

## WHAT IS A “CONVICTION”

**YES** – These should be included in Section 3 of a Pardon Application

“**Guilty**” - found guilty after a trial

“**Guilty plea**” – defendant admitted guilt in a plea bargain in exchange for a reduced sentence or dismissal of other charges

“**Nolo Contendere**” – a guilty plea, meaning, “I don’t contest it”.

-----

**NO**– These should NOT be included in Section 3 of a Pardon Application. But unless they are expunged (erased) by a court, **the Board of Pardons will see them and can ask questions about them at your Public Hearing.** If you were arrested and not convicted of anything in that arrest, you might consider explaining what happened in Section 4 (Personal Statement).

“**Non Prossed**” or “**Nolle Pros**” – meaning the DA did “not prosecute” the charge

“**Withdrawn**” - meaning the DA actually told the judge it was not going to try to prove the charge --both mean that the DA decided not to “press” the charge to a verdict

“**Dismissed – LOP**” - dismissed for Lack Of Proof

“**Dismissed -LOE**” – dismissed for Lack Of Evidence

“**Demurrer Sustained**” – a ruling by the judge granting objections on basis of lack of evidence -- these mean that the DA did prosecute the charge, but the judge dismissed it “summarily” (quickly) because the judge thought there was not enough evidence to require a trial

“**Charge Changed**”

“**Replaced by Information**” (an “information” is how a charge gets applied to a defendant)

--these are administrative words that mean the DA decided not to pursue the specific charge the way it was originally stated, but changed or replaced it in some way

“**ARD**” – Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition

“**Probation WOV**” – Probation Without Verdict

--these are NOT a finding of guilt, but are ways of warning a defendant to be good for some stated period of time or else the Judge will render a verdict of guilty

“**Held for Court**” – you will see this in the MC (Municipal Court) or DJ (District Justice) docket – it means the case was transferred to the Common Pleas (CP) for trial

“**Disposed at Lower Court**” – you will see this in the CP (Common Pleas) docket; there should be something in the MC or DJ docket to explain what happened there (how it was “disposed”)

“**Remanded to Lower Court**” – meaning, the CP judge “sent back” the charge to the MC or DJ judge

