



Update to North Carolina (NC) Criminal Disposition Reporting

As part of our ongoing commitment to accuracy and compliance, effective January 01, 2026, NC Criminal record dispositions will be reported as they appear on the source record. As a result, some disposition language may look more detailed than what you may be accustomed to seeing. This change is intended to reflect the official court record more precisely and to ensure consistency with source documentation.

While the format and wording may look slightly different, the information will remain clear. Our team is committed to guiding you through this update and is available to assist with interpretation or questions as they arise.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your account or compliance contact if you would like additional clarification.

See next page for NC Criminal Disposition Reference Guide.



North Carolina Criminal Disposition Reference Guide

This guide provides plain-English explanations of common North Carolina court dispositions. It is intended for client education only and does not constitute legal advice.

Conviction Dispositions

DISTRICT GUILTY – JUDGE: Defendant was found guilty in district court by a judge.

DISTRICT GUILTY TO LESSER – JUDGE: Defendant was found guilty of a reduced charge in district court by a judge.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBLE – JUDGE: Defendant was found responsible (commonly used in traffic or infraction matters).

DISTRICT RESPONSIBLE TO LESSER – JUDGE: Defendant was found responsible for a reduced offense.

GUILTY – JURY: Defendant was convicted by a jury verdict.

GUILTY – WAIVER BY CLERK: Defendant waived court appearance and accepted guilt administratively through the clerk.

GUILTY – WAIVER BY MAGISTRATE: Defendant accepted guilt through a magistrate, often in minor criminal or traffic matters.

GUILTY/RESPONSIBLE – WAIVER BY CLERK: Defendant waived appearance and accepted guilt or responsibility administratively.

RESPONSIBLE – WAIVER BY CLERK: Defendant accepted responsibility without appearing in court.

RESPONSIBLE – WAIVER BY MAGISTRATE: Defendant accepted responsibility through a magistrate.

SUPERIOR GUILTY – JUDGE: Defendant was found guilty in a superior court by a judge.

SUPERIOR GUILTY TO LESSER – JUDGE: Defendant was found guilty of a reduced charge in superior court by a judge.

SUPERIOR RESPONSIBLE – JUDGE: Defendant was found responsible in superior court by a judge.

Non-Conviction Dispositions

DISTRICT DEFERRED PROCEEDING/PROSECUTION DISMISSAL: Case was dismissed after deferral period and the defendant met court-ordered conditions (e.g., program completion) in district court.

DISTRICT DISMISSED BY THE COURT – NO PLEA AGREEMENT: Case dismissed by the judge without any plea agreement in district court.

DISTRICT DISMISSED BY THE COURT – PER PLEA AGREEMENT: Case dismissed as part of a negotiated plea agreement in district court.

DISTRICT NEVER TO BE SERVED: Charges were filed but never served on the defendant.



DISTRICT NOT GUILTY – JUDGE: Judge found the defendant not guilty.

DISTRICT NOT RESPONSIBLE – JUDGE: Judge found the defendant not responsible (typically in traffic or infraction cases).

NO PROBABLE CAUSE FOUND: Court determined insufficient evidence existed to move the case forward.

NO TRUE BILL RETURNED: Grand jury declined to indict the defendant.

NOT GUILTY – JURY: Jury found the defendant not guilty.

SUPERIOR DEFERRED PROCEEDING/PROSECUTION DISMISSAL: Case was dismissed after deferral period and the defendant met court-ordered conditions (e.g., program completion) in superior court.

SUPERIOR DISMISSED BY THE COURT – NO PLEA AGREEMENT: Case dismissed by the judge without any plea agreement in superior court.

SUPERIOR DISMISSED BY THE COURT – PER PLEA AGREEMENT: Case dismissed as part of a negotiated plea agreement in superior court.

SUPERIOR NEVER TO BE SERVED: Superior court charges were never formally served on the defendant.

VD-DISTRICT DISMISSALS W/O LEAVE BY DA – NO PLEA AGREEMENT: District court case dismissed by the prosecutor without permission to refile (no plea agreement).

VD-DISTRICT DISMISSALS W/O LEAVE BY DA – PER PLEA AGREEMENT: District court case dismissed by the prosecutor without permission to refile as part of a plea agreement.

VD-SUPERIOR DISMISSALS W/O LEAVE BY DA – NO PLEA AGREEMENT: Superior court case dismissed by the prosecutor without permission to refile (no plea agreement).

VD-SUPERIOR DISMISSALS W/O LEAVE BY DA – PER PLEA AGREEMENT: Superior court case dismissed by the prosecutor without permission to refile as part of a plea agreement.

VL-DISTRICT DISMISSALS WITH LEAVE BY DA: District court case dismissed by the prosecutor with leave to refile later.

VL-SUPERIOR DISMISSALS WITH LEAVE BY DA: Superior court case dismissed by the prosecutor with leave to refile later.

Other / Procedural Dispositions

APPEAL TO SUPERIOR COURT: Case was appealed from district court to superior court for a new hearing.

DIRECT CONTEMPT: Court imposed immediate sanctions for misconduct occurring in the courtroom.

DISTRICT JUDGMENT ARRESTED – JUDGE: Judge halted entry of judgment due to a legal defect in the conviction.

DISTRICT PROCESS/PROBATION OTHER: Administrative or procedural probation-related action that is not a revocation in district court.



DISTRICT PROCESS/PROBATION REVOCATION BY JUDGE: A judge determined the defendant violated probation and imposed penalties or activated a sentence in district court.

DISTRICT SUPERSEDING PROCESS OR SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT: Original charge was replaced by a new charge or indictment in district court.

DISTRICT WAIVER OF EXTRADITION HEARING: Defendant waived the right to contest extradition to another jurisdiction in district court.

SUPERIOR CHANGE OF VENUE (TO ANOTHER COUNTY): Case was transferred to a different county for trial or proceedings.

SUPERIOR JUDGMENT ARRESTED – JUDGE: Superior court judge halted entry of judgment due to a legal issue.

SUPERIOR PROCESS/PROBATION OTHER: Non-revocation probation or procedural action in superior court.

SUPERIOR PROCESS/PROBATION REVOCATION BY JUDGE: A superior court judge revoked probation and imposed penalties or activated a sentence.

SUPERIOR SUPERSEDING PROCESS OR SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT: Original superior court charges were replaced with new charges.

VIOLATED PROBATION BY ADMISSION: Defendant admitted to violating probation conditions; court-imposed consequences.

WAIVER OF PROBABLE CAUSE: Defendant waived the right to a probable cause hearing.