



**December 2024 Amendment to
Administrative Directive No. 24**

**Supreme Court
December Term, 2024**

Administrative Directive No. 24 is amended as follows (new matter underlined; deleted matter overstruck):

CRIMINAL CASE DISPOSITION GUIDELINES

The management of the flow of cases in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court is the responsibility of the judiciary. In carrying out that responsibility, the judiciary must balance the rights and interests of individual litigants, the limited resources of the judicial branch and other participants in the justice system, and the interests of the citizens of this state in having an effective, fair, and efficient system of justice.

- A. The State Court Administrator and Administrative Judge for Trial Courts Chief Superior Judge are directed, within available resources, to:
 1. Assist the Criminal Division of the Superior Court in implementing caseflow management plans that incorporate case processing time guidelines established pursuant to this directive;
 2. Gather information from the Criminal Division on compliance with case disposition guidelines; and
 3. Assess the effectiveness of management plans in achieving the guidelines established by this directive.
- B. The Criminal Division in each unit of the Superior Court are directed to:
 1. Maintain current caseflow management plans consistent with case processing time guidelines established in this directive;
 2. Collect and maintain accurate caseflow management data;
 3. Cooperate with the Administrative Judge for Trial Courts Chief Superior Judge and Court Administrator's Office in assessing caseflow management plans implemented pursuant to this directive.

The following amended time guidelines for case processing are provided as goals for the

administration of court caseloads. These guidelines do not supersede procedural requirements in court rules or statutes for specific cases, or supersede reporting requirements in court rules or statutes. ~~These amended guidelines replace in their entirety the guidelines adopted by the Court on August 19, 2004. The guidelines were amended to provide the Criminal Division of the Superior Court and the Court Administrator's Office with time standards that may be easily monitored and tracked are easier to monitor and track statistically.~~

Criminal Case Disposition Guidelines

- a. Misdemeanors (~~with a maximum sentence of less than one year of imprisonment: adjudicated within 180 days. 60% should be adjudicated within 9 weeks (63 days) from the date of first arraignment; 70% within 13 weeks (91 days); and 100% within 18 weeks (126 days)~~).
- b. Felonies and Other Misdemeanors: ~~adjudicated within 365 days. 70% should be adjudicated within 18 weeks (126 days) from the date of first arraignment; 80% within 26 weeks (182 days); and 100% within 12 months.~~

This directive is effective immediately.

Done in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont this 16th day of December, 2024.

Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice



Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice

Karen Carroll, Associate Justice

Signed by the Vermont Supreme Court

William D. Cohen, Associate Justice

Nancy J. Waples, Associate Justice

Disposition Timelines for Criminal Cases

Misdemeanors:

Track I (standard track): 100% in 120 days

Track II (complex track): 100% in 180 days

Felonies

Track I (standard track): 100% in 180 days

Track II (complex track): 100% in 365 days

Track III (superecomplex): 100% in 455 days

Complex Factors:

Misdemeanor: Interpreter; competency evaluation; jury trial; PD conflict at or after 1st calendar call.

Felony: Interpreter; competency evaluation; jury trial; PD conflict at or after 1st calendar call; pro se defendant; juvenile victim; multiple victims; out of state witnesses; co-defendants; PSI.

Super Complex

Felony Track: Fatality or Life Sentence.

Misdemeanors

0	30 Days 1 month	60 Days 2 months	90 3 months	120 4 months	150 5 months	180 6 months
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Misdemeanors Track I

Arraignment COR issued	Calendar Call Motion filing deadline	Motion hearing Motion decision issued	Jury Draw Change of Plea or Trial Held	Sentence Imposed if contested Cases Disposed		
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0	30 Days 1 month	60 Days 2 months	90	120	150	180
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Misdemeanors Track II

Arraignment COR issued Bail set	Calendar Call Motion filing deadline	2 nd Calendar Call if necessary	Motion hearing Motion decision issued	Pre Trial Jury Draw Change of Plea or Trial Held PSI Ordered if requested		Sentence Imposed if contested Cases Disposed
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Felonies

0	30 Days 1 month	60 Days 2 months	90 3 months	120 4 months	150 5 months	180 6 months
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Felonies—Track I

Arraignment COR issued	1 st Status Conf	2 nd Status Conf	Discovery Complete PreTrial Motions Filed 3 rd Status Conf	Motion hearing held Motions Decided PreTrial Hearing	Jury Draw Change of Plea or Trial Held	Sentence Imposed if contested Case disposed
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0	45 Days 1.5 months	90 Days 2 months	180	240 8 Months	270 9 Months	365 One year
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Felonies—Track II

Arraignment COR issued Bail set Bail/HWOB Hearing Held	1 st Status Conf Discovery Schedule Issued	2 nd Status	Discovery Complete PreTrial Motions Filed 3 rd Status	Motion hearing held Motions decided Pre Trial Hearing	Jury Draw Change of Plea or Trial Held PSI Ordered	Sentence Imposed if contested Cases Disposed
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0	60 Days 2 months	180 Days 6 months	240	300 8 Months	365 10 Months	455 1 Year, 3 Months
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Felonies—Track III

Arraignment COR issued Bail set Bail/HWOB Hearing Held ¹	1 st Status Conf Discovery Schedule Issued	2 nd Status	3 rd Status Discovery Complete PreTrial Motions Filed	Motion hearing held Motions decided Pre Trial Hearing	Jury Draw Change of Plea or Trial Held PSI Ordered	Sentence Imposed if contested Cases Disposed
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¹If defendant is held without bail, 13 V.S.A. §7553a requires trial within 60 days unless time frame is waived.