

Procedures for County Judge Bill Blue

Unless specifically addressed below, all Circuit Criminal, County Criminal, Domestic Violence, Juvenile Delinquency, and Small Claims Pretrials and Mediations are conducted *in-person*. During hurricane season, Domestic Violence, Juvenile Delinquency, and Small Claims Pretrials and Mediations are conducted via Zoom.

For all Divisions:

Absent a true emergency, all motions to continue must be E-Filed by noon two (2) business days prior to the hearing date and time. The motion to continue must state whether opposing counsel has been consulted and if he/she is opposed. A copy of the motion to continue must be emailed to Ms. Roland immediately after the motion is E-Filed. Ms. Roland's email address is roland.bethanne@jud3.flcourts.org

All proposed orders shall contain a Certificate of Service in substantial conformity with the following:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished using the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, U.S. Mail, and/or Electronic Mail in accordance with the corresponding addresses listed therein on this _____ day of _____ 2023 to the following:

Example Lawyer A

Example Attorney for the Plaintiff

Email@email.com

Example Lawyer B

Example Attorney for the Defendant

Email@email.com

Ms. Pro se

123 Perry LN

Perry, FL 32347

Beth Anne Roland

Judicial Assistant

Requests for hearings shall be emailed to Ms. Roland at roland.bethanne@jud3.flcourts.org. The request should include (1) a copy of the motion, (2) case number, (3) style of case, (4) type of motion to be heard, and (5) how much time is requested. Please indicate whether the date/time is being coordinated with the opposing party.

Video/audio evidence and exhibits cannot be viewed or played by the Court as they may pose a security risk. It is the responsibility of the party to share-screen via Zoom or find another means to show the Court digital media. For questions regarding this policy, please contact the Third Circuit IT Department.

The Court will not accept thumb drives, USB drives, or click on any external link for any hearing.

Circuit Civil, County Civil, and Family Law:

Hearings, apart from jury selection and trial, are conducted via Zoom.

Motions will be briefed prior to the hearing. Judge Blue will enter an Order Setting Hearing And To Submit Memoranda Of Law setting forth dates and times memoranda are due from the parties. Please read, familiarize, and adhere to the order prior to the hearing.

Circuit Criminal:

Felony arraignments and Violation of Probation cases are heard on the first Tuesday of each month. Zoom links will not be provided for this docket.

Evidentiary hearings, pleas, and final VOP hearings will be conducted in person. If an unforeseen circumstance necessitates a hearing via Zoom, it will not be a blended hearing. If the defendant is capable of being physically present, defendant's counsel will be physically present. Counsel must file a written motion detailing the good cause necessitating an appearance via Zoom at least seven (7) days before the date of the hearing. The Zoom hearing will be set for 4:00 p.m. on the Friday following the first Tuesday.

Each VOP case will be set for two preliminary hearings and a final VOP evidentiary hearing. Counsel may waive their clients' appearance for the first preliminary hearing by: (1) Entering an appearance and filing a denial on behalf of his or her client; (2) Filing a motion for continuance and submitting a proposed order to the Court in Word format containing the dates for the next preliminary hearing and the final evidentiary hearing; and (3) Doing all of this at least by noon on the Friday before the first Tuesday of the month. Defendants must be physically present for all VOP preliminary hearings unless excused by an order of the Court before the hearing date. Counsel may not waive their clients' appearance for the plea hearings or final VOP hearings. Defendants may accept a plea offer at any of the three hearings assuming the State has not withdrawn the plea offer. Continuances of final hearings will be rare and granted only for good cause and only upon a written motion.

Civil Traffic Infraction Hearings:

Infraction hearings are conducted via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Requests for infractions hearings are made through the Clerk of Court's Office and must be accompanied by a lifetime driver history.

County Criminal:

All proposed orders on Motions to Continue should include the defendant's next pretrial and trial dates. Dates can be obtained from the Clerk of Court's Office, or from the prosecutor.

First Appearance:

First appearance is conducted via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Monday – Friday, and at 7:00 a.m. on weekends and court holidays.

Other questions regarding procedures can be emailed to Ms. Roland.