

**JUDICIAL PRACTICE PREFERENCES
CIRCUIT CRIMINAL SECTION T**

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE PAT SIRACUSA
727-453-7559
SectionT@jud6.org

UPDATED: 2/27/2025

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 SectionT@jud6.org advising in the email that opposing counsel has reviewed the proposed order and does not have an objection.

Scheduling/Adding Hearings: All motion hearings need to be set through the Court's Judicial Assistant by either phone or email (listed above). Long motions will need to be coordinated between the State and Defense. Dates provided by the Judicial Assistant are not "held" so it is imperative to confirm hearing dates as soon as agreed upon by the parties. Noon is the cutoff for adds to the calendar for the next day.

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. 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. The Defendant's presence may not be waived if speedy trial has not or will not be waived and the case will be set for a trial.

Trials: State and Defense should get together and go over the enclosed trial prep form. If you will be utilizing devices during the trial, you will need to contact the Court Technology Office at 727-453-7928 to schedule a testing/training session in the courtroom at least 1 week prior to the trial to make sure the devices will interface with the Court's system. Any USB type drive needs to be scanned by CTO before being plugged into our system.

Interpreters: Requests for spoken language court interpreters must be received at least 7 days in advance of the scheduled proceeding. Please use the Interpreter Request Form located at www.jud6.org and go to Interpreters.