

Rule 571. ARRAIGNMENT.

(1) Arraignment

- (a) Arraignments shall take place before the District Attorney or an Assistant District Attorney at such times and places designated by the Court Administrator. (b) If at arraignment a defendant wishes to plead not guilty, said plea shall be noted on the information and signed by the defendant. If the defendant wishes to plead guilty or nolo contendere, the defendant shall be given in writing a date to appear before the Court to enter a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. The writing shall also state that if the defendant pleads guilty or nolo contendere, the defendant is not required to appear at the call of the trial list nor any trial date.
- (b) If at arraignment a defendant wishes to plead not guilty, said plea shall be noted on the information and signed by the defendant. If the defendant wishes to plead guilty or nolo contendere, the defendant shall be given in writing a date to appear before the Court to enter a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. The writing shall also state that if the defendant pleads guilty or nolo contendere, the defendant is not required to appear at the call of the trial list nor any trial date.

(2) Waiver of Appearance at Arraignment

- (a) A defendant who has counsel of record may, prior to arraignment, waive the arraignment by filing in the Clerk of Courts' Office a waiver of appearance at arraignment substantially in the form provided by the District Court Administrator and posted on the County website. A copy of the waiver shall be served upon the Commonwealth pursuant to Pa.R.Crim.P. 576.
- (b) If a written Waiver of Appearance at Arraignment is filed prior to the scheduled date of arraignment, the scheduled date of arraignment shall be deemed the day of arraignment for the purpose of computing time limitations for filing all pretrial motion and requests pursuant to Pa.R.Crim.P. 572, 573, 578 and 579 and for the purpose of scheduling further dates pursuant to these rules.