket or if there are co-defendants. No more than two Track 4 cases will be set before a judge on a trial date. Postponements will only be granted for good cause by the Criminal Coordinating Judge or other judge assigned by the County Administrative Judge. All jury trials will take precedence, followed by bench trials, followed by plea hearings. If a plea is negotiated, and a trial is not completed by the end of the day, it will be heard at the beginning of any subsequent docket.

Sentencing

For some cases, both plea bargains and trials, and depending on the status of the defendant, a sentence is imposed by a judge immediately following adjudication. For some cases, a PSI is ordered by the judge, and the sentence is set for a later date. In most cases, a judge will require that the State's Attorney provide a criminal history of the defendant in order to determine an appropriate sentence.

⁴ Md. Rule 4-252(a).
11/21/2019

Previous convictions are considered in the sentencing guidelines. Time spent in custody must be subtracted from any sentence that includes incarceration. In Prince George's County, sentencing may be postponed up to 60 or more days for a long form PSI or 30-45 days for a short form PSI.

The outcome of a guilty verdict may be incarceration, a fine, or probation. In Prince George's County, one hour or less sentencing hearings are typically set on Fridays before the assigned trial judge. Sentencing hearings that will take more than hour will be set before the assigned trial judge on a date agreed to by the parties.

Post-Judgment

Post-judgment actions may include the following:

- **Motion for Modification of Sentence.** If you want the Court to consider your motion, a motion for modification of a sentence⁵ must be filed within 90 days after the imposition of a sentence in Circuit Court. A sentence modification must be conducted on the record after appropriate notice and must be conducted by the sentencing judge unless that judge is no longer available.
- **Sentence Review.** An application for sentence review⁶ must be filed within 30 days after imposition of a sentence. Sentence reviews cannot be by the sentencing judge. The Review Panel does not need to conduct a hearing, but must file a decision within 30 days after the application is filed. Sentence increases require that the defendant be brought before the Review Panel.
- **Appeal Filed.** An appeal of a judgment must be filed with the Court of Special Appeals within 30 days of issuance of the judgment.

⁵ Md. Rule 4-345.

⁶ Md. Rule 4-344.

Interpreters

If any party becomes aware of the need for an interpreter for any party or witness, the party shall promptly notify the court by using the [Court Interpreter Request Form](#), which is available on the Court's web site. The form must be submitted with the first document you file in the case or 30 days before the next court date. A delay in notifying the Court of the need for an interpreter may result in the inability to handle a case on the scheduled date.

The party requesting an interpreter shall remain responsible for confirming that an interpreter has been ordered and shall notify the Court immediately if the need for the interpreter changes. An interpreter request may be canceled using the [Court Interpreter Cancellation Form](#). If a request for interpreter is not cancelled at least 48 hours in advance of the trial or hearing, the Court will be billed for the interpreter's services. If the Court is billed for an interpreter needlessly as a result of counsel's failure to advise the Court that the interpreter will not be needed, or because counsel or a litigant does not appear in court in a timely fashion, the Court may assess the interpreter costs against the party or counsel causing the unnecessary expense.

Unless the Court is advised that a case will last more than half a day, the Court will only hire interpreters for a single morning or afternoon session.

Postponements

Pursuant to Md. Rule 4-271(a)(1) all postponement requests must be considered by the County Administrative Judge or his/her designee. The designated postponement judge shall be authorized to make good cause findings and to rule on waivers of the Hicks requirement. Pursuant to the Rule, only one judge may be designated to have postponement authority at a time.

Specially assigned cases

Except as stated below, this limitation on postponement authority applies to all cases in the Circuit Court, including cases that are specially assigned to a judge. The procedures for postponing specially assigned cases are set forth below.

