

## FAQ's

**Q. I cannot come to court on my assigned court date. What are my options?**

A. If you are a victim: Contact the VWA assigned to your case as soon as you realize you have an issue with coming to court. If you have been served a subpoena you are required to come to court at the date and time indicated.

If you are a defendant: You are required to come to court on your court date. Failure to do so may result in a Failure to Appear (FTA), which gives the judge grounds to issue an Order for Arrest (OFA). Please get in touch with your attorney should you have concerns about your ability to come to court. If you have a traffic citation, please see the section of this website on the [four ways to resolve your traffic citation](#).

**Q. I need to request a continuance for my case. Can I do that over the phone?**

A. No, you must come to court to request a continuance in person. The Office of the District Attorney will not continue your case over the phone.

**Q. How can I get in touch with someone in the District Attorney's office?**

A. Please visit the [Contact Us](#) section of this website for staff phone numbers and email addresses. It is helpful if you direct your question to the ADA or VWA who handles the type of case for which you are making your inquiry. The general number for the New Hanover County office in Wilmington is (910) 341-1401. The general number for the Pender County office in Burgaw is (910) 259-1388

**Q. What is Felony District Court?**

A. Felony District Court is held every Thursday in courtroom 302 for lower level felony cases. Many drug cases, financial crimes, and property crimes are heard in this court before they are presented to the Grand Jury, usually two or three weeks before the arrest is made. Defendants have an opportunity to plead guilty at an early stage in the case, resolving the case before it hits superior court. Due to the expedited nature of these cases, it is important that you respond to our office quickly when we contact you about restitution or other involvements you may wish to have in the case. Victims of these crimes are not required to attend Felony District Court.

**Q. Can I observe court?**

A. Yes, with a few exceptions, criminal courts are always open to the public unless the judge states otherwise.