
MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL ATTORNEYS HANDLING CRIMINAL CASES
FROM: JUDGE HENDERSON, JUDGE DUNN
SUBJECT: *HEARINGS ON MISDEMEANOR PLEA AGREEMENTS INCIDENT TO
FELONY PLEA AGREEMENTS*
DATE: 12/27/2024

In an effort to better utilize court resources, the following procedures are being implemented in criminal cases related to **misdemeanor plea agreements incident to felony plea agreements**:

1. **“PIGGYBACK” HEARINGS.**

- A “piggyback hearing” is when a misdemeanor plea is heard in one of the County Courts at Law immediately following the felony plea in the District Court.
- In order to have a “piggyback hearing,” it is necessary to advise either Logan Watson or Soledad De La Cruz, Court Coordinators for CCL1 and CCL2 respectively, no later than 5:00 p.m. of the business day preceding the hearing that such a hearing is or may be required. The appropriate court coordinator will make the arrangements to have a CCL judge available to conduct the “piggyback hearing.” If a CCL judge is not available, then the coordinator will inform the attorneys, and will make arrangements for a hearing in the appropriate court.
- On the day of the anticipated piggyback hearing, the coordinator shall be notified as soon as practical whether a plea agreement has or has not been reached on the misdemeanor.

2. **MISDEMEANOR JAIL CHAIN.** If a misdemeanor plea agreement is reached regarding a defendant who is in custody, and if the case is not disposed on a piggyback hearing, then the defendant will be scheduled on the first available jail chain. The attorneys shall advise the coordinator that the defendant needs to be scheduled, and shall inform the coordinator when the defendant is scheduled to be transferred out of the Grayson County Jail.

3. **PERSONAL BONDS.** If the felony plea agreement results in the defendant being released from jail, and the sentencing agreement is time served on the misdemeanor, then the parties should consider an agreed Personal Bond on the misdemeanor if a piggyback hearing is not possible. The appropriate court coordinator should be advised to schedule the misdemeanor hearing in the appropriate court following the defendant’s release from custody.

4. **PERSONS NOT IN CUSTODY.** A defendant who is not in custody may appear for a misdemeanor plea hearing at a time convenient for the court and the prosecuting and defense attorneys. The attorneys should inform the appropriate court coordinator regarding the need to schedule the hearing.

5. **COURT COORDINATORS:**

- **County Court at Law 1: Logan Watson** -- Tel: (903) 813-4200, Ext. 4324; Email: watsonl@co.grayson.tx.us
- **County Court at Law 2: Soledad De La Cruz** – Tel: (903) 813-4200, Ext. 4328; Email: soledad.delacruz@co.grayson.tx.us