**PROTOCOL FOR OPERATING WITHOUT LICENSE (OWL) COURT**

1. Hearings will be held every Monday at 2:00 pm, except for holidays.
2. Eligible case types are those in which a defendant is charged with Driving while License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked (DWLR) and Driving Without a Valid License (DWOL), with or without additional minor charges such as Driving Without Insurance, MICS 6, Failing to Appear, etc. Further eligibility requirements are determined by the prosecuting agencies involved. Rule 45 is generally tolled if eligibility needs to be determined or more information is needed and there are continuances without a plea.
3. The purpose of this court is to handle these types of driving cases more efficiently; centralize cases on a regular calendar so that continuances for the defendant to obtain a license will not clog the regular court arraignment, change of plea, and trial call calendars; provide judicial monitoring and incentive for defendants to obtain a driver’s license; provide guidance and information to defendants regarding the DMV requirements to obtain the driver’s license; take pleas with deferred sentencing; dispose of cases by dismissal and/or conviction; and prevent recidivism.
4. On the Wednesday prior to the Monday hearing, the court system will send a list of cases to the DMV. The DMV will run a DMV reinstatement checklist on each defendant and provide copies to the court, the District Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender Agency, the Municipal Prosecutor’s Office, and Denali Law Group. Private attorneys can obtain copies of the reinstatement checklists from the prosecutor or the court at the OWL hearing. Prior to the Monday OWL docket, the prosecutor will prepare Rule 11 plea offers to participate in OWL court with both a successful and unsuccessful sentence, unless determined to be ineligible by the prosecuting entity.
5. The general procedure at the OWL hearing is that the court will first take cases in which defendants have obtained a valid driver’s license so that defendants who do not have their license can see a positive outcome. The court will then take matters where the defendants have pled, entered into OWL court, and are reporting on their progress. Cases will be continued when needed for the defendant to obtain their license or a sentence will be imposed if appropriate. Finally, the court will take the cases in which defendants are entering into OWL court, take negotiated pleas, and place the signed Rule 11 agreement in the court file. Defendant will receive a written reinstatement checklist outlining the steps necessary to obtain their driver’s license.