

Pretrial Issues & Trial Logistics

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Preparing as the Judge

What type of case is this?
What statutes should I have easy access to?
Keep a copy of the Rules of Evidence on your bench (physically or digitally).
Has a jury charge been submitted to the court?

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Discussion:

What else is helpful?

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Issues for Pretrial Conference/Hearing

Discovery
Witness Lists & Subpoenas
Scheduling – how long will trial take?
Explaining procedure to SRLs
Interpreters
Give time for State & Defendant to discuss a plea bargain

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- www.tjctc.org/srl
- <http://www.texascourthelp.gov>
- <http://www.texaslawhelp.org>
- <http://www.sll.texas.gov>
- <https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards>

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Continuances

- If a defendant gets less than three business days' notice of the trial, the court must grant the motion for continuance, which may be oral or written.
- Otherwise, judicial discretion applies.
- Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 29.035, 29.04-29.08.

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Discussion:

Do you use any scripts?

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Questions?