

Standing Order re Sign and Release Warrants on Misdemeanors (except Domestic Violence related Offenses)

Based on the Protocol developed by the Adult Detention Initiative of which this Court is a part, the following Standing Order is effective July 1, 2018, and until further Order of this Court.

- A. This standing order applies to all Misdemeanor cases charged in Hennepin County, except domestic violence related offenses.**
- B. When Issued** – Court clerks shall issue a Sign and Release Warrant for each defendant who was sent a summons to appear in court for a non-domestic violence related misdemeanor and who fails to appear at the first arraignment on the case, as long as no other active warrant exists for that defendant.
- C. Sign and Release Warrants** – The Sign and Release Warrant shall be a bench warrant with a \$0 (no) bail amount and a narrative comment shall be made in MNCIS that it is a Sign and Release Warrant.
- D. Law Enforcement** – When a law enforcement officer encounters a person who has a warrant, the officer will call the warrant office to determine what type of warrant is in place. When the only warrant is a Sign and Release Warrant and there is no other basis to arrest the person, the officer will obtain a court date and the warrant office will recall the warrant.
 - a. In Hennepin County** – When the law enforcement contact is in Hennepin County, the officer will complete a sign and release form with a new court date and will have the defendant sign it. Refusal to sign will be noted, but is not a basis to arrest on the warrant. One copy of the form will be given to the defendant and the other will be efiled in MNCIS.
 - b. Out of Hennepin County** – When the law enforcement contact is outside of Hennepin County, the officer will provide the new court date information to the defendant.
- E. Fail to Appear** – If the defendant fails to appear at the given date, a bench warrant with monetary bail shall issue.
- F. New Offense** – If the defendant is being booked on a new offense or a new PC hold, the defendant may be booked and held on the new offense despite having a Sign and Release Warrant. The defendant shall not be held on the Sign and Release Warrant; therefore, if the other issue is resolved, the jail will release the defendant with a court notice to appear out of custody.

BY THE COURT:

Dated: June 22, 2018

Ivy S. Bernhardson
Chief Judge of District Court