

**JUDICIAL PRACTICE PREFERENCES
CIRCUIT CRIMINAL SECTION D**

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE JOSEPH A. BULONE
727-453-7643
SectionD@jud6.org

Communication with the Judicial Assistant: Either by phone or email listed above.

Plea Negotiations: Plea negotiations may be made between the Defendant and the State in advance of or at the pretrial conference (prior to the Judge taking the bench). A Defendant may make offers to the Court but the Court will not engage in plea negotiations unless specifically invited to do so by the Defendant. Any plea offers should be placed on the record.

Continuances: Attorneys may file a written motion and order to continue a pretrial conference no later than noon on the Friday of the week prior to any pretrial conference. Motions must fully set forth grounds necessitating the continuance, contain a waiver of speedy trial, and must be with the consent of opposing counsel and provide the new agreed upon date for the next hearing. Oral motions are acceptable and will be considered in open court during the pretrial conference. Oral motions will also be accepted in open court prior to the pretrial conference as long as opposing counsel is present and the clerk is made aware in advance.

Proposed Orders: Proposed orders can be emailed to the Court's judicial assistant at SectionD@jud6.org. The email should advise if opposing counsel has reviewed the proposed order and does not have an objection. Any motions for continuance should include a waiver of speedy trial.

Scheduling/Adding Hearings: Most motion hearings are scheduled through the Court's judicial assistant by either phone or email (listed above). Noon is the cut-off time for add-ons to the calendar for the next day. For cases involving a victim, the court allows for at least 5 days' notice before scheduling. Long motions (hearsay, suppress, departure) will be set by Judge in open court with both state and defense present to coordinate.

In Person v. Zoom Hearings: All hearings shall be in person, unless a Zoom/phone appearance is approved in advance pursuant to the new Florida rule of Criminal Procedure 3.116. In-person hearings are greatly preferred. The Defendant's presence at a pretrial conference may be waived pursuant to Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure 3.180. The Defendant must be present if required by Court, regardless of any previous waiver.