

**Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Continuance Policy and Procedures**

**1. Purpose**

To establish procedures for requesting continuances.

**2. Policy**

Pursuant to Supreme Court of Virginia Rule 8:14, continuances may be granted only by a judge, in the judge's discretion, for good cause shown or as otherwise provided by law.

**3. Continuances Requested Before the Hearing**

**(a) By Agreement of All Parties**

If all parties agree, one party may submit a written request certifying that all parties agree to the continuance. Requests should be made as early as practicable and must include at least five (5) dates that are available to all parties within the 90 days following the original court date.

If these requirements are met, the continuance will be granted for good cause shown. **In cases involving a securely detained juvenile, the continuance date must be approved by the judge (see section 6 below).** Requests in previously continued cases are disfavored and may require a hearing.

**(b) Without Agreement of All Parties**

If the parties do not agree, the requesting party must file a written motion (or letter) stating the reason for the request (not just that you are not available). The motion/letter must certify notice has been given to the opposing party(ies) and list all available dates (including whether available for morning and/or afternoon) for setting a continuance hearing prior to the scheduled hearing date. The request for a continuance hearing must be filed as early as possible, but no later than 15 days before the scheduled hearing. Once the clerk confirms the date and time for the continuance hearing, the requesting party must notify all parties.

**If advanced court approval has not been obtained, you must appear on the scheduled date, and the case will proceed on the scheduled date unless the court grants the continuance request.**

**4. Continuances Requested at the Hearing**

A continuance request made on the date of the scheduled hearing, when parties or witnesses have appeared, will not be granted unless the requesting party shows that it would not be in the best interest of justice to proceed.

**5. Traffic Matters** (Juvenile matters written on a Virginia Uniform Summons and set on the Friday traffic docket)

For juvenile matters on the traffic docket, either party may receive one continuance upon request if the case has not previously been continued. The requesting party must notify the other party at least 15 days before trial and submit an agreed-upon new date to the court in writing.

**6. When a Juvenile is Detained**

In cases where a child is being held in secured detention, a request for a continuance of the matters for which the child is being held must be addressed by the court at a hearing. The party requesting the continuance should be prepared to provide the court with the basis for their request pursuant to Virginia Code §16.1-277.1.

**7. Definition of Parties**

"Parties" includes all counsel, self-represented (pro se) litigants, complainants, petitioners, the prosecution, defendants, respondents, and any person who is the subject of the proceeding.

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

5/8/26

  
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Timothy J. Quick, Chief Judge