

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
CRIMINAL DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
v. : Case No. _____
_____ :
_____ :

GUILTY PLEA COLLOQUY

You are appearing before this Court because you and/or your attorney have stated that you wish to plead guilty to some or all of the criminal offenses with which you have been charged. Please answer fully all of the questions on this document. Most of the questions are designed to be answered “Yes” or “No”. However, where general information is requested, please answer fully. If you do not understand any question asked of you, you should leave it blank, and you should also inform your attorney so that they can explain it to you fully. After you have finished reading this and have filled it out, initial each page at the bottom and sign it on the last page on the line above “Defendant”, but only if you have read it and fully understand it.

(1) What is your full name? _____

(2) Are you known by any other name or alias? Yes ___ No ___. If the answer is “Yes”, state the other name(s) or alias(es). _____

(3) What is your current mailing address? _____

(4) How old are you today? _____ Date of Birth: _____

(5) What is the highest grade you completed in school? _____

(6) Can you read, write and understand the English Language? _____

(7) Have you taken any drugs or alcohol in the last 24 hours? _____

(8) Have you ever been a patient in a mental health hospital, or have you ever been treated for a mental illness? _____

a. If the answer is “Yes”, please explain the details.

(9) Are you now being treated for a mental illness? _____

a. If the answer is “Yes”, please explain the details.

- b. If you are presently being treated for a mental illness, do you still feel that you have sufficient mental capacity to understand what you are doing today and to understand these questions and answer them correctly? _____
- (10) Do you understand that you are here today to enter a plea of guilty to some or all of the criminal charges filed against you? _____
- (11) Do you understand that you have a right to trial by a jury? _____
- (12) Do you understand that the right to trial by a jury means that a jury would be randomly selected from the voter registration list of Beaver County and a cross-section of the citizens of Beaver County? _____
- (13) Do you understand that you would be able to participate, with your attorney, in the selection of a jury? _____
- (14) Do you understand that the jury has to agree unanimously on your guilt before you can be convicted of the crime(s) with which you are charged? _____
- (15) You are presumed innocent until found guilty. Do you understand that at a trial, the Commonwealth must prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt before you can be convicted of the crime(s) charged? _____
- (16) Do you understand that at a trial, the Commonwealth has the burden of proof, which means that you can remain silent and nothing can be held against you for choosing not to testify in your own defense? _____
- (17) Do you understand that at a trial, you have a right to confront and cross-examine all Commonwealth witnesses in your case who are necessary to prove your guilt and that by pleading guilty, you are waiving that right of confrontation and cross-examination? _____
- (18) Do you understand that if you were convicted after a trial, you could appeal the verdict to a higher court, raising any errors that were committed in the trial court, and that this could result in your being awarded a new trial or dismissal of the charge(s)? _____
- (19) Do you understand that you could challenge whether or not the Commonwealth had presented enough evidence at a trial to prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt? _____
- (20) Do you understand that by pleading guilty, you are giving up your right to trial by a jury and those rights related to that trial? _____
- (21) Do you understand that by pleading guilty, you are giving up your right to present any pre-trial motions for consideration to this or a higher court in the event those motions were denied?

- (22) Are you aware that the Court is not bound by the terms of any plea agreement entered into between you, your attorney and the attorney for the Commonwealth, until the Court accepts such plea agreement? _____

(23) If you enter a guilty plea and it is accepted by the Court, you still have a right to appeal your conviction to a higher court. The appeal for a guilty plea is limited, however, to four (4) grounds. They are: (1) that your guilty plea was not knowing, intelligent and voluntary; (2) that the attorney representing you and advising you to enter a plea of guilty did not properly do so; (3) that the Court did not have jurisdiction to accept your plea (in other words, the crime(s) for which you are pleading guilty did not occur in Beaver County); and (4) that the Court's sentence is unlawful. Do you understand these four (4) reasons you could appeal and what they mean?

