



## Safe Database Migration Card

Change a live database without turning a release into a recovery exercise.

Expand -> Deploy compatible app -> Backfill -> Switch -> Observe -> Contract

### BEFORE

- State business reason and affected systems.
- Confirm current backup and restore owner.
- Review SQL, locks, indexes, and data-loss risk.
- Test full history on a clean database.

### DURING

- Use the production migration command - never a dev command.
- Make it a visible, owned release step.
- Record version, start time, outcome, and operator.
- Smoke test critical reads, writes, jobs, and integrations.

### AFTER

- Monitor errors, latency, jobs, and data quality.
- Backfill asynchronously when data movement is large.
- Retire old paths and columns in a later release.

### STOP AND RECONSIDER

- Destructive change without tested recovery.
- Long business-hours lock or incompatible rolling release.