



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SENTENCING COMMISSION
Quick Reference Guide – Updated May 2025

OFFENSES WITH MANDATORY MINIMUMS (MM) (Guidelines Table 6)	
Offense of Conviction	MM
First Degree Murder of a Police Officer	LWOR
First Degree Murder	30 years
Armed Carjacking	15 years
Carjacking	7 years
COV w/a Firearm – 1 st Offense	5 years
Dangerous Crimes w/a Firearm – 1 st Offense	5 years
COV w/a Firearm – 2 nd + Offense	10 years
Dangerous Crimes While Armed with a Firearm – 2 nd + Offense	10 years
Poss. of a Firearm During a COV or Dangerous Crime	5 years
Unlawful Poss. of a Firearm by a Person with a Conviction for a COV	3 years
Unlawful Poss. of a Firearm by a Person with a Conviction > 1 Year	1 year
Theft I or II if 2+ Theft Convictions	1 year
Armor Piercing Ammunition	1 year

Note: Unless an exception applies, a sentence cannot be lower than the mandatory minimum regardless of the Guidelines range. See § 6.2.

SCORING PRIOR CONV. & JUVENILE ADJ. (Guidelines Table 2)			
OSG	<i>Adult Conv.</i>	<i>Juvenile Adj.</i>	<i>Revived Adult Conv.</i>
M1 – M5	3	1.5	3
M6 – M7	2	1	1
M8 – M9	1	0.5	0.5
D1	2	1	1
D2 – D3	1	0.5	0.5
D4	0.75	0.5	0.25
Misd.	0.25	0	N/A
Offenses with a maximum penalty of less than 90 days are not scored.			

Common Aggravating Departure Factors:

(A1) Deliberate cruelty to a victim or gratuitous violence inflicted upon a victim in a manner substantially beyond that normally associated with this offense.

(A3) Victim sustained a “devastating injury.”

(A11) Substantial and compelling basis comparable in gravity to those listed which aggravates substantially the seriousness of the offense or the def.’s culpability.

Common Mitigating Departure Factors:

(M2) Before detection in a crime other than a Crime of Violence (COV), the def. compensated or made a good faith effort to compensate.

(M5) The def., with no apparent predisposition to do so, was induced by others to participate in the crime.

(M6) The def.’s capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of conduct or to conform their conduct to the requirements of law was impaired significantly, though not sufficiently to constitute a complete defense.

(M7) Def. provided substantial assistance to police.

(M9) Consecutive/concurrent sentencing policy results in a Guidelines sentence so excessive in relation to the seriousness of the offense and history of the def. that imposition would result in manifest injustice.

(M11) Substantial and compelling basis comparable in gravity to those listed which substantially mitigates the seriousness of the offense or the def.’s culpability.

Maximum Fine Amounts - Unless Otherwise Noted D.C. Code § 22-3571.01 (Guidelines Table E-1)	
Maximum Punishment	Maximum Fine
10 days or less	\$100
10-30 days (1 month)	\$250
31-90 days (1-3 months)	\$500
91-180 days (4-6 months)	\$1,000
181 days -1 year (7-12 months)	\$2,500
>1 year - 5 years	\$12,500
> 5 years - 10 years	\$25,000
>10 years - 15 years	\$37,500
> 15 years - 20 years	\$50,000
> 20 years - 30 years	\$75,000
> 30 years	\$125,000
Resulted in Death	\$250,000

Contacting the Commission





Supervised Release:

Under D.C. Code § 24-403.01(b), the following terms of supervised release must be given. (Note, however, that supervised release should be suspended if any portion of the sentence is suspended).

Note: *If the defendant is sentenced for an offense for which sex registration is required, the court may impose a longer term of supervised release of not more than ten years unless the defendant is required to register for life, in which case the supervised release may not exceed a life term.*

Note: *Supervised release does not apply to misdemeanors.*

Term of Supervised Release (Guidelines Table D-1)		
Term of Incarceration	Statutory Maximum	Supervised Release Term
More than 1 Year	25 Years or More	5 Years
More than 1 Year	More than 1 Year, but Less than 25 Years	3 Years
1 Year or Less	25 Years or More	1 Day to 5 Years
1 Year or Less	More than 1 Year, but Less than 25 Years	1 Day to 3 Years

Backup Time:

“Backup time” is the maximum additional penalty that may be applied following revocation of a defendant’s supervised release. Pursuant to D.C. Code §§ 24-403.01(b)(7) and (b-1) the following periods of “back up time” apply if a defendant’s Supervised Release is revoked.

