

Motions to Continue Preliminary Hearings

A motion to continue a Preliminary Hearing should be presented to the Magisterial District Judge presiding at Central Court in Courtroom No. 3, instead of the Court of Common Pleas. Preliminary Hearings are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and are scheduled in three time periods: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. A case which is continued remains in the designated time slot on the new date.

A motion to continue a preliminary hearing may be presented to the presiding Magisterial District Judge in person at 9:00 a.m. or it may be faxed to the Central Court office at (724) 728-1907 prior to the date of the hearing. A letter requesting that a case be continued is not sufficient nor is a telephone call. The motion must also be accompanied by an Order for the Magisterial District Judge to sign. A downloadable motion and form can be found in the Criminal Forms section of this website.

Counsel for a defendant seeking to continue a preliminary hearing should first contact the District Attorney's office at (724) 773-8550, and agree upon a new date prior to submitting the motion to continue to the District Judge.

Any continuance for a DUI case must also involve Central Court staff, as the defendant will need to have a CRN evaluation scheduled on the day of the preliminary hearing. The Central Court office number is (724) 770-4699.

If there is a need to specially set a preliminary hearing outside the regular established schedule due to the number of defendants, complexity of issues, number of witnesses or other compelling reasons, counsel for the Commonwealth and defense counsel should contact Deputy Court Administrator Aileen Bowers at (724) 770-4668.