

Local Criminal Rule 8-1 - Assignment of Related Cases

(a) Conditions for Reassignment. A criminal case may be reassigned to another judge if it is found to be related to a lower-numbered criminal case assigned to that judge and each of the following criteria is met:

(1) all defendants in each of the cases are the same, or if the defendants are not all the same but at least one is the same, the cases are based upon the same set of facts, events or offenses;

(2) the handling of both cases by the same judge is likely to result in an overall saving of judicial resources; and

(3) neither case has progressed to the point where reassigning a case would likely delay substantially the proceedings in either case, or the Court finds that the assignment of the cases to the same judge would promote consistency in resolution of the cases or otherwise be in the interest of justice.

(b) Motion to Reassign. A motion for reassignment based on relatedness may be filed by any party to a case. The motion must be filed with, and will be decided by the judge to whom the lowest numbered case of the claimed related set is assigned for trial or other final disposition. If the set includes both felony cases, and one or more misdemeanors assigned to a magistrate judge, then the motion must be filed with, and will be decided by the district judge assigned to the lowest numbered felony case in the set. Copies of the motion must be served on all parties and on the judges for all of the affected cases. The motion must:

(1) set forth the points of commonality of the cases in sufficient detail to indicate that the cases are related within the meaning of subsection (a), and

(2) indicate the extent to which the conditions required by subsection (a) will be met if the cases are found to be related.

Any objection to the motion must be filed within 7 days of the filing of the motion.

(c) Order. The judge must enter an order finding whether or not the cases are related, and, if they are, whether the higher numbered case or cases should be reassigned to that judge. Where the judge finds that reassignment should occur, the Clerk of Court must reassign the higher numbered case or cases to the judge deciding the motion and to whom the lowest numbered case is assigned. A copy of any finding on relatedness and whether or not reassignment should take place must be sent to each of the judges before whom any of the higher numbered cases are pending.

(d) Scope of Reassignment Order. An order under this rule reassigning cases as related does not constitute a joinder order under Fed. R. Crim. P. 13.