

**Minnesota General Rules of Practice for the District Courts**  
With amendments effective as of January 1, 2020

**TITLE VIII. RULES RELATING TO CRIMINAL MATTERS**

- Rule 701.**     **Applicability of Rules**
- Rule 702.**     **Bail**
- Rule 703.**     **Certificates of Representation**
- Rule 704.**     **Timely Appearances**
- Rule 705.**     **Complaints and Warrants--Submission to Second Judge**
- Rule 706.**     **Custody of Exhibits**
- Rule 707.**     **Transcription of Pleas, Sentences, and Revocation of Hearings in  
Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, and Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction  
Proceedings, And Grand Jury Proceedings.**
- Rule 708.**     **ITV in Criminal Cases**

**APPENDIX OF FORMS**

Form 702. Bail Bond for Appearance Only –

## **RULE 701. APPLICABILITY OF RULES**

These rules apply in all criminal actions, and supplement the Minnesota Rules of Criminal Procedure. In addition, [Rule 707](#) applies in extended jurisdiction juvenile proceedings.

(Amended effective January 1, 2005.)

### ***Task Force Comment--1991 Adoption***

*The rules set forth here are derived from existing local rules. In order to further uniformity in practice in criminal proceedings throughout the state, the Task Force reviewed the existing local rules, and combined those rules having potential usefulness in all cases into a single code. The Task Force then submitted those rules to the Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure. The recommendations of that Advisory Committee have been endorsed and ratified by this Task Force, and these rules incorporate all of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.*

## **RULE 702. BAIL**

**(a) Approval of Bond Procurers Required.** No person shall engage in the business of procuring bail bonds, either cash or surety, for persons under detention until an application is approved by the State Court Administrator's Office. Approval shall permit the applicant to issue bail bonds throughout the State of Minnesota. Nothing in this section shall infringe upon a judge's discretion in approving a bond. The application form shall be obtained from the State Court Administrator's Office. The completed application shall then be filed with the State Court Administrator's Office stating the information requested and shall be accompanied by verification that the applicant is licensed as an insurance agent by the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The approval granted under this rule may be revoked or suspended by State Court Administrator's Office and such revocation or suspension shall apply throughout the State of Minnesota. Approved applicants are required to apply for renewal of approval within a time period (not less than one year) established by the State Court Administrator's Office.

**(b) Corporate Sureties.** Any corporate surety on a bond submitted to the judge shall be one approved by the State Court Administrator's Office and authorized to do business in the State of Minnesota.

**(c) Surety Insolvency.** Whenever a corporate surety becomes insolvent, the local agent shall notify the State Court Administrator's Office and the court in every county in which it has issued or applied to issue bonds, in writing immediately. Within 14 days after such notice to the court, the agent shall file with

the court administrator a security bond to cover outstanding obligations of insolvent surety, which may be reduced automatically as the obligations are reduced. In the absence of such surety or security bond, a summons shall be sent to all principals on the bonds of the surety.

**(d) Posting Bonds.** Before any person is released on bond, the bond must be approved by a judge after submission to the prosecuting lawyer for approval of form and execution and filed with the court administrator during business hours or thereafter with the custodian of the jail. In cases where bail has been set by the court and the defendant has provided a bail bond with corporate surety, approval by a judge is unnecessary if the bond conforms to Form 702 as published by the state court administrator.

**(e) Forfeiture of Bonds.** Whenever a bail bond is forfeited by a judge, the surety and bondsman shall be notified by the court administrator in writing, and be directed to make payment in accordance with the terms of the bond within 90 days from the date of the order of forfeiture. A copy of the order of forfeiture shall be forwarded with the notice.

**(f) Reinstatement.** Any motion for reinstatement of a forfeited bond or cash bail shall be supported by a petition and affidavit and shall be filed with the court administrator. A copy of said petition and affidavit shall be served upon the prosecuting attorney and the principal of the bond in the manner required by Minn. R. Civ. P. 4.03(e)(1). A petition for reinstatement filed within 90 days of the date of the order of forfeiture shall be heard and determined by the judge who ordered the forfeiture, or the chief judge. Reinstatement may be ordered on such terms and conditions as the court may require. A petition for reinstatement filed between 90 and 180 days from date of forfeiture shall be heard and determined by the judge who ordered forfeiture or the judge's successor and reinstatement may be ordered on such terms and conditions as the court may require, but only with the concurrence of the chief judge and upon the condition that a minimum penalty of not less than ten per cent (10%) of the forfeited bail be imposed. No reinstatement of a forfeited bond or cash bail shall be allowed unless the petition and affidavit are filed within 180 days from the date of the order of forfeiture.

**(g) Forfeited Bail Money.** All forfeited bail money shall be deposited in the state treasury in the manner provided by law.

