

LCrRLJ 6.1
PRE-JURY TRIAL CONFERENCE/READINESS HEARING

6.1(a) Pre-Jury Trial Conference

In every criminal case in which the right to trial by jury has not been waived, there will be a pre-jury trial conference for the purpose of presenting and scheduling motions and for setting a readiness conference and jury trial date.

The defendant and counsel are required to attend pre-trial hearings unless excused by the court. Failure of the defendant to attend any pre-trial hearing may result in the issuance of a bench warrant and forfeiture of any bail or bond.

6.1(b) Readiness Hearing

A readiness hearing shall be set in all cases set for jury trial. The prosecuting attorney, defense counsel and the defendant are required to attend the readiness hearing, unless otherwise excused by the court. Failure of the defendant to appear at the readiness hearing may result in the issuance of a bench warrant, forfeiture of bail and/or bond, and striking of the trial.

At the readiness hearing, the parties shall indicate their readiness for trial and advise the court of any factors affecting readiness for trial; such as, exchange of witness lists, availability of witnesses, and unresolved motions. Upon conclusion of the readiness hearing, the court will accept amendments of charges only upon good cause shown.

Any case confirmed for jury trial at the readiness hearing that does not proceed to trial, absent good cause, may be subject to sanctions as deemed appropriate by the judge, including but not limited to actual jury costs, witness fees, and terms.

Prior to readiness hearing, the parties may file a Notice of Settlement and a Waiver of Right to Speedy Trial, signed by the defendant. Upon receipt of such notice and waiver, the readiness hearing may be stricken and the cause set for entry of plea and sentencing.

[Effective September 1, 2013]
