

BUTLER COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

VETERANS COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
 :
VS. : NO. _____
 :
 :
 _____ :

VETERANS COURT GUILTY PLEA COLLOQUY

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form to be used only in the Butler Veterans Court.
 2. The Court will explain the elements of the crime(s) to which you are pleading guilty and the possible range of sentences and fines.
 3. Complete the answer to every question.
 4. Be sure to sign and date the form on page 3.
- _____

You are present before this Court because you and your lawyer have stated that you wish to plead guilty to some or all of the criminal offenses with which you have been charged.

1. Can you read, write, speak and understand the English language? _____
2. Are you in any way under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescription medications? _____
3. Do you understand that you are here today to enter a plea of guilty to all of the criminal charges against you? _____
4. Do you understand that pleading guilty is a condition of participation in Veterans Court?

5. Do you understand that if you are terminated from the Veterans Court program, you will NOT be permitted to withdraw your guilty plea, unless that termination is based on facts which should have been known to the prosecutor prior to admission, or upon Constitutional grounds? _____

6. Do you understand that if it becomes necessary to sentence you pursuant to your guilty plea, then the sentencing may NOT occur within the ninety (90) days as proscribed by Pa. Rule of Criminal Procedure 704? _____ I understand and agree to waive the ninety (90) day limitation? _____
7. Do you understand that should it become necessary to sentence you, it is the Veterans Court judge who will determine the sentence (in other words, this is an open plea)? _____
8. Do you know that, for a misdemeanor or felony the Veterans Court may impose a sentence in accordance with the sentencing guidelines which place a suggested length of sentence for the type of crime and increase the length of that sentence if you had been previously convicted of other crimes, either as a juvenile or an adult, and that the maximum sentence or sentences of confinement and/or fines applicable to the crimes covered by this guilty plea are as follows:

Charge	Max. Term of Confinement	Max. Fine

9. Do you understand that if you are being sentenced on more than one count, the sentences could be consecutive to each other? _____
10. Do you understand that you have a right to a trial by jury and that by pleading guilty you are giving up that right? _____
11. Do you understand that a jury would consist of twelve (12) citizens from Butler County, and that you and your attorney would participate in the selection of the jury and that in order to convict you, all twelve members of the jury must agree that you are guilty? _____
12. Do you understand that you are presumed innocent until proven guilty by the Commonwealth beyond a reasonable doubt? _____
13. Do you understand that the Commonwealth must prove each element of each crime beyond a reasonable doubt? _____
14. Do you understand that if the judge declines to accept your guilty plea, you will be permitted to withdraw it and you will be in the same position as if this plea had not taken place? _____

15. Do you understand the terms and conditions of Veterans Court? _____
16. Is it your decision to plead guilty? _____
17. Have you been threatened or forced to plead guilty? _____
18. Have any promises been made to you to enter a plea of guilty, other than the terms of the Veterans Court program as agreed to by you in the Participant Contract? _____
19. Do you understand that a guilty plea has the same effect as a conviction by a jury or a judge hearing the case without a jury? _____

I am voluntarily pleading guilty and signing the Veterans Court Guilty Plea Colloquy.

Defendant

Date

I have reviewed this Veterans Court Guilty Plea Colloquy with my client.

Attorney for Defendant