

## **Criminal -- Pretrial Memorandum (R. 3:9-1); Written Acknowledgment (R. 3:16)**

Directive #5-02  
Issued by:

August 21, 2002  
Richard J. Williams  
Administrative Director

At its June 14, 2002 Conference, the Supreme Court approved the recommendations contained in the Criminal Practice Committee's 2000-2002 Report proposing amendments to R. 3:9-1 and R. 3:16. The amendment to R. 3:9-1 requires use of a standard pretrial memorandum in a form prescribed by the Administrative Director of the Courts. The amendment to R. 3:16 requires that the defendant sign a written acknowledgment of his or her trial date. This Directive promulgates the pretrial memorandum form and the written acknowledgment form required by those two rules.

**1. Pretrial Memorandum. Attachment 1**

A new form entitled *Pretrial Memorandum* has been created for statewide use. This form should be completed during the pretrial conference. It is designed to advise the defendant of the possible consequences should he or she fail to appear for court proceedings. See R. 3:9-1(e).

**2. Written Acknowledgment of Trial Date (Notice of Trial) Form. Attachment 2**

A new form entitled *Written Acknowledgment of Trial Date* has been created for statewide use. The defendant is to sign the form to indicate that he or she has been advised that the trial will proceed in his or her absence if he or she is not present for the original, or rescheduled, trial date. See R. 3:16.

English and Spanish versions of the forms promulgated by this Directive are attached. You should begin using these forms as soon as possible. Any questions or comments regarding this Directive, or appended forms, should be directed to Assistant Director Joseph J. Barraco at (609) 292-4638.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM**

**PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY**

Defendant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Indictment No(s): \_\_\_\_\_

1. List all indictments, counts, degrees and maximum jail sentence.

Indictment No.	Count	Charges & Degree	Max Jail
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Does the defendant qualify for extended term? [YES] [NO]  
 If yes, discretionary \_\_\_\_\_  
 mandatory \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does the presumption of imprisonment apply? [YES] [NO]  
 If yes, what counts? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does a mandatory period of parole ineligibility apply? [YES] [NO]  
 If yes, what counts? \_\_\_\_\_  
 85% Law \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graves Act \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Maximum sentence** if convicted.  
 (Including extended term, if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Maximum parole ineligibility period.** \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you understand that if you are found guilty, the Court in its discretion could impose a minimum period of confinement to be served before you become eligible for parole, which could be up to one-half of the total sentence imposed? [YES] [NO]

8. Do you understand that if you are found guilty, the Court could order that any sentence imposed be served consecutively to any sentence on a violation of probation, and/or parole, and/or sentence presently being served? [YES] [NO]

A. Are you presently on probation? [YES] [NO]  
 B. Are you presently on parole? [YES] [NO]  
 C. Are you presently serving a custodial sentence on another charge? [YES] [NO]

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Defendant's Initials

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY

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9. PLEA OFFER

Set forth in detail the plea agreement offered including sentencing recommendations.

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10. Do you understand that if you reject this plea offer, the Court could impose a more severe sentence than recommended by the plea offer, up to the maximum sentence permitted if you are convicted after trial? [YES] [NO]

11. Do you understand that if you reject this plea offer today, no negotiated plea can be accepted by this Court unless specifically authorized by the Criminal Presiding Judge pursuant to R. 3:9-3(g)? [YES] [NO]

12. Additional/Supplemental information.

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13. Discovery

- A. All Pretrial discovery is complete.
- B. The following Pretrial discovery is required.

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- C. Pretrial discovery to be completed by

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Initials

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY

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14. Motions/Hearings

- A. There are no further Pretrial Motions/Hearings.
- B. Trial: The following non-dispositive motions can be made and heard immediately prior to trial.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. Co-Defendant Status: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Unique Evidential Issues: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ NO BRIEF REQUIRED

\_\_\_\_\_ BRIEF REQUIRED BY \_\_\_\_\_

17. Stipulations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Estimated trial time:

State's case: \_\_\_\_\_

Defense case: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Interpreter needed? [YES] [NO]

If yes, please provide the following information:

If the defendant, what language? \_\_\_\_\_

If a witness, what language? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Initials

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY

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20. Defendant and all counsel are hereby directed to return to court on the following date at 9:00 AM ready for trial. There will be no further notices required.

