Final Criminal Pre-Trial Conference

Good afternoon. Welcome to Division Seven of DeKalb County State Court.

You are here for the criminal pre-trial calendar. This is your final opportunity, if you wish, to enter a negotiated plea or other negotiated resolution to your case. All of you have been assigned trial dates, and if your case is not resolved today, your trial will take place on the date you have already been assigned, or within a few days of that date. The Court will not accept any negotiated pleas the morning of trial.

Of course, you can always enter a plea of guilty the morning of trial. However, the plea will have to be non-negotiated, which means that you will not know what sentence you will receive; the Court will make its own decision regarding your sentence, and you will just have to take your chances. If you wish to enter a negotiated plea, where you know what your sentence will be ahead of time, you must do that today. That is the purpose of this calendar; to give you one final opportunity to resolve your case.

The Court strongly suggests that you have a final pre-trial conference today, even if you do not wish to enter a negotiated plea at this time. The reason for this is simple; by now, the State has had an opportunity to further investigate your case, and to speak to the witnesses, and based on this, the State’s recommendation may very well have changed in your favor. Sometimes cases even get dismissed at this stage, or the charges are significantly reduced. Therefore, you have nothing to lose by participating in one final pre-trial conference, and everything to gain.

I am now going to call the calendar. If you are here, stand up and let me know that you are here, and I will allow you and your attorney one last opportunity to meet with the State to try to arrive at an agreeable resolution. If you do not reach a resolution, the case will go to trial on the date you have already been assigned, or within a few days of that date, should there be more than one case ready for trial. Thank you.