

PILOT PROJECT ELIMINATING PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCES IN COUNTY COURT

The Boulder County Court will conduct a pilot project as of April 2015 where pre-trial conferences will not be scheduled in misdemeanor and traffic cases. Instead, at arraignment or advisement at the jail, the cases will be set for a status conference in the division to which they are assigned. The Court's expectation is that meaningful discussion about the status of the case and possible disposition will occur well in advance of the status conference.

A period of approximately eight weeks will be permitted between arraignment or advisement and the status conference. During this period of time, the District Attorney's Office will provide discovery and conduct plea negotiations in person, by e-mail or telephone. The District Attorney's office has committed that county court deputies will maintain regular office hours and will promptly return e-mail and telephone messages. If this is not taking place, please contact Karen Lorenz in the District Attorney's office at klorenz@bouldercounty.org or at 303-441-4783.

At the status conference, the parties may reach a disposition, the case may be set for motions and trial, or the case may be set for a case management conference approximately four weeks later. At the case management conference, either a disposition will enter or motions and trial will be set. Continuances of the case management conference will be rare and granted only in extraordinary circumstances, as this represents already the second court appearance. In addition, counsel shall keep in mind that a disposition deadline prior to trial will be strongly enforced by the county court judges.

The County Court will evaluate this pilot project in January 2016 and determine its efficacy. Depending on this evaluation, Administrative Order 03-101 may be adhered to or amended.

This pilot project is being conducted at the request of the Boulder District Attorney's Office and upon consultation with the Boulder Public Defender's Office and the private defense bar. Pre-trial conferences will continue to take place until April 6, 2015.