

## **Court and Disposition Definitions and Terms to Know**

**Acquitted - Non-conviction:** The charges against the defendant are dropped.

**Adjudicated Guilty – Conviction:** The defendant has been found guilty of the charges.

**Adjudication Withheld - Non-conviction:** The court does not give a final judgment regarding the case. The defendant is given probation, a program or community service in which they have a specified amount of time to complete. If the defendant complies, the case may be dismissed, depending on the county/state. If they do not dismiss in that particular county/state, then the disposition remains adjudication withheld and the case is closed. However, if the defendant is found in violation, the case disposition may be changed and the defendant can be found in guilt.

**Aggregate:** Accumulated amount

**Arbitration:** If agreed upon by both parties, an outside arbitrator will step in pre-trial and decide the case.

**Arbitrator:** Third party from the plaintiff and defendant who acts as judge in a pre-trial setting, and whose decision would preclude the case from proceeding to court.

**ARD Program - Non-conviction:** Stands for "Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition Program". Mostly found in the state of Pennsylvania. This program given to the defendant in place of adjudication. If the defendant completes the program, the case is closed.

**Assault B-I:** Assault to cause bodily injury.

**Bail/Bond Forfeiture - Non-conviction:** The charges against the defendant are dropped. Not enough evidence to convict.

**Burgl Habitation:** Breaking into someone's house

**Burgl:** Burglary

**Concurrent:** Sentence taking place or existing at the same time as another.

**Conditional Discharge - Non-conviction:** The defendant has no finding of guilt. The court is discharging him/her from trial on special conditions that they must abide by. If they do not abide by these conditions, the discharge may be revoked and the finding may become guilty.

**Consent Decree - Conviction:** This is found in New Mexico. It is designed as a disposition for juvenile cases in which the defendant pleads guilty and is placed on the decree/probation for six months.

**Convicted - Conviction:** The defendant has been found guilty of the charges.

**Criminal Misc:** Vandalism

**Cross Claim:** Additional claims filed among multiple defendants.

**Dangerous Drugs:** Possession/Delivery of Controlled Substance

**DBA:** Doing Business As

**Dead Docket - Non-conviction:** Often seen in Fulton, Georgia. Not enough evidence that shows the defendant is guilty or that he is innocent. So case is set aside. If not brought back up, case is closed.

**Dead Docket:** Charges dropped / no further action taken, it is usually attached to other charges that the offender plea-bargained on.

**Deadly Conduct:** Wielding a dangerous weapon, i.e. knife, gun, etc., or threatening to cause harm onto someone.

**Declined:** DA Declined to Prosecute. Not enough evidence to take to grand jury.

**Deferred Judgment - Non-conviction:** The defendant has no finding of guilt. The judgment is set-aside for a deferred amount of time and the defendant must comply with any conditions given to him/her. The case can be dismissed depending on the county/state if defendant completes all requirements.

**DIS TRCON DEV:** Disregard of a Traffic Control Device

**Discharged:** Bankruptcy was permitted and the debt was released.

**Discovery (D/S):** Period of time in which parties produce and share evidence.

**Dismissed with Prejudice:** The court has determined that the case is dismissed and can not be re-filed again.

**Dismissed without Prejudice:** The court has determined that the current iteration of the case is dismissed, however, the parties would be allowed to re-file under different terms.

**Dispositive:** Relating to or bringing about the settlement of an issue.

**Dropped - Non-conviction:** Not enough evidence to convict the defendant.

**DSMD:** Dismissed

**FIX:** Striking a highway fixture or landscape of greater than \$200.00.

**FLID UV:** Failure to Identify Fugitive- Unable to verify.

**FMFR:** Failure to Maintain Financial Responsibility.

**Fraud Remains Writing:** Intent to destroy or fraud an application of some type.

**Freetext:** Handwritten information next to the record that did not transfer over to the database. This does not affect the actual record.

**FSRA:** Failure to Stop and Render Aid

**FTA:** Failure to Appear

**Fugitive File:** The case has not been to trial. Found in Virginia. The same as Returned Unserved below.

**GORG:** Guilty of Original Charge

**Guilty - Conviction:** It has been proven that the defendant committed the crime.

**Guilty in Absentia - Conviction:** The jury has found the defendant guilty without his having appeared in court.

**Hearing:** Appearance by parties in court or chambers.

**Ignored - Non-conviction:** The case never went to trial. It was ignored by the state.

**Indec w/ child:** Indecency with a Child

**Judgment by Default:** When one party neglects to appear as requested by the court, the court can enter a judgment in favor of the appearing party.

**Larceny:** Theft

**Litigation:** The act of parties arguing a case in court.

**Misdemeanor Intervention Program - Non-conviction:** A program designated only for misdemeanor offenses in which the defendant may comply to the conditions of the program in order to avoid a conviction.

