

Recommendations

Due to the size of our dockets and time constraints, plea bargains are a common necessity. Defense attorneys can personally negotiate recommendations in court on the scheduled court date/time or during the in-office attorney recommendation hour (Monday-Friday between 2 and 3 p.m.). The innumerable variations of fact situations in our cases, make it impossible to have a set rule for each and every situation, but you may follow the general "Dispositions & Amendments Guideline" for ideas. The attorney must evaluate each case on its merits and apply common sense to any plea bargain and recommendation.

However, the following are general rules which are usually not deviated from without the consent of the Attorney Manager:

1. Our office rarely recommends a Suspended Imposition of Sentence on any charge. Such a recommendation normally is made by the Probation Office after a pre-sentence investigation is conducted.
2. Our office never amends a traffic violation to a non-traffic violation and vice versa.
3. Resisting arrest & Interfering with a Police Officer charges cannot be amended without first obtaining a signed release from defendant (See Sample).
4. Our office never amends a DUI charge. (not likely to see any DUI charges)
5. Minor moving traffic violations may be amended to non-moving violations after considering the factors set forth in the "Dispositions & Amendments Guideline" prepared by our office.
6. Violations involving accidents may be amended only where the defendant or his insurance company has paid for the damages sustained. (Defendant needs to provide proof of restitution).
7. NEVER AMEND ANY CHARGE OR MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATION IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT YOUR ACTION.

Amending Traffic Tickets by Mail/Online (www.lawsourcelive.com)

All requests for recommendations should be accompanied by:

- A readable copy of the traffic ticket(s),
- A copy of the driving record (for Missouri drivers), and
- A self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The correspondence must be postmarked a least 14 days prior to the court. If a case is in warrant status, it is the responsibility of the defense attorney to cancel the warrant and get a new date. NO RECOMMENDATION WILL BE GIVEN ON CASES IN WARRANT STATUS. DUI's, leaving the Scene's and non-traffic cases cannot be handled by mail/online. A court appearance is required.