Any problems with witness availability must be brought to the Court's attention within ten (10) days of the signing of this Memorandum, or if discovered thereafter, as promptly as known.

Trial Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Assistant Prosecutor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defense Counsel)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Judge)

Date of Memo: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. I have been advised of my right to be present at the trial of this case. If I fail to appear for trial on the date scheduled for trial, the Court has the right to conduct the trial in my absence. If my case is not reached for trial on that date the judge will schedule a new date for trial. If I am not present on the original trial date, or any rescheduled trial date, the trial will proceed without me and I will be bound by the jury's verdict.**

**2. I further understand that if I do not appear for trial on the date fixed above or any adjourned trial date thereafter, I will lose any bail that has been posted and a bench warrant will be issued for my arrest.**

**3. I understand that except in extraordinary circumstances, the filing of this Memorandum ends all plea negotiations, and no further bargaining will take place. Any subsequent plea of guilty will be without a plea recommendation.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defense Counsel)

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM / MEMORÁNDUM PRECEDENTE AL JUICIO  
 SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY/  
 TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE NUEVA JERSEY CONDADO DE \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant's Name/ Judge/  
 Nombre y apellido del acusado: \_\_\_\_\_ Juez: \_\_\_\_\_

Indictment No(s)/  
 Nro. de la acusación formal \_\_\_\_\_  
 o de las acusaciones formales:

1. List all indictments, counts, degrees and maximum jail sentence. / Enumere todas las acusaciones formales, cargos, grados y sentencia máxima de encarcelación.

Indictment No./ Nro de la Acusación Formal	Count/Cargo	Charges & Degree/ Cargos y Grado	Max Jail/ Encarcelación máxima

2. Does the defendant qualify for extended term?  
 ¿Reúne el acusado los requisitos para un término extendido? [YES/SÍ] [NO]

If yes, discretionary/Si es así, discrecional \_\_\_\_\_  
 mandatory/obligatorio \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does the presumption of imprisonment apply?  
 ¿Corresponde la presunción de encarcelamiento? [YES/SÍ] [NO]

If yes, what counts?  
 Si es así, ¿en cuáles cargos? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does a mandatory period of parole ineligibility apply?  
 ¿Corresponde un período obligatorio de inelegibilidad antes de salir  
 en libertad condicional? [YES/SÍ] [NO]

If yes, what counts?  
 Si es así, ¿en cuáles cargos? \_\_\_\_\_

85% Law Term/Ley del 85%	_____	Term/Término _____
Graves Act Term/Ley Graves	_____	Term/Término _____
School Zone Term/Zona Escolar	_____	Term/Término _____
Other Term/Otro	_____	Term/Término _____

Defendant's Initials/Iniciales del acusado \_\_\_\_\_

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM / MEMORÁNDUM PRECEDENTE AL JUICIO  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY/  
TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE NUEVA JERSEY CONDADO DE \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Maximum sentence if convicted. / Sentencia máxima si se le condena** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Including extended term, if applicable/que incluye el término extendido, si corresponde)

6. **Maximum parole ineligibility period. /** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Período máximo de inelegibilidad antes de salir en libertad condicional.**

7. Do you understand that if you are found guilty, the Court in its discretion could impose a minimum period of confinement to be served before you become eligible for parole, which could be up to one-half of the total sentence imposed?

[YES/SÍ] [NO]

¿Entiende usted que si lo encuentran culpable, el juez, a su discreción podría imponerle un período mínimo de reclusión que tendrá que cumplir antes de estar elegible de salir en libertad condicional, y que dicho período podría ser de hasta la mitad de la sentencia total que se le imponga?

8. Do you understand that if you are found guilty, the Court could order that any sentence imposed be served consecutively to any sentence on a violation of probation, and/or parole, and/or sentence presently being served?

[YES/SÍ] [NO]

¿Entiende usted que si lo encuentran culpable, el juez podría ordenar que la sentencia que imponga se cumpla consecutivamente a cualquier sentencia por una infracción de la libertad a prueba, la libertad condicional, o ambas, la sentencia que está cumpliendo actualmente o todas?

