

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA**

IN THE MATTER OF

GUILTY PLEAS BEFORE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
JUDGE MARK A. ROBERTS

STANDING ORDER
(Issued September 25, 2018)

For cause, it is
ORDERED that the following procedures shall apply to guilty plea proceedings
before United States Magistrate Judge Mark A. Roberts:

1. The Court will not schedule a change of plea hearing before Magistrate Judge Roberts unless the party seeking to schedule the hearing represents that (a) defendant has consented to having a magistrate judge preside over the hearing, and (b) any plea agreement between the parties has been fully executed by both the defendant and the government.
2. A lawyer representing a defendant at a guilty plea proceeding will not be permitted to use the time scheduled for the taking of the guilty plea to prepare the defendant for the taking of the guilty plea. The preparations for a guilty plea hearing are to be completed as soon as practicable, but not later than the day before the guilty plea. This requirement applies in all cases, including cases involving interpreters.
3. By 5:00 p.m. of the last business day before the change of plea hearing is to occur, the defendant should file with the court a written consent to proceed before a magistrate judge. This form can be located at two separate areas on the Northern District of Iowa web page: www.iland.uscourts.gov, ((1) Clerk of Court, Forms, Criminal Forms, G.1 Plea Documents, Judge Roberts – Notice RE: Guilty Pleas.pdf; (2) Judges’ Information, Magistrate Judge Mark A. Roberts, Standing Forms).

4. By 5:00 p.m. of the last business day before the change of plea hearing is to occur, the government should provide the Court and opposing counsel, by email, a copy of the written plea agreement (where there is one). The plea agreement will be addressed at the plea hearing regarding whether it will be filed as an exhibit and/or whether it will be sealed.
5. By 5:00 p.m. of the last business day before the change of plea hearing is to occur, the government should provide the Court and opposing counsel, by email, the so-called Rule 11 letter. When setting forth the elements of the offense in the Rule 11 letter, reference should be made to the source upon which the government is relying to establish the elements of the offense. When possible, the government should rely on the Eighth Circuit Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions. The Rule 11 letter should also identify all collateral consequences resulting from a guilty plea, including whether defendant: (a) is waiving appeal rights; (b) may be subject to deportation or other immigration consequences; (c) may have to pay restitution; (d) will have to register as a sex offender; and (e) will be forfeiting property. If the government is seeking forfeiture of property as a result of the guilty plea, the Rule 11 letter should set forth the factual nexus between the crime(s) of conviction and the property the government seeks to forfeit. The Rule 11 letter should also inform the court whether any victims of the offense(s) wish to address the court at the hearing and whether any exceptional circumstances may exist for the court to determine the matter of defendant's detention pending sentencing. The Rule 11 letter does not need to include the statutory language of the offense(s) of conviction.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 25th day of September, 2018.



Mark A. Roberts, United States Magistrate Judge
Northern District of Iowa