

**STANDING ORDER
GOVERNING MISDEMEANOR CASE DISPOSITION**

Effective July 1st, 2017, all misdemeanor criminal cases set for jury trial before the Hon. Bill Harris shall be subject to the following:

1. Jury selection will begin promptly at 9:00am.
2. The Court ***WILL NOT*** hear any dispositive motions on the morning of jury selection.
3. The Court ***WILL NOT*** accept any guilty/no contest plea on the morning of jury selection absent extraordinary circumstances with prior approval of the Court. The deadline for entering a guilty/no contest plea shall be 12:00pm on the Friday before jury selection. Should no guilty/no contest plea be entered by that time the Court will consider the case to be *unresolved* for purposes of jury trial.
4. Should the case be *unresolved* at 12:00pm on Friday then on the morning of jury selection the Defendant:
 - a. may plead “not guilty” and request a bench or jury trial; or
 - b. may plead “guilty” or “no contest” and request that the court or jury assess sentence (i.e. an “open plea”);

If the Defendant elects a jury to determine guilt and/or assess punishment jury selection shall commence immediately.

5. The Court will look with great disfavor with requests to “pass the case”, “reschedule the case”, “plea at a later date” or similar announcements. The Court will assume, consistent with state law, that when the State of Texas files an information that the State of Texas is ready for trial. The Court will assume that when neither party timely files a Motion for Continuance consistent with the requirements of Art. 28.01 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure that both parties are ready for trial.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

SIGNED this the 1st day of July, 2017.



JUDGE PRESIDING