

WWDIR 2.5. Procedure on Failure to Obey Citation and Notice

The court may order an issuance of a bench warrant for the arrest of any defendant who has failed to appear before the court, either in person or by a lawyer, in answer to a citation and notice, or the order of the court, upon which the defendant has promised in writing to appear, or with which the defendant has been served or otherwise received notice to appear, if the sentence for the offense charged may include confinement in jail.

(a) Warrant Costs. The maximum warrant preparation fee permitted under RCW 10.01.160 shall be assessed whenever the court orders a warrant based upon a defendant's failure to appear for any mandatory court appearance on aailable offense. The fee shall include any costs for service of the warrant and may be waived only if the defendant is later acquitted.

(b) Quashing Warrants. The court, in its discretion, may quash a failure to appear warrant under the following circumstances:

(1) Unless specifically prohibited by the court at the time the warrant was ordered, the defendant may personally appear at the clerk's office and pay the amount of the warrant fee. The defendant shall then personally sign a promise to appear at a hearing date established by the court. The court will determine the appropriate conditions for the defendant's continued release at that hearing which may include a requirement that the defendant be detained in lieu of bail; or

(2) If the defendant establishes good cause for the failure to appear in a document sworn under oath or otherwise, the court may hear a motion to quash the warrant without requiring payment of the warrant fee in advance. Inadvertence, forgetting or alleged ignorance of the court date by the defendant or defense counsel shall not constitute good cause for failure to appear.

Effective September 1, 2016