

Updated CPC Misdemeanor Procedures – A Brief Overview

The Criminal Procedure Court (CPC) Misdemeanor procedures have been updated, so that Multnomah Circuit Court processes align with statewide time to disposition standards. On June 9, 2025, the Justice Center began giving out different dates at arraignment and new dates hearings to effectuate this change. Now, instead of a Trial Readiness date, defendants will receive a Pretrial Conference date and a Final Resolution Conference date. More details below.

Pretrial Conference (PTC)

The PTC is the first of the court dates and is set two weeks out from the date of arraignment. The purpose of this hearing is to confirm counsel is in good contact with their client, ensure timely delivery of discovery and a plea offer, and to engage in preliminary negotiations. The hearings are set for 8:00 a.m. and the lawyers will confer from 8-9 on Friday mornings before going on the record at 9:00 a.m. The defendant may appear through counsel if a signed Consent to Appear Through Counsel form* is filed with the Court. At the PTC, parties will file a Joint Status Report to update the court on discovery and transmittal of a plea offer. If the parties file the pretrial report any day before the PTC, they may contact Mul.Criminal@ojd.state.or.us or 971-274-0545 prior to 10:30 a.m. the day before the PTC and the PTC setting can be cancelled.

*The new Consent to Appear Through Counsel form has a form number of 23-07 (06-2025) and can be found in the “forms” section under “criminal – miscellaneous” of the Multnomah Circuit Court’s website, [here](#). The PTC and FRC Joint Trial Report forms can also be found in the same location.

Final Resolution Conference (FRC)

The Final Resolution Conference is the second of the hearings and is scheduled four or seven weeks from the date of arraignment for in-custody and out-of-custody defendants, respectively. The purpose of this docket is to resolve the case by plea or set for trial within 90 days of arraignment. Defendant’s personal appearance is required by 8:05 a.m., though the lawyers will use the same conferral period from 8-9 before going on the record at 9:00 a.m. If the case is not resolved and a plea entered at this docket, the parties will file a Joint Trial Report to set the case for Call and Trial.

PTC/FRC Docket Structure

Both the PTC and FRC dockets will take place Friday morning and be split into four distinct dockets (Domestic Misdemeanor, Private Bar, Metropolitan Public Defenders, and Multnomah Defenders Inc.). The first PTC/FRC docket will be heard on Friday, June 27, and the dockets are scheduled to take place in the Crane Room, on the second floor of the Multnomah Circuit Court. Defendants who are in custody at the time of the PTC or FRC will not be transported to either docket. If you know your client is likely to enter a plea on that Friday, you may call or email High Volume Case Processing (Mul.Criminal@ojd.state.or.us or 971-274-0545) the day prior to request an in custody plea for Friday afternoon that will take place in courtroom 8D at either 1:15 p.m. or 3:00 p.m.

Call for Trial Structure

Call is no longer the day before trial. Call and trial dates are separated 11 days if set for trial on a Monday, or 8 days if set for a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Parties requesting trial dates set beyond 90 days from arraignment at the FRC will have to take that request to CPC in courtroom 2A and return to the FRC judge that morning with approval.

Trial Readiness and Call Dates After August 1, 2025

Any Call date set beyond August 1, 2025, will follow the new call for trial structure. If you picked your Call date expecting trial to be the next day and having the trial on a different day will impact yours or your witness’s availability, please go to ex parte in CPC to have your Call date moved to the appropriate day following the call for trial structure discussed above and in the CPC Misdemeanor Procedures document. Any Trial Readiness date set beyond August 1, 2025, will be converted to a Final Resolution Conference hearing, and will be expected to have a trial date set within 41 days from the FRC date.

To get a full picture of all the changes coming to Misdemeanor Procedures in Multnomah, please refer to the Chief Criminal Judge Rules for Criminal Procedure Court.