

GIG HARBOR MUNICIPAL COURT
LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT RULE (LCrRLJ)

LCrRLJ 3.2 -- READINESS TRIAL HEARINGS

A Readiness Hearing shall be held before the Municipal Court Judge in every case in which a timely demand for jury is made. Notice shall be given in open court by the judge to all parties indicating the date and time for this hearing. At the hearing the city prosecutor, defendant, and the defendant's counsel (if any) must be present. By the Readiness Hearing date all discovery must be completed and all motions must have been timely filed. Furthermore, parties shall advise the court if the case can be settled by other than a jury trial. The court will strike the scheduled jury trial and may issue a bench warrant for any defendant that does not appear at the Readiness Hearing.

After the Readiness Hearing the following restrictions to the proceedings shall apply:

All plea negotiations shall be concluded at or before the Readiness Hearing. The court will grant no amendments to the charges or plea bargains after the Readiness Hearing. Therefore, after Readiness the case will be tried by a jury, unless waived by the defendant, or concluded by a guilty plea to the original charge, or dismissal of the charge(s). Plea bargains on all COVID-19 backlog trials will be accepted up to the Wednesday criminal calendar day prior to the scheduled jury trial day.

[This Rule shall be effective September 1, 2022.]