



Understanding Court Dates in North Carolina

Clarity Builds Confidence. Victory Favors the Prepared.

The Purpose of a Court Date

Every court date has a specific role in your case — it's not just a time on a calendar. In criminal and traffic matters, court dates are opportunities for your attorney to move your case forward, negotiate with the prosecutor, or challenge the evidence.

At Stowe Law Firm, we treat every appearance like an opportunity — not an appointment.

Types of Court Dates

Court dates vary depending on the charge, county, and stage of your case. Here's what you might encounter:

Court Setting	Purposes	What Usually Happens
First Appearance	Confirms charges and sets next court date	Attorney may appear for you; no witnesses or testimony
Administrative / Status Date	Updates the court on case progress	Used to negotiate, review discovery, or file motions
Trial Date	Case is heard before a judge or jury	Evidence presented; witnesses testify
Plea or Disposition Date	Case may resolve through plea or dismissal	Attorney presents agreements to the court
Sentencing / Review Date	Determines final punishment or compliance	Often follows plea or conviction

We walk clients through each phase before it happens — no surprises, no confusion.

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Do You Have to Go to Court?

Not always. In many traffic and misdemeanor cases, your attorney can **appear on your behalf**. This saves you time, travel, and stress. If your presence is required, we'll notify you well in advance and tell you exactly what to expect.

When we say "we'll handle it," we mean it.

When Court Is Continued

Continuances are common and strategic. They can give your attorney more time to negotiate, gather evidence, or wait for a better court session to secure a favorable result.

A continued court date is **not a delay** — it's part of the process of building leverage.

If your case is continued, we'll always:

- Notify you of the new date promptly
- Explain why the continuance benefits your case
- Confirm whether you need to appear

Preparation takes time — and timing is everything.

How to Check Your Court Date

You can confirm your next court date anytime by:

- Visiting nccourts.gov/court-dates
- Calling the Clerk of Court in your county
- Checking emails or texts from our office

At **Stowe Law Firm**, our clients never guess. We confirm every date, every time.

What Happens If You Miss Court

Missing court can have serious consequences, including:

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- **Failure to Appear (FTA)** fees of \$200
- **License suspension** through the DMV
- **Bench warrants** for arrest in criminal cases

If you've missed court, contact us immediately. We can often file a **Motion to Strike FTA** or **Motion for Recall of Warrant** before it escalates further.

Quick action can turn a mistake into a second chance.

How Court Dates Are Scheduled

Court schedules are set by the county and district attorney's office. Some counties rotate prosecutors; others assign specific days for certain charges.

That's why having a **local defense firm** matters — we know the judges, calendars, and courtroom rhythms that influence timing and outcomes.

Stowe Insight

Court is a system, not a surprise.

When you understand how court dates work — and have a team that manages them strategically — the process feels less like chaos and more like control.

At Stowe Law Firm, we don't just show up to court. We show up prepared.

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