

Rule 552. LOCAL SCHEDULING PROCEDURES.

- (1) Annually, no later than September 30th, the Court Administrator shall publish a schedule for the succeeding year setting forth the following pertinent dates that affect each criminal case with the appropriate schedule to be set in motion by the date the defendant either waives the preliminary hearing or is bound over following the preliminary hearing:
 - (a) The date of the formal arraignment, which shall be the first available formal arraignment date at least twenty (20) days after the preliminary hearing is held or waived.
 - (b) The date for the Call of the Criminal Trial List, which shall be no sooner than forty-five (45) days after formal arraignment nor less than thirteen (13) days from the date trial is scheduled to commence for the case.
 - (c) The first day of the trial term at which the case is scheduled.
- (2) The Court Administrator shall, immediately after publishing said schedule, provide copies to each of the sitting judges, each sitting Issuing Authority, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, each member of the county criminal defense bar known to the Court Administrator and out-of-county criminal defense counsel known to have been recently practicing in Crawford County. Additionally, copies shall also be available, free of charge, at all times in the Court Administrator's Office, the Crawford County Clerk of Courts Office and shall be promptly posted by the Court Administrator on the Crawford County website at www.crawfordcountypa.net.
- (3) At the time a defendant is bound over to court or waives a preliminary hearing, each Issuing Authority shall prepare a Criminal Case Scheduling Form with an original and five copies substantially in the form set forth as Form 552.

The Issuing Authority shall orally advise the defendant and counsel of the time, date and place of formal arraignment and that the failure to appear at such formal arraignment or other required appearances as set forth in the Criminal Case Scheduling Form may result in the defendant's arrest and forfeiture of bond.

The Issuing Authority shall require the defendant to sign the Criminal Case Scheduling Form, indicating the defendant is aware of the time, date and place of formal arraignment and of the obligation to appear at formal arraignment and other proceedings noted thereon.

Once the Criminal Case Scheduling Form has been completed, the defendant shall be provided with a copy and the Issuing Authority shall retain a copy for the Issuing Authority's records. If they are present, the Issuing Authority shall provide a copy to the defendant's attorney and/or the District Attorney's Office. All undistributed copies, together with a copy for the Court Administrator, shall be forwarded promptly to the Court Administrator for proper distribution. The original Criminal Case Scheduling Form shall be attached to the official record when it is forwarded to the Clerk of Courts as required by Pa.R.Crim.P. 547.

- (4) The Thursday prior to the commencement of trials for a criminal trial term is the last day the Court will accept negotiated pleas (plea bargains) and jury trial waivers unless a judge of this Court determines there was extraordinary cause for the deadline to be missed.

For the purpose of this rule, a "negotiated plea" or "plea bargain" shall include any agreement between the parties that will result in the Commonwealth dismissing one or more charges and/or reducing the grading of one or more charges and/or making a sentencing recommendation favorable in any way to the defendant.

“Extraordinary cause” will only be found to have occurred if the Court is satisfied that, despite the best efforts of both the Commonwealth and the defense, the negotiated plea deadline or jury trial waiver deadline prescribed in these rules could not be met.