

The process of bringing cases to resolution has been bogged down and become splintered, primarily as a result of trying to accommodate schedules of counsel. This has caused inefficiency for the Court, staff and counsel. As a result, we have determined to tighten schedules and implement new, or re-implement old procedures. Sussex Superior Court effective June 2, 2025 will require the following:

1) Case Reviews:

Only one case review date will be scheduled for each case. If special circumstances exist, counsel may request an additional case review by addressing the Bench during the case review calendar. The special circumstances necessitating an additional case review need to be provided when making the request.

2) Requests by Counsel for “Control”:

Cases requested to be scheduled for control by counsel will be scheduled on Tuesdays. Defendants will be directed to report to the Jury Assembly Room to meet with their attorneys. Attendance will not be taken by court staff. If counsel can negotiate a plea, they should contact a court security officer to set up a courtroom when available for the plea.

3) Control Pleas/Pleas by Appointment:

Control pleas or pleas by appointment will continue to be scheduled on Wednesdays of trial week or on case review calendars. Counsel is encouraged to file plea paperwork with the Court by 2 p.m. the day before.

Wednesday final case reviews will no longer be rescheduled on Thursdays and Fridays to potentially resolve. If counsel can negotiate a plea after final case review and before trial, they should contact case scheduling to schedule a Plea by Appointment (PBA) prior to the trial date.

4) Final Case Reviews – additional cases

No additional cases will be scheduled on final case review calendars. This includes regular case reviews and control pleas/pleas by appointment.

5) Trials

There will be an increase in the number of trials scheduled each trial day. One-day trials will be scheduled on Thursdays with jury selection on Wednesdays.

6) Final Reviews – Authority to Resolve

The Court expects there to be someone from the Department of Justice with authority to approve negotiated pleas present at all case review/final case review hearings.

IT IS SO ORDERED the 30th day of May, 2025.

/S/ Craig A. Karsnitz
CRAIG A. KARSNITZ, RESIDENT JUDGE

/S/ Mark H. Conner
MARK H. CONNER, JUDGE

/S/ Robert H. Robinson
ROBERT H. ROBINSON, JUDGE