



16th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE SUZANNE de MAHY
IBERIA PARISH CRIMINAL FELONY SECTION 4
(Memo – April 30, 2020)

TO: ALL CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS & ATTORNEYS
FROM: JUDGE SUZANNE de MAHY

Scope

This memorandum summarizes any changes to Iberia Parish Criminal Felony Section 4 court calendar and/or policies/practices of Iberia Parish Criminal Felony Section 4 during the current COVID-19 pandemic and Louisiana Supreme Court recommendations that the court limit in-person contact as much as possible. This memorandum applies to all Section 4 criminal felony cases that are set for Pretrial Conferences on June 2, 2020 and Petit Jury Trial on June 22, 2020.

May 27 & June 5 Motions

If you have been served with a May 27 or June 5 date to hear a motion that has been filed, please contact your attorney. All attorneys need to make arrangements with Judge de Mahy as to what time that hearing will take place as we are attempting to stagger the dockets. If any court orders regarding in-person hearings are extended through May 27 and/or June 5, all motion hearings that do not require witnesses will take place via Zoom (with consent of all the parties) and all motion hearings that require witnesses will be reset to a later motion date.

June 2 Pretrial Conferences

The defendant's presence is not required at pretrial conference on June 2, 2020 unless the defense attorney has made arrangements with Judge de Mahy for a guilty/no contest plea to be entered on June 2, 2020 and all the necessary forms have been completed. Defense attorneys and prosecutors may participate in Pretrial Conference via Zoom, those arrangements must be made directly with Judge de Mahy prior to May 29th. If any court orders regarding in-person hearings are extended through June 2nd, all Pretrial Conferences will be handled via Zoom. Defendant's may participate in Pretrial Conferences via Zoom if they choose to do so but their participation on June 2nd is not required.

June 16 Plea Day

The plea date of June 16, 2020 will be maintained for those defendants that have executed a plea agreement. Defense attorneys must coordinate with Judge de Mahy as to what time the defendant needs to be present. We will be staggering the docket in order to limit the number of people in the courtroom. If any court orders regarding in-person hearings are extended through June 16th, a guilty/no contest plea may be taken via Zoom, if all parties consent and the appropriate forms and waivers are completed. The defendant will have to appear at the courthouse either prior to the plea date or on the plea date in order to be fingerprinted by the bailiff. Fingerprinting is only necessary for Boykin misdemeanors and felony pleas.

June 22 Petit Jury Trial

Pursuant to Louisiana Supreme Court orders issued April 22, 2020, no criminal jury trial shall commence before June 30, 2020. This order cancels the June 22nd Petit Jury Trial. Defendants are not required to appear on June 22, 2020. The defendants will be served through the Iberia Parish Clerk of Court and Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office with a new notice for Pretrial and Petit Jury Trial. Any defendant that has changed their address or is unsure the Court has the correct address needs to contact the Iberia Parish Clerk of Court (337-365-7282) to make arrangements to complete the appropriate forms to change their address. Failure to notify the Court of change in address may lead to your arrest.

Questions/Comments

Any questions from defendants should be directed to their attorney. If the defendant is represented by an attorney with the Public Defender's Office, please call 337-365-4006. If you are not sure who your attorney is or you are having trouble contacting your attorney, please call Judge de Mahy's Office (337-394-2216, extension 3, option 1).

Thank you,

Judge Suzanne de Mahy
16th JDC, Division B

