PRESIDING JUDGE KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

)
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
Number 90-4

Clerk's Action Required

Change of Calendaring for
Contested Hearing Requests

Numerous defendants who request contested hearings on traffic infraction citations either do not understand the difference between a mitigation hearing and a contested hearing or change their minds after the initial written request has been made. In order to assure the expeditious and efficient handling of these cases:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That effective immediately and until such time as a local rule is enacted to supplement and implement this procedure the following procedure shall be used for the scheduling of contested hearings on traffic infractions:

A defendant charged with a traffic infraction who requests a hearing to contest the determination that a traffic infraction occurred shall first be scheduled to appear before a magistrate for a settlement conference. The settlement conference shall be held in the magistrate's department and should be scheduled within 45 days from the date written notice of the hearing is mailed unless waived by the defendant in writing. The settlement conference may be waived by the defendant in writing if received by the court prior to the time set for the settlement conference. The Presiding Judge or the magistrate may waive the settlement conference on his/her own motion. If the settlement conference is waived, the case will be set for a contested hearing. If the defendant fails to waive or appear at the settlement conference, a default judgment shall be entered.

Presiding Judge, King County District Courts