

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTS AT LAW
STANDING ORDER – CRIMINAL DOCKET CONTROL

As all courts in Montgomery County are becoming paperless, the County Courts at Law issue the following orders. **Defendants will now be ordered to appear at all settings.**

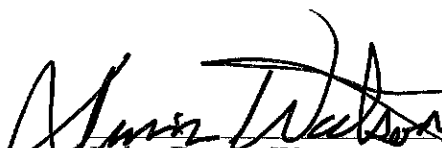
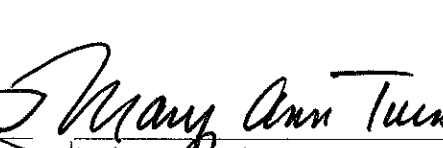
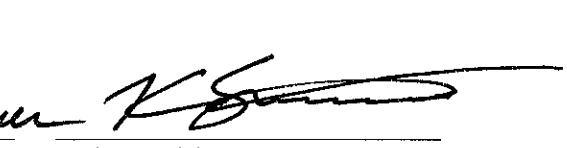
Pretrial Settings: From the date the attorney makes an appearance in the case, the case will be set out approximately 75 days for a Pre-Trial Setting. The Court maintains the discretion to fast-track certain cases, and the period in between settings can be shortened, e.g. all Assault Family Violence cases will have settings every three weeks, unless an agreement between the State and the Defendant requires a longer interval in between settings. The attorney and the client must appear at this setting. During this reset period, the attorney is expected to obtain discovery from the prosecution (including any applicable video or audible tapes), negotiate a plea agreement and be prepared on that setting to resolve the case. The District Attorney's Office will provide the video to the defense attorney upon request. In other words, handle the case by phone, email or in person with the prosecutor. You should also tell your client that you need to be paid in full within that time or you will be allowed to withdraw.

Plea Acceptance/Plea/Trial Determination Date: At this setting, usually 45 days after the Pre-Trial Setting, (or a shorter interval in the Court's discretion), you must be prepared to plea the case or set it for trial. You can plea the case at any time prior to the Plea Setting by notifying the prosecutor and the Court of your intent so that it can be put on our docket, and the District Attorney will have their file. Once a case is set for trial, you may still plea it prior to the Call Docket. After the Call Docket setting, pleas are unlikely to be accepted unless there is some special circumstance to justify the case not being pleaded out earlier. Client must be present at all settings.

Bond Forfeiture: If the client does not appear at all settings as required, his or her bond will be forfeited immediately.

Self-Represented Defendants: If you do not have an attorney, at your first appearance, fill out the "Dangers and Disadvantages" form and indicate whether you wish to hire an attorney, interview for a court-appointed attorney, or if you wish to give up your right to an attorney and wish to represent yourself. If you choose to hire an attorney, or wish to be interviewed for a court-appointed attorney, your case will be passed for three (3) weeks to allow you time to hire an attorney, or to return with a court -appointed attorney (if you are eligible for one). You will appear at the next setting with your hired or court-appointed attorney, or be prepared to represent yourself and placed on a Scheduling Order. If you choose to give up your right to an attorney and your case is not resolved at your first appearance, you will be placed on a Scheduling Order.

Effective date: This Order is to become effective on June 1, 2015 and applies to all cases requiring resets after June 1, 2015.

		
Judge Dennis Watson County Court at Law No. 1	Judge Mary Ann Turner County Court at Law No. 4	Judge Keith M. Stewart County Court at Law No. 5