

Criminal Convictions and Dismissals in Illinois

What is a conviction and what isn't?

What sentences are considered convictions in Illinois?

CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE

This is a criminal sentence that doesn't involve incarceration or supervision by a probation officer but where the court will require you to meet certain conditions. This can result in incarceration if the conditions of release are violated.

PROBATION

This is a criminal sentence that doesn't involve incarceration but where you are under the periodic supervision of a probation officer. This can result in incarceration if the conditions of release are violated.

PAROLE

This is part of a criminal sentence that involves release after a period of incarceration where you are then subject to periodic supervision by a parole officer. This can result in re-incarceration if the conditions of release are violated.

TIME CONSIDERED SERVED

The time spent in jail awaiting your criminal proceedings can be considered part of your criminal sentence.

PUBLIC OR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service does not always indicate you have been convicted of a crime but can be part of a criminal sentence upon conviction. Oftentimes, community service requires you to work for free for a non-profit organization or a public body like the government that will report back to the court on your hours and progress.

PRISON OR JAIL TIME

This is part of a criminal sentence that subjects you to incarceration in a prison or jail depending on what crime you were convicted of. Generally, after a period of incarceration, you will be released on parole.

FINES for MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

Sometimes the sentence for a criminal violation is payment of a fine. If you cannot pay the fine, you may be subjected to incarceration.

What isn't a conviction in Illinois?

SUPERVISION (if completed satisfactorily)

To get supervision, you must plead guilty to the crime you are being charged with but will be released and subjected to any terms the court may place on you. Most commonly for a first offense, people are given a few months of supervision where the key term is to have no further criminal violations. If supervision is completed satisfactorily, the court will discharge you and enter a judgment dismissing the charges without you having to return to court. If supervision is not completed satisfactorily, it can result in a conviction.

710-1410 PROBATION

A type of probation given to first time drug offenders. You are placed in probation for up to two years during which time the proceedings are deferred. There are conditions of this probation which include periodic drug testing, community service, and no further criminal violations. If you complete 710-1410 probation satisfactorily the charges will be dismissed.

RELEASE WITHOUT CHARGING

You are released after arrest without ever being charged with a criminal violation.

DISMISSALS AND ACQUITTALS, including:

A Finding of Not Guilty, Stricken off With Leave to Reinstate (SOL) Note: The state *can* reinstate the case within 120-160 days if your case is SOL, Non-Suit, Nolle Prosequi, Finding of No Probable Cause, and Dismissed Without Prejudice.