

**CHIEF JUSTICE DIRECTIVE 96-07**

**SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO  
Office of the Chief Justice**

**CHANGE OF VENUE IN CRIMINAL CASES**

The following policy is adopted, effective December 1, 1996, to ensure a uniform procedure when a trial judge orders a change of venue in a criminal case. This directive is intended to address administrative matters arising under Section 16-6-101, et seq. 8 C.R.S. (1986) and Crim. P. 21(a).

**Change of Venue - Trial Judge Does Not Follow Case.**

This is the preferred method for handling change of venue cases, as it will result in the least amount of disruption to caseload and will have the least impact on staff and facilities when a case is transferred, for all purposes, to a judge in the new district.

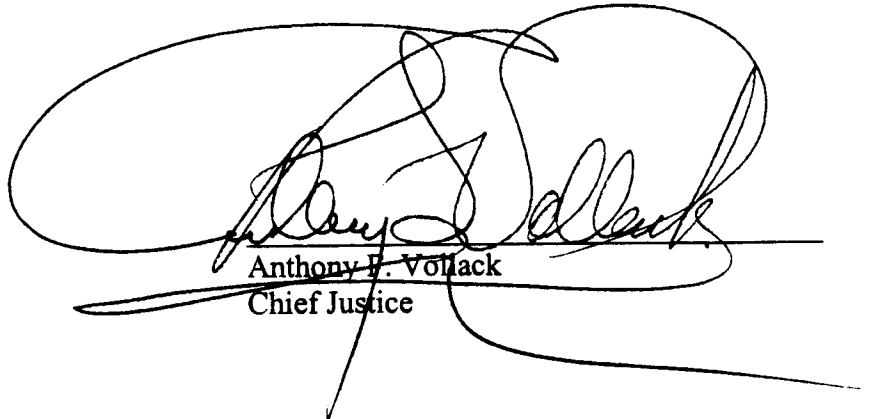
1. Before venue is changed the trial judge, through the chief judge of the judicial district, shall contact the chief judge of the district to which a transfer of venue is being considered. The chief judge of the receiving district shall determine if a judge is available to hear the case and if the district has courtroom, staff, jurors, etc., available to handle the case.
2. If an agreement is reached between the chief judges, the trial judge shall then enter orders changing venue to that judicial district.

**Change of Venue - Criminal Cases Where a Trial Judge Determines to Remain With Case.**

1. The trial judge and the chief judge of the district shall obtain approval from the Chief Justice before the trial judge will be assigned to remain with a case in which the trial judge has ordered a change of venue to another judicial district.
2. If approval is given, the chief judge of the transferring district shall contact the chief judge of the district or districts where the case may be transferred to determine the availability of courtrooms, staff, jurors, etc.
3. If an agreement is reached between the chief judges of the transferring district and the new district, then the trial judge shall enter an order changing venue. If the proposed new district cannot accommodate the request, the chief judge of the transferring district shall follow the same procedure for a different proposed new district until a judicial district is identified to which the matter may be transferred.

4. Once a new judicial district is identified, the trial judge shall then request from the Chief Justice, an order authorizing that trial judge to sit in the district to which venue will be transferred.

DONE this 25 day of Nov, 1996, effective December 1, 1996.



Anthony J. Vollack  
Chief Justice

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