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Passaic Vicinage to Implement Central Judicial Processing Court

Assignment Judge Ernest M. Caposela has announced the implementation of a Central Judicial Processing (CJP) Court in Passaic Vicinage beginning on Monday, July 20.

CJP Court will be the first appearance court for defendants charged with indictable offenses. Court rules require that these defendants appear before a judge no later than 72 hours after arrest to be advised of their rights and the charges that have been lodged against them.

Municipal Presiding Judge G. Dolph Corradino will conduct the sessions, which will convene on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. in Room 411 in the Passaic County Courthouse in Paterson.

The hearings previously were held at each of the county's 16 municipal courts. CJP Court centralizes this process, making it possible for defendants to appear before a judge more quickly. Prosecutors can screen cases at CJP Court rather than waiting for another court event, sometimes weeks later.

During the first phase of CJP Court, first appearances will be conducted only for defendants charged with indictable offenses who are being held in the Passaic County Jail. Defendants will appear in court via a video link between the courtroom and the jail. The second phase of CJP Court, which will be implemented later this year, will include defendants who are charged with indictable offenses and have been released on summonses.

CJP Court will allow for the early determination of public defender eligibility for indigent defendants, consistent with the recommendations of the *Report of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice* issued by the New Jersey Judiciary. CJP Court also will provide the framework for risk assessments that will be required when bail reform is implemented in January 2017.

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