A. Are you presently on probation?

¿Está usted actualmente bajo libertad a prueba?

[YES/SÍ] [NO]

B. Are you presently on parole?

¿Está usted actualmente bajo libertad condicional?

[YES/SÍ] [NO]

C. Are you presently serving a custodial sentence on another charge?

¿Está usted actualmente cumpliendo una sentencia con reclusión por otro cargo?

[YES/SÍ] [NO]

9. **PLEA OFFER / OFERTA DE UNA SENTENCIA REDUCIDA**

Set forth in detail the plea agreement offered including sentencing recommendations.

Exponga detalladamente el acuerdo de una reducción de sentencia que se le haya propuesto e incluya las recomendaciones en cuanto a la sentencia.

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Defendant's Initials/Iniciales del acusado \_\_\_\_\_

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM / MEMORÁNDUM PRECEDENTE AL JUICIO  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY/  
TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE NUEVA JERSEY CONDADO DE \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you understand that if you reject this plea offer, the Court could impose a more severe sentence than recommended by the plea offer, up to the maximum sentence permitted if you are convicted after trial?

[YES/SÍ] [NO]

¿Entiende usted que si rechaza esta oferta de una sentencia reducida y si se le condena después de un juicio, el juez podría imponerle una sentencia más dura que la que se recomienda en la oferta de una sentencia reducida hasta la sentencia máxima permitida?

11. Do you understand that if you reject this plea offer today, no negotiated plea can be accepted by this Court unless specifically authorized by the Criminal Presiding Judge pursuant to R. 3:9-3(g)?

[YES/SÍ] [NO]

¿Entiende usted que si hoy rechaza esta oferta de una sentencia reducida, el juez no puede aceptar ninguna admisión de culpabilidad a cambio de una reducción de sentencia a menos que sea autorizado específicamente por el juez a cargo de los tribunales penales conforme a R. 3:9-3(g)?

12. Additional/Supplemental information. / Información adicional/supplemental.

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13. Discovery/Pruebas documentales

- A. All Pretrial discovery is complete.  
Están completas todas las pruebas documentales precedentes al juicio.
- B. The following Pretrial discovery is required.  
Se requieren las siguientes pruebas documentales precedentes al juicio.

- C. Pretrial discovery to be completed by / Las pruebas documentales precedentes al juicio se tienen que completar antes del

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Defendant's Initials/Iniciales del acusado

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Pretrial Memorandum/Memorándum precedente al juicio

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM / MEMORÁNDUM PRECEDENTE AL JUICIO  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY/  
TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE NUEVA JERSEY CONDADO DE \_\_\_\_\_

14. Motions/Hearings  
Pedimentos/Audiencias

- A. There are no further Pretrial Motions/Hearings.  
No hay más pedimentos/audiencias precedentes al juicio.
- B. Trial/Juicio: The following non-dispositive motions can be made and heard immediately prior to trial. / Los siguientes pedimentos que no son de disposición se pueden hacer y ver inmediatamente antes del juicio.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

15. Co-Defendant Status/Status del coacusado: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Unique Evidential Issues/Cuestiones probatorias únicas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ NO BRIEF REQUIRED/NO SE REQUIERE NINGÚN ESCRITO JUDICIAL  
\_\_\_\_\_ BRIEF REQUIRED BY/SE REQUIERE UN ESCRITO JUDICIAL PARA EL DÍA  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Stipulations/Estipulaciones: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Estimated trial time/  
Duración estimada del juicio: State's case/Causa de la fiscalía: \_\_\_\_\_

Defense case/Causa de la defensa: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Interpreter needed? / ¿Se requerirá un intérprete? [YES/SÍ] [NO]

If yes, please provide the following information / Si es así, por favor suministre la siguiente información:

If the defendant, what language? / Si es para el acusado, ¿de qué idioma? \_\_\_\_\_

If a witness, what language? / Si es para un testigo, ¿de qué idioma? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Initials/Iniciales del acusado

PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM / MEMORÁNDUM PRECEDENTE AL JUICIO  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY/  
TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE NUEVA JERSEY CONDADO DE \_\_\_\_\_

20. Defendant and all counsel are hereby directed 21. to return to court on the following date at 9:00 AM ready for trial. There will be no further notices required.

