



# Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries

## Choosing a Date for the Return Day

The "return day" is the date that begins the countdown for things taking place in your civil case. The date of the return day controls:

- the day by which service of process (delivery of summons and complaint to the defendant(s)) must be completed by the State Marshal. It must be at least 12 days before the return day, (Connecticut General Statutes section 52-46);
- the day by which the civil process (summons and complaint, with the State Marshal's return of service) must be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court. It must be at least 6 days before the return day, (Connecticut General Statutes section 52-46a); and
- the day the defendant or defendants should file an appearance; the defendant(s) should file an appearance with the Clerk of the Superior Court no later than the 2nd day after the return day. (Connecticut Practice Book section 3-2)

In civil actions, except for Eviction cases (summary process), the return day is always a Tuesday. Any Tuesday in any month may be chosen as long as it is not more than 2 months after the date that the summons is signed. (Connecticut General Statutes section 52-48).

### **To choose a Date for the Return Day for Your Civil Action:**

(See Other Side for worksheet)

- Check a calendar for the date of the next Tuesday.
- Count ahead to the 4th Tuesday from that day. The date of the 4th Tuesday would be a reasonable return day for your action.
- The Thursday date on the calendar which is 12 days before the return day is the deadline for the State Marshal to deliver papers (make service) on all defendants. You must deliver the papers to the State Marshal as soon as possible after the Clerk signs them to give the State Marshal enough time to deliver them.
- After the State Marshal delivers the paper to the defendant(s), they must be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court, together with the entry fee and the State Marshal's proof that they were delivered, no later than the Wednesday that is 6 days before the return day.

Over >>



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			CURRENT WEEK			
		1				
		2		LAST DAY FOR THE STATE MARSHAL TO DELIVER THE PAPERS		
		3	LAST DAY TO FILE PAPERS WITH THE COURT CLERK			
		<b>RETURN DAY</b>		APPEARANCES FILED BY TODAY		
		4				

## WORKSHEET RETURN DAY WORKSHEET

The return day for my case is: \_\_\_\_\_ (Tuesday)

The date by which the State  
Marshal must make delivery is: \_\_\_\_\_ (Thursday)

The date by which I must file the  
original papers, the State Marshal's  
proof of delivery (return), and the  
entry fee in the Clerk's Office is: \_\_\_\_\_ (Wednesday)

The date by which the defendant(s)  
should file an appearance with the  
Clerk's Office is: \_\_\_\_\_ (Thursday)

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