If the case is specially assigned, subsequent case management decisions and scheduling will be initiated by the specially assigned judge consistent with the case time standards, however, pursuant to Md. Rule 4-271(a)(1), all postponements or scheduling that affects the trial date or the 180-day Hicks period, must be made by the judge who is designated by the County Administrative Judge to rule on postponements. The designated postponement judge will confer with the specially assigned judge for a recommendation as to the postponement and to clear new court dates on the assigned judge's calendar. The scheduling or re-scheduling of all specially assigned cases must also be cleared in advance with the Office of Calendar Management in order to ensure judicial and juror availability.

VOP and Sentencing hearings

These limitations do not apply to VOP, post-conviction, coram nobis, sentencing, modification hearings, status conferences, or juvenile waiver hearings. In those matters, the judge to whom the case is assigned, may schedule and postpone them in the judge's discretion.

Clearing New Dates

Any party requesting a postponement of a trial or any other hearing shall coordinate a proposed re-set date with the opposing party, the Court, and the Office of Calendar Management consistent with case time standards. Failure to coordinate a re-set date may result in the postponement not being considered. Compliance with this procedure does not guarantee that any continuance will be granted and will not be interpreted by the Court as constituting consent to the postponement.

Same Day Postponements

Counsel requesting postponement of a case on the day it is set for trial or hearing shall bring it to the Court's attention at the beginning of the criminal docket and shall promptly be referred to the designated postponement judge for consideration. If the postponement request is denied, the case shall be referred back to the trial judge for further handling.

The above-mentioned procedure shall not apply to VOP, post-conviction, coram nobis, sentencing, modification hearings, status conferences, or juvenile waiver hearings. In those cases, requests for postponement shall be made to the judge to whom the case is assigned.

Hicks issues

If the postponement of any event will, in any way, implicate the Hicks Rule, a Hicks waiver or finding of good cause must be made in open court, by the designated postponement judge. The defendant shall be present in open court and written waivers will not be accepted. If necessary, counsel may coordinate a postponement/Hicks hearing with the chambers of the Criminal Coordinating Judge.

Problem Solving Courts

Adult Drug Court

The Adult Drug Court Program is a supervised, sanction-based, comprehensive treatment program for non-violent offenders referred to Adult Drug Court by their defense attorney, a judge, a parole or probation officer, or a police officer. If deemed eligible, the defendants enter the program voluntarily. Participants are required to attend regular hearings before the presiding judge, maintain a daily curfew, participate in mandatory substance abuse treatment, and undergo frequent drug testing all while benefitting from support and guidance from the entire Drug Court team in setting goals to focus on a life of sobriety and become a productive, law abiding citizen.

- Special docket designated for Drug Court participants
- Target population is non-violent, drug offenders identified as struggling with substance abuse addiction
- Must be a resident of Prince George's County
- Four phase, sanction and incentive based program model

Re-Entry Court

The Re-Entry Court Program is a voluntary, supervised, sanction, and incentive-based comprehensive court program. The program is 18 months. The target population of the Re-entry Court Program consists of incarcerated individuals who, through their attorneys, request reconsideration of sentences, and those with substance abuse related offenses or dependency who request a commitment under Section 8-507 of the Maryland Health General Article. Upon admission, participants are committed to court order treatment and enter into a treatment program in the Prince George's County Department of Corrections. Thereafter, they transition to the community with intensive supervision and case management. Participants shall attend regular court hearings before a presiding judge, maintain curfew, participate in substance abuse treatment, participate in frequent, random and monitored drug testing and intensive case management provided by the case manager and the Health Department.

Veterans Court

The Veterans Court Program is a supervised, voluntary, comprehensive, and sanction-based treatment program. The program is 12 months. Veterans entering the judicial system with a misdemeanor or felony level offense with prosecutorial consent, documented substance abuse dependency and/or mental issues are its focus. Upon acceptance, participants are required to attend regular court hearings before a presiding judge, maintain curfew, participate in substance abuse treatment, undergo frequent drug testing as well as Post traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) counseling and mental health services, if

needed. The judge leads the team's efforts focusing on sobriety, recovery and accountability as primary goals. The Veterans Court team insures the implementation of these goals for each participant.