Por la presente se ordena que el acusado y todos los abogados vuelvan al tribunal en la siguiente fecha a las 9:00 de la mañana listos para el juicio. No se requerirá ningún aviso adicional.

Any problems with witness availability must be brought to the Court's attention within ten (10) days of the signing of this Memorandum, or if discovered thereafter, as promptly as known.

Cualquier problema con la disponibilidad de testigos tiene que ser divulgado al juez dentro de los diez (10) días subsiguientes a la firma de este Memorandum, o si se descubre después de dicho período, en cuanto se sepa.

Trial Date/Fecha del juicio: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Assistant Prosecutor/Fiscal Auxiliar)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defense Counsel/Abogado Defensor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Judge/Juez)

Date of Memo/Fecha del Memo: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I have been advised of my right to be present at the trial of this case. If I fail to appear for trial on the date scheduled for trial, the Court has the right to conduct the trial in my absence. If my case is not reached for trial on that date the judge will schedule a new date for trial. If I am not present on the original trial date, or any rescheduled trial date, the trial will proceed without me and I will be bound by the jury's verdict.

1. Me han informado sobre mi derecho de estar presente en el juicio de esta causa. Si no comparezco para el juicio en la fecha fijada para el mismo, el juez tendrá el derecho de proceder con el juicio sin que yo esté presente. Si mi causa no se enjuicia en esa fecha, el juez fijará otra fecha para el juicio. Si no estoy presente en la fecha original del juicio, o en cualquier fecha en que se vuelva a fijar, el juicio proseguirá sin mí y me veré obligado a atenerme al veredicto del jurado.

2. I further understand that if I do not appear for trial on the date fixed above or any adjourned trial date thereafter, I will lose any bail that has been posted and a bench warrant will be issued for my arrest.

2. Entiendo además que si no comparezco para el juicio en la fecha indicada más arriba o en cualquier otra fecha hasta la cual se aplace el juicio, perderé cualquier fianza que se hubiera dado, y el juez emitirá una orden para que se me arreste.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Initials/Iniciales del acusado

**3. I understand that except in extraordinary circumstances, the filing of this Memorandum ends all plea negotiations, and no further bargaining will take place. Any subsequent plea of guilty will be without a plea recommendation.**

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(Defendant/Acusado)

**3. Entiendo que, a excepción de que surjan circunstancias extraordinarias, el asiento de este Memorándum pone fin a toda negociación de una sentencia reducida, y no se realizará ninguna negociación adicional. Cualquier declaración de culpabilidad subsiguiente será sin la recomendación de una sentencia reducida.**

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(Defense Counsel/Abogado Defensor)

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT (NOTICE OF TRIAL) FORM**

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION, \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
INDICTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

V.

\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge that I have been advised that I am to appear for trial on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_\_\_ at 9:00 a.m. (unless the time is otherwise specified herein to be \_\_\_\_\_) and if I fail to appear on that date, or any rescheduled trial date, the trial will proceed without me and I will be bound by the jury's verdict.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's signature

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY/  
TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE NUEVA JERSEY

LAW DIVISION/DIVISIÓN DE DERECHO,  
COUNTY/CONDADO DE \_\_\_\_\_

INDICTMENT NO./ACUSACIÓN FORMAL Nro.  
\_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF NEW JERSEY/  
ESTADO DE NUEVA JERSEY

V.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge that I have been advised that I am to appear for trial on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_ at 9:00 a.m. (unless the time is otherwise specified herein to be \_\_\_\_\_) and if I fail to appear on that date, or any rescheduled trial date, the trial will proceed without me and I will be bound by the jury's verdict.

Por la presente confirmo que se me ha notificado que debo comparecer a un juicio el día \_\_\_\_\_ de \_\_\_\_\_ del 200\_\_ a las 9:00 de la mañana (a menos que aquí se especifique otra hora \_\_\_\_\_) y que si no comparezco en esa fecha, o en cualquier otra fecha cambiada para el juicio, el juicio procederá sin que esté presente y me veré obligado a cumplir con el veredicto del jurado.

Dated/Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's signature/Firma del acusado