Note: *Except for Class A and life term felonies, the “backup time” must be subtracted from the statutory maximum sentence that can be imposed.*

Probation:

A term of probation under D.C. Code § 16-710, along with any extension thereof, may not exceed five years. The Guidelines apply to a sentence following revocation of probation, however, the term of probation imposed is not covered by the Guidelines.

Required Backup Time (Guidelines Table D-2)		
Statutory Maximum	Backup Time	Maximum
Life	Not More than 5 Years	Life
Class A Felony	Not More than 5 Years	Statutory Maximum
25 Years or More	Not More than 3 Years	Statutory Maximum Minus 3 Years
5 Years or More, Less than 25 Years	Not More than 2 Years	Statutory Maximum Minus 2 Years
Less than 5 Years	Not More than 1 Year	Statutory Maximum Minus 1 Year

GUIDELINES COMPLIANT SENTENCE OPTIONS

Note: *GRSR = Guidelines Recommended Sentencing Range*

Sentence Type	Available In	Incarceration	Time Suspended	Sup. Release	Probation
Prison § 6.1.1	All Boxes	Within the GRSR	None	Impose	None
Long Split § 6.1.2	All Boxes	Within the GRSR	Suspend part of the sentence – must be incarcerated (term not suspended) for no less than the bottom of the GRSR	Impose and suspend all	Impose
Short Split § 6.1.3	Dark Blue and Light Blue	Within the GRSR	Suspend all but 6 months or less (but not all)	Impose and suspend all	Impose
Probation § 6.1.4	Light Blue	Within the GRSR	Suspend all	Impose and suspend all	Impose

Contacting the Commission





Is a Consecutive or Concurrent Sentence Required by the Guidelines

Offense Type	Victim(s)	Event(s)	Guidelines Rule
Multiple COVs	Single	Single	Judicial Discretion
Multiple COVs	Single	Multiple	Consecutive Sentences
Multiple COVs	Multiple	Single	Consecutive Sentences
Multiple COVs	Multiple	Multiple	Consecutive Sentences
Multiple non-COVs		Single	Concurrent Sentences
Multiple non-COVs		Multiple	Judicial Discretion

For more information on Consecutive and Concurrent sentences see Chapter 7.

Note: More than one rule in this chapter may apply simultaneously.

Important Sentencing Guidelines Notes

- The court shall use the Guidelines Manual in effect on the date of plea or verdict.
- The Guidelines are voluntary. However, judges must give a legal sentence. A judge may always elect not to follow the Guidelines. If you elect not to follow the Guidelines, please state your reasons on the record and note them on the sentencing screen so that the information can be maintained by the Commission.
- The offense of conviction, not the alleged offense conduct, controls the Offense Severity Group (OSG).
- Offenses are part of a single event if they were committed at the same time and place or have the same nucleus of facts. See §§ 1.3.7 and 10.15. This is a factual determination initially made by CSOSA and ultimately determined by the court. Only the most severe conviction arising out of a single event is scored for prior convictions. § 3.1.
- For initial scoring purposes, CSOSA compares the name and statutory elements of a prior out-of-District (OOD) offense, not the underlying conduct, with the current D.C. offense that most closely matches the OOD offense. See § 5.6(a).
- While an offense may not be counted or scored for Criminal History Score (CHS) purposes, the court may still consider it when determining where a defendant should be sentenced within the applicable box.
- The party challenging the initial scoring bears the burden. See §§ 3.9 and 5.5 for more information on challenging the CHS.
- Please record departures from the Guidelines, changes to a defendant's CHS, or any other relevant information on the sentencing screen and/or in a docket entry.

