

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN PETER J. RINDAL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANGELA L. BERANEK, DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



## EAU CLAIRE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE INFORMATION SHEET

You have been ordered to appear at a settlement conference with the District Attorney's Office. The settlement conference is held by phone. Please read and follow all the information below to avoid delays.

- What Happens at the Conference: The prosecutor will discuss your case with you or your attorney to try and resolve it. If you have an attorney, the prosecutor cannot talk to you directly.
- **Legal Advice**: The District Attorney's Office cannot give you legal advice. You should make decisions about your case after consulting with an attorney.
- Getting an Attorney:
  - If you want an attorney but cannot afford one, contact the Public Defender's Office to see if you qualify.
  - If you do not qualify for a public defender, you can apply for an attorney through the Clerk of Court's Office in Eau Claire County. You will need proof that you do not qualify for a public defender.
  - o If you do not qualify for either, you may hire a private attorney at your own expense.
- Attorney Representation: If you have an attorney (public defender, county-appointed, or private), they will represent you at the settlement conference. The prosecutor does not represent you.

## • Proceeding Without an Attorney:

- If you choose to proceed without an attorney, you must complete the "Indication of Intent to Proceed" form. You cannot speak with the prosecutor until this form is returned.
- Return the signed form by mail, dropbox (outside the Government Center), fax (715-831-5818), or email (<u>EauClaireIntake@da.wi.gov</u>).
- Call the District Attorney's Office at 715-839-4828 during your scheduled conference time.

## • Purpose of the Conference:

- The conference is for asking questions and sharing information about your case. This is not a trial.
- The prosecutor will make a settlement offer.
- After the conference, you will return to court on the date provided at your initial appearance.

## • Court Appearance:

- If your case resolves with a misdemeanor or ordinance resolution, you will finalize it in court on the given date.
- o If not resolved, another court date will be scheduled.
- If you fail to appear in court, a warrant may be issued for your arrest, and there could be other consequences.

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Eau Claire, WI 54703