

To: All practitioners in the District Court for Prince George's County

From: Thomas J. Love, Administrative Judge

Date: June 26, 2009

Re: Amended postponement policy

In an effort to simplify the process of re-scheduling cases continued by the District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County, the postponement policy (effective date: October 1, 2008) has been amended. In the past, cases continued by the Court were routinely assigned a new trial date without regard to the trial calendar of the attorneys involved. The newly-assigned trial date would often conflict with counsel's trial schedule, resulting in the filing of a second motion to continue. Moreover, due to the volume of continuance requests received each month, the Court has not had the resources to "clear" new trial dates with counsel.

Accordingly, the postponement policy has been changed to permit counsel or the parties to provide the Court with at least 3 proposed new trial dates -agreed upon by counsel or parties- when the motion, or response to the motion, is filed. The Court will endeavor to re-schedule the case on one of the proposed dates provided, so long as the proposed dates are within the time standards established by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

In circumstances where no proposed trial dates are supplied, the Court will assign a new trial date. In that instance, counsel should not expect that the trial date selected by the Court will be continued if the new date creates a conflict.

This change in policy will reduce the number of postponement requests that are required to be filed and should make it easier for counsel to manage their trial schedules. The changes in the policy have been underlined and bracketed in the attached document. The policy will take effect on September 3, 2009 and apply to all cases filed in this Court.