(24) In order to appeal your conviction of a plea of guilty, you should, within ten (10) days from the date you are sentenced, file a written motion to withdraw your guilty plea. You must file a Notice of Appeal to the Superior Court within thirty (30) days after your sentence or after your motion to withdraw your guilty plea is denied, whichever is later. If you cannot afford an attorney to represent you and/or you are contending that the attorney who represented you at your guilty plea was incompetent, you have the right to have another attorney appointed for you to raise those four (4) reasons or claims. If you do not file your Notice of Appeal within thirty (30) days of your sentence or denial of your motion to withdraw your guilty plea, you give up your right ever to complain again of any of those four (4) reasons or claims, including incompetent counsel. Do you understand the meaning of the various appeal rights that have just been explained to you? _____

(25) Is the offense to which you are pleading a crime of domestic violence, as defined by 18 Pa.C.S. §6105(c)(9)? _____

a. If so, do you understand that you will be required to identify and then ordered to relinquish any and all firearms that you own or possess, as well as any firearms license you may have? _____

(26) Are you aware of the maximum sentence and/or fine that can be imposed for the offense(s) to which you are pleading? _____

(27) Are you aware of any mandatory minimum sentence and/or fine that can be imposed for the offense(s) to which you are pleading? _____

(28) Are you aware that if you are pleading guilty to and will be sentenced on more than one offense or count, the sentences imposed can be run consecutively, that is, one after the other?

(29) Are you aware that the total cumulative maximum sentence and fine that can be imposed is the total of each of the individual offenses for which you are being sentenced? _____

(30) Do you understand the nature of the charge(s) to which you are pleading guilty? _____

(31) Has your attorney explained to you the elements of the criminal offense(s) to which you are pleading guilty? _____

(32) Do you admit to committing the crime(s) and to the legal elements explained to you which make up that crime(s) to which you are pleading guilty? _____

- (33) Has anybody forced you to enter this guilty plea and/or plea agreement? _____
- (34) Are you doing this of your own free will? _____
- (35) Have any threats been made to you to enter a plea of guilty? _____
- (36) Have any promises been made to you to enter a plea of guilty other than any plea agreement that has been negotiated for you by yourself and/or your attorney? _____
- (37) Do you understand that when you plead guilty and the plea is accepted by the Court, all that remains is for the Court to sentence you on the charge(s) to which you have plead guilty?

- (38) Do you understand that you might be sentenced by any of the Judges of this Court? _____
- a. Do you have any objection to that? _____
- (39) Do you understand that if you change your mind about your plea of guilty, you have to ask the Court for permission to withdraw your plea? _____
- (40) Do you further understand that you can make a request to withdraw your plea any time after today, but no later than ten (10) days after you are sentenced? _____
- (41) You have a right to have witnesses present at a sentence hearing to testify against you. Are you willing to give up that right and have the attorney for the Commonwealth summarize their case against you? _____
- (42) Are you willing to give up your right to a pre-sentence investigation report and agree to be sentenced immediately after you enter your plea? _____
- (43) Are you now on probation or parole? _____
- a. If you are on probation or parole, do you realize that your plea of guilty will mean a violation of that probation or parole and that you can be sentenced to prison as a result of that violation caused by your guilty plea today? _____
- (44) Have you had ample opportunity to consult with your attorney before deciding that you would enter your plea of guilty? _____
- (45) Are you satisfied with the representation of your attorney? _____
- (46) Do you understand that the decision to enter a plea of guilty is yours and yours alone, and that no one can force you to enter a guilty plea? _____
- (47) Do you understand that you do not have to enter a plea of guilty and give up your rights as previously explained to you in this document? _____

(48) Has your attorney, or some other member of his/her staff, reviewed this document with you, explained the terms contained in this document, and answered any questions you had to your satisfaction? _____

I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing document in its entirety, and I understand its full meaning and that my answers to the questions are truthful. I also affirm that I am still, nevertheless, willing to enter a plea of guilty to the offense(s) specified. I further affirm that my signature and my initials on this document are true and correct and that I have signed the same in the presence of my attorney.

Date

Defendant

I acknowledge that the Defendant has read the foregoing Guilty Plea Colloquy and has signed the same in my presence; that I have explained the contents and meaning of this document to the Defendant and that, so far as I am able to determine, the Defendant comprehends and understands what is set forth in this document and understands what his/her rights and responsibilities are by entering a plea of guilty.

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Date

Counsel for the Defendant