

Guidance on Legal Terms *

Terms You May See on Your Report:

Acquitted – Non-conviction

The charges against the defendant are/were dropped.

Adjudicated Guilty – Conviction

The defendant has been found guilty of the charge(s).

Adjudication Withheld – Non-conviction

The court does not give a final judgment regarding the case. The defendant is given probation. If the defendant complies with the probation, the case may be dismissed. If they do not dismiss, the disposition remains adjudication withheld and the case is closed. If the defendant violates their probation, the case disposition may be changed and the defendant can be found guilty.

ARD Program – Non-conviction

Stands for “Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition Program” and is mostly found in the state of Pennsylvania. The defendant participates in this program in place of adjudication. If the defendant completes the program, the case is closed.

Bail/Bond Forfeiture – Non-conviction

The charges against the defendant are dropped.

Conditional Discharge – Non-conviction

The defendant has not been found guilty. The court is discharging them from trial on conditions they must abide by. If they do not abide by the conditions, the discharge can be revoked and they can potentially be found guilty.

Convicted – Conviction

The defendant has been found guilty.

Deferred Judgment – Non-conviction

The defendant has not been found guilty. The judgment is set aside for a deferred amount of time and the defendant must comply with any conditions ordered by the court. The case can then be dismissed (depending on local regulations) if the defendant completes all requirements.

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Dismissed with Prejudice – Non-conviction

The court has dismissed the case and it cannot be re-filed again.

Dismissed without Prejudice Non-conviction

The court has dismissed the case; however, it can be re-filed under different terms.

Dropped (DSMD) – Non-conviction

The charge has been dismissed; there is not enough evidence to convict the defendant.

GORG – Conviction

Guilty of Original Charge.

Guilty – Conviction

The defendant has been found guilty of the charge.

Guilty in Absentia – Conviction

The court has found the defendant guilty of the charge without them appearing in court.

Judgment by Default

When a party does not appear, the court can enter a judgment.

Misdemeanor Intervention Program – Non-conviction

A defendant may participate in this program in order to avoid a conviction.

No Action – Non-conviction

The court dropped the case and is not moving forward with the charges.

No Billed – Non-conviction

The District Attorney never sent the case to court; it was not tried and there is no conviction.

No Information Filed – Non-conviction

The case has been dropped.

Nolle Prose – Non-conviction

Latin for “Not Prosecuted.” There was not enough evidence to convict the defendant; the case is dropped.

Nolo Contendre – Conviction

Latin for “No Contest.” The defendant has pled no contest to the charges. Therefore the court finds them guilty.

Non-Adjudication of Guilt – Non-conviction

Same as adjudication withheld.

NORG – Non-conviction

Not Guilty of Original Charge.

Pending

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

Pled Guilty – Conviction

The defendant has pled guilty to the charge(s) and the court has accepted the plea as a conviction.

Prayer for Judgment – Non-conviction

Deferred Prosecution – the court did not prosecute.

Pre-Trial Diversion/Intervention – Non-conviction

A program the defendant is placed in before trial. If the defendant complies, the trial will not be held and the defendant is not convicted.

Probation Before Judgment – Non-conviction

Allows a defendant to avoid a conviction if they successfully complete the terms of probation, even if they initially pled guilty or were found guilty.

Process Other – Non-conviction

Defendant was not charged on this count due to being charged for another count.

Quashed/QUASHAL – Non-conviction

Dismissed

Responsible – Non-conviction

The defendant is responsible for the payment of fines or fees. They are not found guilty though.

STET – Non-conviction

Not prosecuting at this time. The case may be reopened if another violation is committed during a one-year period. If no additional violations are committed, the case is closed.

Stricken Off Leave – Non-conviction

Stricken off docket with the ability to reinstate at a later date if the case can later be prosecuted.

Suspended Execution of Sentence – Conviction

A judge sentences a convicted defendant to a period of imprisonment, but then suspends the execution of the sentence.

Time lapsed prelim. forwarded to grand jury – Non-conviction

A preliminary hearing is completed and evidence is forwarded to a grand jury meaning the case is moving toward a formal charge. If the grand jury finds probable cause, it will issue an indictment, formally charging the individual with a crime. This indictment marks the case's progression toward a trial.

Waived - Conviction

The defendant has waived their right to trial and has pled guilty to the charges. The court accepts the plea.