LCrRLJ 4
READINESS HEARING

In order to efficiently schedule the calling of jurors, to avoid unnecessary disruptions of jurors lives, and to avoid the waste of public funds the following readiness hearing procedures have been adopted:

Not less than 7 days prior to an assigned jury trial date, there shall be held a readiness hearing. At the readiness hearing it shall be mandatory that the prosecuting attorney, the defense counsel, and the defendant be present. The requirements of this rule can be waived only by the Judge appointed to the case. In the event the defendant fails to appear, the jury trial setting shall be canceled, a bench warrant may be issued, bail or bond may be forfeited, and costs may be imposed at the discretion of the court. In the event the defendant waives the jury trial subsequent to the readiness hearing, costs may be imposed pursuant to LARLJ 1. At the readiness hearing, the following matters will be concluded:

1. All plea negotiations

2. Exchange of witness lists

3. Providing of any discovery not previously completed by the pretrial hearing held prior to the readiness hearing.

4. Motions on legal issues arising subsequent to the pretrial hearing or on issues arising due to new evidence.

5. Filing with the court proposed non-WPI (Washington Pattern Instructions) jury instructions and voire dire questions for the prospective jurors which either party requests to be asked by the court. Note ALL jury instructions will need to be filed 5 working days prior to a jury trial including WPI by the prosecution and 3 days prior to trial by the defendant.

At the conclusion of the readiness hearing, the court will no longer grant any further motions to amend or motions to dismiss the charge(s) unless good cause is shown (involving unique and unexpected events/factors). Therefore, the case will be tried by jury, unless waived by the defendant, or concluded by a guilty plea to the original charge (s), See LARLJ 1 regarding administrative reimbursement of jury fees for those who do not give at least 3 days notice of settlement to the clerk of the court.