**(h) Bonding Privilege Suspension.** A failure to make payment on a forfeited bail within 90 days as above provided shall automatically suspend the surety and its agent from writing further bonds. Such suspension shall apply throughout the State of Minnesota and shall continue for a period of 30 days from the date the principal amount of the bond is deposited in cash with the court administrator.

(Amended effective January 1, 2020.)

### ***Advisory Committee Comment--1997 Amendments***

*This Rule is derived from 4th Dist. R. 8.02. Pretrial release is governed by Minn. R. Crim. P. 6, and this rule supplements the provisions of that rule. The Task Force believes that specific, written standards relating to the issuance and forfeiture of bail bonds would be useful to practitioners, courts, and to those issuing bonds.*

*The Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure recommended that this local rule be incorporated in the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts for uniform statewide application and the Task Force concurs in that recommendation. The 1997 amendment continues the practice of statewide uniformity, established an uniform bail bond application procedure and making the posting of bonds easier by using a standard form. The rule conforms the rule to the practice in use prior to 1997.*

*Rule 702(h) was amended in 1993, effective January 1, 1994, to establish statewide suspension of bonding privileges for a surety and a surety's agent in the event of failure to make payment on a forfeited bond. This rule is necessary to ensure that irresponsible sureties not be allowed to move from district to district.*

*The power to revoke bail bonding privileges must be exercised sparingly. Courts considering this action should give consideration to the appropriate procedure and the giving of notice and an opportunity to be heard if such process is due the bond person. See, e.g., *In re Cross*, 617 A.2d 97, 100-02 (R.I. 1992) (show cause hearing procedure based on probable cause, with clearly defined burden of proof, not inherently unconstitutional); *American Druggists Ins. Co. v. Bogart*, 707 F.2d 1229, 1234-36 (11th Cir. 1983) (corporate surety authorized by Secretary of Treasury has right under U.S. Constitution to present bonds to court for approval).*

### ***Advisory Committee Comment – 2004 Amendments***

*Rule 702 is amended in 2004 to allow it to operate appropriately under the system of statewide approval of bond procurers. Under the revised rule, the State Court Administrator's Office reviews and approves bond procurers, and that approval is then applicable in all district courts. The changes in the rule are not intended to change the rule other than to effect this centralization of the agent approval process.*

### ***Advisory Committee Comment—2008 Amendment***

*Rule 702(d) is amended to remove Form 702 from the rules, and to permit the maintenance and publication of the form by the state court administrator. The form, together with other court forms, can be found at <http://www.mncourts.gov/>.*

### **RULE 703. CERTIFICATES OF REPRESENTATION**

In any criminal case, a lawyer representing a client, other than a public defender, shall file with the court administrator on the first appearance a “certificate of representation,” in such form and substance as a majority of judges in the district specifies.

Once a lawyer has filed a certificate of representation, that lawyer cannot withdraw from the case until all proceedings have been completed, except upon written order of the court pursuant to a written motion, or upon written substitution of counsel approved by the court ex parte.

A lawyer who wishes to withdraw from a criminal case must file a written motion and serve it by mail or personal service upon the client and upon the prosecutor by mail, personal service or electronic service is required or permitted by Rule 14. The lawyer shall then have the matter heard by the court. No motion of withdrawal will be heard within 14 days of a date certain for hearing or trial.

If the court approves the withdrawal, it shall be effective when the order has been served on the client and the prosecutor and due proof of such service has been filed with the court administrator.

(Amended effective January 1, 2020.)

#### ***Task Force Comment--1991 Adoption***

*This rule is derived from 4th Dist. R. 8.05.*

*The Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure recommended that this local rule be incorporated in the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts for uniform statewide application and the Task Force concurs in that recommendation.*

### **RULE 704. TIMELY APPEARANCES**

Once the nonfelony arraignment court calendar has convened, no lawyer shall approach the courtroom clerk or the court. Any lawyer appearing late must notify the bailiff in the courtroom of his or her presence. The bailiff will then transmit the information to the court and the case will be called by instruction of the presiding judge.

#### ***Task Force Comment--1991 Adoption***

*This rule is derived from 4th Dist. R. 8.06.*

*The Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure recommended that this local rule be incorporated in the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts for uniform statewide application and the Task Force concurs in that recommendation.*

**RULE 705. COMPLAINTS AND WARRANTS--SUBMISSION TO SECOND JUDGE**

A complaint or search warrant application which is found by a judge to be defective or otherwise insufficient shall not be submitted to another judge without a full and complete disclosure of such finding to the second judge.

***Task Force Comment--1991 Adoption***

*This rule is derived from 4th Dist. R. 8.10.*

*The Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure recommended that this local rule be incorporated in the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts for uniform statewide application and the Task Force concurs in that recommendation.*

**RULE 706. CUSTODY OF EXHIBITS**

Exhibits marked in criminal cases shall be kept by the court administrator until the time for appeal has expired or any appeal has been decided, unless surrender of the exhibits is ordered by the judge before whom the case was tried or the chief judge of the district.