**Moot:** Not applicable to the situation.

**Motions:** Requests or actions submitted via filing to the court by a party of a case. These are not decisions, as the court has the power to accept or deny the motion.

**MTN SUPRS GTD:** Motion to Suppress Granted

**MVI:** Moving Vehicle Incident

**NDL:** No Driver's License

**No Action - Non-conviction:** The court dropped the case and did not continue with the charges.

**No bill by grand jury:** Not enough evidence to indict on charges.

**No Billed - Non-conviction:** The District Attorney never sent the case to court and it was not tried.

**No Information Filed - Non-conviction:** Mostly found in Florida. It means the case has been dropped.

**No Papered - Non-conviction:** The paperwork was never sent to the court by the District Attorney and the case was never filed. Therefore, it was never brought to trial.

**Nolle Prose - Non-conviction:** Latin for "Not Prosecuted". This means there was not enough evidence to convict the defendant. The case is dropped.

**Nolo Contendré - Conviction:** Latin for "No Contest". The defendant has pled no contest to the charges against him or her. Therefore the court finds him or her guilty.

**Non-Adjudication of Guilt - Non-conviction:** Same as adjudication withheld.

**NORG:** Not Guilty of Original Charge

**Not Guilty - Non-conviction:** A jury or judge trial finding that the defendant is innocent.

**Other - Non-conviction:** Defendant is given special provisions for one year to abide by since this is a first offense. If no further violation of the same nature, case is closed.

**Pending:** The case has not been to trial at this time. There is no disposition to report.

**Petitioner/Debtor:** Party (Individual or Business) requesting protection of bankruptcy

**Pled Guilty - Conviction:** The defendant has pled guilty to the charges against him/her and the court accepts the plea as a conviction.

**Prayer for Judgment - Non-conviction:** Deferred Prosecution, meaning state did not prosecute. Often seen in North Carolina. For example, with worthless checks it gives the defendant a chance to pay the check before being charged.

**Pre-Trial Intervention - Non-conviction:** A program the defendant is placed in before going to trial. If the defendant complies prior to trial time, the trial will not be held for the charge and the defendant is not convicted.

**Process Other - Non-conviction:** Defendant was not charged on this count due to being charged for another count.

**Prohib Sub Jail:** Possessing a prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

**Prost:** Prostitution

**PWC/Theft:** Passing Worthless Checks

**Quashed:** Dismissed

**Refused - Non-conviction:** The case never went to trial. The state refused to hear the case.

**Rejected - Non-conviction:** The case never went to trial. The state rejected the hearing of the case.

**Response:** Filed answer to the court or opposing party's last motion or brief.

**Responsible - Non-conviction:** The defendant is responsible for the payment of the fines or fees of the crime. They are not found in guilt, however, must pay what they are ordered. Often found on traffic tickets or minor violation.

**Retaliation:** Person commits this offense with the intension or knowingly harms or threatens to harm another; i.e. prospective witness or informant; to prevent or delay the service of another such as a public servant or prospective witness.

**Returned Unserved:** The case has not been to trial at this time. Found in North Carolina. A warrant, summons or paper from the district attorney's office was issued for delivery to the defendant to appear for trial; however, the defendant could not

be located. Therefore, the case is technically pending; however, the paperwork was never served.

**SEDD: or (SEC EXE DOCUMENT DEC)** Securing Execution of Document by Deception.

**Settlement:** Pre-trial agreement between the parties to terms prior to arbitration or trial.

**Shock Probation:** Placed into rehab for the crime committed. The rehab illustrates what kind of harm they have placed on the victim by having the criminal listen to stories and videos of actual victims.

**Stet Docket - Non-conviction:** Will not prosecute at this time. Eligible to be re-opened for one year if a violation is committed during that time. After the one-year period and no violations have been committed, it cannot be re-opened and the case is closed.

**Stricken Off Leave - Non-conviction:** Often seen in Illinois. Stricken off docket with the ability to reinstate at a later date if deemed case can be prosecuted. This is often because the prosecutors run out of time to prosecute.

**Summary Judgment:** Request for judge to end proceedings and rule on the case as it stands.

**Summons:** Court's formal request for the party or parties to appear.

**Terminated:** Proceedings are completed

**Tort:** Type of civil case including negligence cases as well as intentional wrongs which result in harm.

**Trustee:** Individual appointed by the court to handle negotiations with the debtor's creditors and to ensure that the debtor complies with the discharge agreement of the bankruptcy. During the proceedings, the Trustee is in charge of the debtor's finances.

**Waived - Conviction:** Mainly found in the state of North Carolina. This means the defendant has waived his/her right to trial and has pled guilty to the charges. In turn, the court accepts the plea of guilt.