

KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE

) GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

) Clerk's Action Required

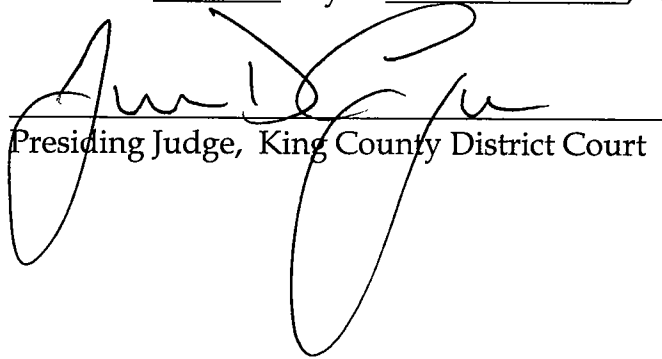
) No. 97-59

) Order Regarding Bench Warrants
) Issued for Failure to Appear
) for Commitments
)
_____)

Pursuant to action taken by the Executive Committee,

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED to be the policy of this Court that persons arrested on bench warrants issued for failure to appear for commitments shall *not* be released by King County District Court Judges, Commissioners and/or Pro Tems hearing the in-custody calendars until the defendant has served, at a minimum, the time for which the bench warrant was issued.

Done this 20th day of Nov., 1997



Presiding Judge, King County District Court

defendants. John King, DOC, is in charge of the program. During discussion several judges stated they would be more likely to release defendants if they knew they would be supervised. Judge Cayce said he will meet again next week with other people interested in the project. He will report back to the Executive Committee if this is something that looks viable.

Item #6: FTA for Commitments (*Tabled from September meeting.*)

- Judge Rindal handed out copies of relevant statutes and case law (*attached*). Discussion centered on problems that include a lack of communication on procedures between the jail staff, pro tem judges, or other judges who release the defendants; whether commitments must be reissued and, if not, whether the jail releases them if a second commitment notice is not sent; and, whether warrants should be issued "no bail." Trish mentioned procedures when a defendant is booked into the RJC jail seem to be working well. The RJC clerk calls the division to ask if the Court wants the days served, and verifies conditions of commitment.

Judge Leverette moved to have Judge Cayce issue a policy statement that when someone is picked up on a bench warrant for failure to appear, Pro Tems and Judges hearing the calendars should not release them until they have served their time.

Judge Nault seconded the motion, and the *motion carried*.

It was suggested that current warrant staff and jail staff procedures and policies for FTA commitments be obtained. Judge Cayce said he would discuss this with the jail staff.

Item #5: Bench Warrant Flagging System (*Tabled from September meeting.*)

Judge Leverette moved that the Bench Warrant Flagging System issue be tabled until Judge Benton can be present.

Motion seconded by Judge Rindal, and the *motion carried*.