***Task Force Comment--1991 Adoption***

*This rule is derived from 4th Dist. R. 6.03.*

*The Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure recommended that this local rule be incorporated in the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts for uniform statewide application and the Task Force concurs in that recommendation.*

**RULE 707. TRANSCRIPTION OF PLEAS, SENTENCES, AND REVOCATION OF HEARINGS IN FELONY, GROSS MISDEMEANOR, AND EXTENDED JUVENILE JURISDICTION PROCEEDINGS, AND GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS**

The following provisions relate to all pleas, sentences, and revocation hearings in all felony, gross misdemeanor, and extended juvenile jurisdiction proceedings, and all grand jury proceedings. Grand jury proceedings are secret as provided in Rule 18 of the Minnesota Rules of Criminal Procedure and this rule must be construed to maintain secrecy in accordance with that rule.

- (a) Court reporters and operators of electronic recording equipment shall file the stenographic notes or tape recordings of guilty plea, or sentencing and

revocation hearings with the court administrator within 90 days of sentencing, and the stenographic notes or tape recordings of grand jury proceedings shall be filed with the court administrator and maintained in a non-public portion of the file at the conclusion of grand jury hearings. The reporter or operator may retrieve the notes or recordings if necessary. Minn. Stat. § 486.03 (2002) is superceded to the extent that it conflicts with this procedure.

- (b) All original grand jury transcripts shall be filed within 60 days of request by the court or prosecutor or receipt of an order from the appropriate court directing transcription and shall be made available to parties other than the court or prosecutor only in accordance with that court order. The court administrator must file and maintain all grand jury transcripts in a non-public portion of the file. The court may allow extension of this 60-day deadline upon a showing of good cause.
- (c) No charge may be assessed for preparation of a transcript for the district court's own use; any other person ordering a transcript as allowed under the rules shall be at the expense of that person. Transcripts ordered by the defendant or defense counsel shall be prepaid except when the defendant is represented by the public defender or assigned counsel, or when the defendant makes a sufficient affidavit of an inability to pay and the court orders that the defendant be supplied with the transcript at the expense of the appropriate governmental unit.
- (d) If no district court file exists with respect to a grand jury proceeding, the administrator shall open a grand jury file upon the request of the prosecutor.
- (e) The maximum rate charged for the transcription of any proceeding shall be established, until July 1, 2005, by the Conference of Chief Judges, and thereafter by the Judicial Council. Minn. Stat. § 486.06 (2002) is superceded to the extent that it conflicts with this procedure.

(Adopted effective January 1, 2005; amended effective January 1, 2010.)

***Advisory Committee Comment – 2004 Amendment***

*Rule 707 is a new rule, designed to implement provisions of orders of the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2003 relating to the transcription of plea proceedings. See Order, In re Promulgation of Amendments to the Rules of Criminal Procedure, No. CI-84-2137 (Minn. Oct. 31, 2003); Order, In re Promulgation of Amendments to the Rules of Juvenile Procedure, No. CX-01-926 (Minn. Nov. 10, 2003). The rule is not intended to expand or alter the practice under these orders; it merely codifies the orders as part of the general rules.*

***Advisory Committee Comment – 2009 Amendment***

*Grand jury proceedings in Minnesota are secret. See Minn. R. Crim. P. 18.08. The court and prosecutors may obtain access to grand jury records and may order a transcript; any other transcription may occur only pursuant to Minn. R. Crim. P. 18.05, subd. 1. Rule 707 is amended to provide the rules for filing and maintaining transcripts of grand jury proceedings in the limited circumstances*

*where the transcription is permitted or ordered. The court may also enter a protective order to prohibit further disclosure of the grand jury transcript. Minn. R. Crim. P. 18.05, subd. 2.*

*[Rule 707\(d\)](#) recognizes that there are circumstances where a grand jury is not separately convened for a particular case, and there is no separate file for that grand jury. This subdivision allows the prosecutor to request that a file be opened to serve as the repository for notes, records, or transcript from that proceeding.*

## **RULE 708. ITV IN CRIMINAL CASES**

Use of ITV in criminal cases is governed by the Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 131.07 of these Rules.

(Adopted effective March 1, 2009.)

### ***Advisory Committee Comments—2008 Amendment***

*On November 19, 2007, the Supreme Court issued an order promulgating Minn. R. Crim. P. 1.05 governing the use of interactive video teleconference (ITV) in criminal proceedings. The order referred the task of developing rules governing the administrative procedures for conducting ITV hearings in criminal matters to the Advisory Committee on General Rules of Practice for the District Courts. In the interim, the Court ordered the State Court Administrator to develop temporary administrative procedures. The administrative procedures are set forth in Rule 131.07 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts*