

Jail Tablet Hearings and SMART Carts At a Glance

Jail Tablet Hearings (JTHs) and SMART (Sentencing Via Mobile Access Remote Technology) Cart Sentencings allow in-custody defendants who are housed in Maricopa County jail facilities to attend hearings via an interactive audiovisual system. The in-custody defendant will be placed in a quiet, private location in their assigned pod/unit with access to an iPad with a videoconferencing app, headphones, and a separate telephone to have a privileged conversation with their defense lawyer. In the case of a sentencing, the SMART cart is equipped with a signature pad, fingerprint reader, and a printer.

Eligibility

- **Eligible JTH Locations:** Estrella, Saguaro, Lower Buckeye, 4TH Ave, Towers, and MHU
- **Eligible SMART Cart Locations:** Estrella, Saguaro, Lower Buckeye, 4TH Ave, and Towers
- **Eligible Defendants:** JTHs/SMART Carts are primarily intended to be used for in-custody defendants who are on MCSO's Do Not Transport (DNT) list and in-custody self-represented litigants.
- **Eligible Hearing Types:** JTHs can be set for all pre-sentence hearings. Sentencings can be set through a SMART Cart request.

Logistics

- **JTH and SMART Cart Requests:** Criminal Court Administration's JTH Group coordinates the scheduling of all remote hearings. Requests must be made by a judicial officer's staff to the JTH Group, and it must be at least 48 hours in advance of the desired hearing date.
- **Exception:** "Plea on Demand" or Settlement conferences can be directly scheduled by attorneys with Court Administration by emailing Settlement@jbazmc.maricopa.gov. Please note: The scheduling requests must include a PDF of the signed plea agreement (signed by all parties) as an attachment.
- **Scheduling:** JTHs are placed based on available space and length of hearing:
 - **Estrella:** 8:30am – Noon, 1:30pm-4pm (30 minutes between hearings)
 - **LBJ:** 9am, 11am, 1:30pm, 3pm (30 minutes between hearings)
 - **Towers:** 8:30am – Noon, 1:30pm-2pm, 3pm-4:30pm (30 minutes between hearings)
 - **Saguaro:** 8:30am – Noon, 1:30pm-2pm, 3pm-4:30pm (30 minutes between hearings)
 - **4th Ave:** 8:30am, 11am, 1:30pm (30-minute hearing max), and 3pm (1 hour between hearings)
 - **MHU:** 8:30am, 11am, 1:30pm (30-minute hearing max), and 3pm (30-40 minutes between hearings)

Documents for JTHs

Prior to the scheduled JTH, attorneys are responsible for obtaining all necessary signatures and ensuring all parties, including the Court, have all necessary documents. A PDF of the signed documents can be emailed to the Court. Neither the Court nor the jail is responsible for obtaining signatures, making copies, or delivering documents to defendants. Failure to obtain signatures in advance and provide signed copies of all documents may result in a JTH being vacated.