DRUG GRID

April 2025

Black = Sentencing Ranges

Listed in Months

Purple = Sentencing Ranges Listed in Years

			Criminal History Score				
CH Points	OSG	Most Common Offenses	0 to 0.5 A	0.75 to 1.75 B	2 to 3.75 C	4 to 5.75 D	6 + E
2 Points*	1	Distribution w/a (Any Drug) PWID w/a (Any Drug)	30 – 72 2Y 6M – 6Y	36 – 78 3Y – 6Y 6M	42 – 84 3Y 6M – 7Y	48 – 90 4Y – 7Y 6M	54 + 4Y 6M+
			1 Point*	2	Distribution or PWID (Schedule I or II Narcotic/Abusive Drugs)	12 – 30 1Y – 2Y 6M	16 – 36 1Y 4M – 3Y
3	Distribution or PWID (Except Schedule I or II Narcotic/Abusive Drugs) Attempt Distribution or Attempt PWID (Schedule I or II Narcotic/Abusive Drugs) Possession of Liquid PCP	6 – 18 6M – 1Y 6M				10 – 24 10M – 2Y	14 – 30 1Y 2M – 2Y 6M
		0.75 Points*	4	Attempt Distribution or Attempt PWID (Except Schedule I or II Narcotic/Abusive drugs) Attempt Possession of Liquid PCP	3 – 12 3M – 1Y	5 – 16 5M – 1Y 4M	7 – 20 7M – 1Y 8M
*Criminal History Points for prior convictions in these groups.							
White/unshaded boxes – prison or long split only.							
Dark-shaded boxes – prison, long split, or short split permissible.							
Light-shaded boxes – prison, long split, short split, or probation permissible.							

Contacting the Commission





MAIN GRID

April 2025

Black = Sentencing Ranges Listed in Months

Purple = Sentencing Ranges Listed in Years

CH Points	OSG	Most Common Offenses	Criminal History Score				
			0 to 0.5 A	0.75 to 1.75 B	2 to 3.75 C	4 to 5.75 D	6 + E
3 Points*	1	1st Degree Murder w/a 1st Degree Murder	360 – 720 30Y – 60Y	360 – 720 30Y – 60Y	360 – 720 30Y – 60Y	360 – 720 30Y – 60Y	360 + 30Y +
	2	2nd Degree Murder w/a 2nd Degree Murder 1st Degree Sex Abuse w/a 1st Degree Sex Abuse	144 – 288 12Y – 24Y	156 – 300 13Y – 25Y	168 – 312 14Y – 26Y	180 – 324 15Y – 27Y	192 + 16Y+
	3	Voluntary Manslaughter w/a 1st Degree Child Sex Abuse Carjacking w/ Armed Assault With Intent to Kill w/a Burglary I w/ Armed	90 – 180 7Y 6M – 15Y	102 – 192 8Y 6M – 16Y	114 – 204 9Y 6M – 17Y	126 – 216 10Y 6M – 18Y	138 + 11Y 6M+
	4	Aggravated Assault w/a Voluntary Manslaughter	48 – 120 4Y – 10Y	60 – 132 5Y – 11Y	72 – 144 6Y – 12Y	84 – 156 7Y – 13Y	96 + 8Y+
	5	PFCOV Robbery w/a Burglary I Obstruction of Justice Assault With Intent to Kill	36 – 84 3Y – 7Y	48 – 96 4Y – 8Y	60 – 108 5Y – 9Y	72 – 120 6Y – 10Y	84 + 7Y+
2 Points*	6	ADW Robbery Aggravated Assault 2nd Degree Child Sex Abuse Assault with Intent to Rob	18 – 60 1Y 6M – 5Y	24 – 66 2Y – 5Y 6M	30 – 72 2Y 6M – 6Y	36 – 78 3Y – 6Y 6M	42 + 3Y 6M+
	7	Burglary II 3rd Degree Sex Abuse FIP-3 Negligent Homicide Attempt 2nd Degree Sex Abuse	12 – 36 1Y – 3Y	18 – 42 1Y 6M – 3Y 6M	24 – 48 2Y – 4Y	30 – 54 2Y 6M – 4Y 6M	36 + 3Y+
1 Point*	8	Carrying a Pistol (CPWL) UUJ Attempt Robbery/Burglary FIP-1 1st Degree Theft Assault w/ Sig. Bodily Injury	6 – 24 6M – 2Y	10 – 28 10M – 2Y 4M	14 – 32 1Y 2M – 2Y 8M	18 – 36 1Y 6M – 3Y	22 + 1Y 10M+
	9	Escape/Prison Breach BRA Receiving Stolen Property Forgery/Uttering Fraud	1 – 12 1M – 1Y	3 – 16 3M – 1Y 4M	5 – 20 5M – 1Y 8M	7 – 24 7M – 2Y	9 + 9M+
*Criminal History Points for prior convictions in these groups.							
White/unshaded boxes – Prison or Long Split only.							
Dark-shaded boxes – Prison, Long Split, or Short Split permissible.							
Light-shaded boxes – Prison, Long Split, Short Split, or Probation permissible.							

Contacting the Commission

