

## **ANSWERING A BUFFALO CITY COURT WARRANT DURING THE PANDEMIC**

Buffalo City Court has set up temporary procedures during the CoViD-19 Pandemic for people in the community who wants to turn themselves in on a Buffalo City Court warrant.

- If the charges on the warrant are for felony crimes, the defendant can turn themselves in at BPD Central Booking, located at 68 Court Street, Buffalo, NY.
- They will **not** be immediately released. Instead, they will be held until they can appear virtually before the Judge assigned to custodial arraignments. Based on when they present themselves, this may be done soon thereafter or the following morning. (See: below for the schedule.)
- There is no guarantee that the custodial arraignment judge will release them on their own recognizance. However, chances for a recognizance release are better if the person returns voluntarily on the warrant and not after being picked-up by the police.

For all other charges:

- If the defendant does not have an attorney, they should contact the Chief Clerks Office of Buffalo City Court at 716-845-2600 or walk into their office on the ground floor of the City Court building located at 50 Delaware Avenue.

A clerk will take their email address so the court can send them a link to appear virtually before the judge handling returns on warrant. They will need to have access to Micro Soft Teams

- The clerk will give them the following times to join the meeting and wait in the virtual lobby:
  - If they appear in or call the office before 9:30 am, they can be scheduled for the virtual appearance at the end of the morning session (11:30 am)
  - If they appear in or call the office between 9:30 am-12:00 pm, they can be scheduled for the virtual meeting at the end of the afternoon session (3:00 pm)
  - If they appear in or call the office after 12:00 pm, they can be scheduled for the virtual meeting at the end of the following day's morning session (11:30 am)
- If the defendant has an attorney, they should contact their attorney so that the attorney may set up a date and time convenient for their schedule. The above times should also be used when scheduling a date and time with the attorney

If an attorney has been appointed by the Court, the clerk can tell the person who that attorney is and how to reach them. Court appointed attorneys work through either the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo or the Assigned Counsel Program.

If you are not a United States Citizen please contact the Legal Aid Bureau's Regional Immigration Assistance Center before answering a warrant.

### **Important Numbers:**

Buffalo Police Department Central Booking:	716-851-4545
Buffalo City Court:	716-845-2600
The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo:	716-853-9555
The Assigned Counsel Program:	716-856-8804
Regional Immigration Assistance Program	716-853-9555