

Rule 111. Continuances

(a) By whom determined prior to trial.

(1) Misdemeanor Branch cases. Except as otherwise provided in this Rule, cases, in which a continuance is requested before trial, shall be directed to the judge sitting in the Assignment Section. The judge to whom the case has been certified for trial may, if the judge is of the opinion that a continuance is necessary to prevent manifest injustice, recertify the case to the judge sitting in the Assignment Section with a recommendation for continuance.

(2) District of Columbia-Traffic Branch cases. In any case pending in the District of Columbia Section or Traffic Section or certified to a trial court, only the judges presiding in those sections may grant a continuance prior to the start of trial. The judge to whom the case has been certified for trial may, if the judge is of the opinion that a continuance is necessary to prevent manifest injustice, recertify the case to the judge sitting in the Assignment Section with a recommendation for continuance.

(3) Felony Branch and other individually assigned cases. In any case in the Criminal Division which has been assigned under Rules 105, 106, 107, or in any case in the Tax Division, only the judge to whom such case has been assigned, reassigned, or transferred may grant a continuance prior to trial.

(b) Motions.

(1) In general. Motions for continuances of hearings or trials shall be in writing on a form provided by the Clerk's Office, served on the opposite party, and filed at the earliest practicable date with the Clerk of the appropriate division unless the Court otherwise directs. Such motions if contested shall be calendared for hearing as expeditiously as possible. Motions, whether or not contested, shall contain reasons therefor and at least 1 date, not on the stop list, to which the parties agree the case may be continued if the motion is granted.

(2) Exception. The determination of an uncontested motion for continuance may be made by the judge without counsel present. It shall be the obligation of any counsel not present to determine from the Clerk of the appropriate division whether the motion was granted and, if so, the new date and time of the hearing or trial.

(c) "Two-day rule". Except in extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances, no continuances shall be granted in any case unless requested at least 2 days before the scheduled date of trial.