

Justice Court Rules: Time Periods

Answer to petition in small claims or debt claim case: **14 days** after service of citation – Rule 502.5(d)

Motion to transfer venue: **21 days** after defendant's answer is filed – Rule 502.4(d)

Motion to recuse judge under Fair Trial Venue rule: no less than **7 days before trial** – Rule 502.4(e)

Motion for summary disposition: court must not consider until it has been on file at least **14 days** – Rule 503.2(c)

Trial date in small claims or debt claim case: no less than **45 days** after the setting date (unless the judge determines that an earlier setting is required in the interest of justice) – Rule 503.3(a)

Demand for jury: no later than **14 days** before the date the case is set for trial (\$22 fee now) – Rule 504.1(a)

Motion to reinstate case dismissed for want of prosecution: no later than **14 days** after dismissal order is signed – Rule 505.3(a)

Motion to set aside default judgment: no later than 14 days after judgment is signed – Rule 505.3(b)

Motion for new trial: no later than 14 days after judgment is signed – Rule 505.3(c)

Motion to reinstate, to set aside default judgment or for new trial: if judge does not rule on motion it is automatically denied on the **21st day** after the day the judgment was signed – Rule 505.3(e)

Appeal: **21 days** after judgment is signed or motion to reinstate, motion to set aside default or motion for new trial is denied – Rule 506.1(a)

Eviction case: citation and petition must be served on defendant at least **6 days** before trial – Rule 510.7(a)

Eviction case: must be set for trial **no less than 10 days nor more than 21 days** after petition is filed – Rule 510.4(a)(10)

Immediate possession bond: if defendant defaults or does not appear for trial plaintiff will be placed in possession on the **7th day** after defendant is served with the notice – Rule 510.5(c)

Immediate possession bond: if defendant files answer or appears at trial, no writ of possession may issue before the **6th day** after the date a judgment for possession is signed or the day following the deadline for appeal, whichever is later – Rule 510.5(d)

Trial in eviction case: may not be held less than **6 days** after service of the citation and petition on defendant – Rule 510.7(a)

Jury demand in eviction case: at least **3 days** before trial – Rule 510.7(b)

Trial in eviction case: may not be postponed more than **7 days total** unless both parties agree – Rule 510.7(c)

Writ of possession: may not issue before the **6th day** after the date a judgment for possession is signed or the day following the deadline for appeal, whichever is later – Rule 510.8(d)(1)

Writ of possession: may not issue more than **60 days** after a judgment for possession is signed; court may extend deadline to **90 days** for good cause – Rule 510.8(d)(1)

Writ of possession: may not be executed after the **90th day** after a judgment for possession is signed – Rule 510.8(d)(2)