



SPEEDY TRIAL EXPLANATION

Quick Summary

Florida changed the speedy trial rule in 2025. The time does not start at arrest. It only starts when the State files formal charges. Because of this, it is very difficult to get a case dismissed based on timing. For your protection, our office usually waives speedy trial so we have the time needed to build the strongest defense.

What Speedy Trial Means

Speedy trial is a rule that sets a deadline for when your case must go to trial. On misdemeanors, the State has 90 days from the filing of charges. On felonies, the State has 175 days from the filing of charges. If the State is late, the court must give them an additional 30 days to fix the issue before anything can be dismissed. Most dismissals are without prejudice, meaning the State can refile the case.

What Waiving Speedy Trial Means

Waiving speedy trial does not mean you are guilty. It does not give up your right to a trial. It simply means we are not using the automatic time limit. This gives your attorney time to review evidence, watch videos, speak to witnesses, take depositions, and file motions. These steps are critical and cannot be rushed.

Why We Usually Waive Speedy Trial

Under the new rule, the State has more time and more opportunities to correct mistakes. It is no longer realistic to expect a case to be dismissed based on timing alone. Rushing a case usually benefits the State. Taking time allows us to prepare a stronger defense for you.

What Helps You Most

The best strategy is giving your attorney enough time to fully prepare your case. Waiving speedy trial protects your rights, it does not take them away. If at any point it becomes beneficial to move quickly, we can file a Demand for Speedy Trial and require the court to set the case for trial within 60 days.

Acknowledgment

I have read, understand, and approve this explanation.

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____