

# **CHAPTER 31**

## **Criminal Procedure**

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **Issuance of Process and Warrants**

##### **31-1-1. Short title.**

Sections 31-1-1 through 31-3-9 NMSA 1978 may be referred to as the "Criminal Procedure Act".

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-1-1, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 4; 1973, ch. 73, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 4, repealed 41-1-1, 1953 Comp., relating to complaints, examination of complainants and witnesses, warrants and enacted a new 31-1-1 NMSA 1978.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1982-83: Criminal Procedure," see 14 N.M.L. Rev. 109 (1984).

For comment, "Survey of New Mexico Law: Criminal Procedure," see 15 N.M.L. Rev. 263 (1985).

##### **31-1-2. Definitions.**

Unless a specific meaning is given, as used in the Criminal Procedure Act:

A. "accused" means any person charged with the violation of any law of this state imposing a criminal penalty;

B. "bail bond" is a contract between surety and the state to the effect that the accused and the surety will appear in court when required and will comply with all conditions of the bond;

C. "defendant" means any person accused of a violation of any law of this state imposing a criminal penalty;

D. "felony" means any crime so designated by law or if upon conviction thereof a sentence of death or of imprisonment for a term of one year or more is authorized;

E. "person", unless a contrary intention appears, means any individual, estate, trust, receiver, cooperative association, club, corporation, company, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate or other entity;

F. "police officer", "law enforcement officer", "peace officer" or "officer" means any full-time salaried or certified part-time salaried officer who by virtue of office or public employment is vested by law with the duty to maintain the public peace;

G. "recognizance" means any obligation of record entered into before a court requiring the accused to appear at all appropriate times or forfeit any bail and be subject to criminal penalty for failure to appear;

H. "release on personal recognizance" or "release on own recognizance" means the release of a defendant without bail, bail bond or sureties upon the defendant's promise to appear at all appropriate times;

I. "rules of civil procedure" means rules of civil procedure for the district courts of the state of New Mexico, as may be amended from time to time;

J. "rules of criminal procedure" means rules of criminal procedure for the district courts, magistrate courts and municipal courts adopted by the New Mexico supreme court, as may be amended from time to time;

K. "misdemeanor" means any offense for which the authorized penalty upon conviction is imprisonment in excess of six months but less than one year; and

L. "petty misdemeanor" means any offense so designated by law or if upon conviction a sentence of imprisonment for six months or less is authorized.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-1-2, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 5; 1973, ch. 73, § 2; 1979, ch. 123, § 1; 2009, ch. 249, § 1.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 5, repealed 41-1-2, 1953 Comp., relating to warrants and affidavits of information and belief, and enacted a new 31-1-2 NMSA 1978.

**The 2009 amendment,** effective June 19, 2009, in Subsection F, after "full-time salaried", added "or certified part-time salaried".

**No "accused" prior to commencement of criminal proceedings.** — Where no complaint, information or indictment has been filed which names the accused, and no criminal prosecution has been commenced, the defendant is not an "accused" nor a "defendant." *Sanchez v. Attorney Gen.*, 1979-NMCA-081, 93 N.M. 210, 598 P.2d 1170.

**Petty misdemeanor does not include violations of city ordinances** in this penalty range, since such a violation is not a misdemeanor. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-46.

### **31-1-3. Method of prosecution.**

A criminal prosecution shall be commenced, conducted and terminated in accordance with Rules of Criminal Procedure. All pleadings, practice and procedure shall be governed by such rules.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-1-3, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 6.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 6, repealed 41-1-3, 1953 Comp., relating to unlawful arrests and enacted a new section.

**Cross references.** — For Rules of Criminal Procedure, see Rules 5-101 NMRA et seq.

**No obligation for sheriff or warden to schedule arraignment.** — Where detainees filed a federal civil rights action against county officials, including the county sheriff and the county jail warden, alleging that the detainees' arraignment delays in county jail violated their due process rights, and where the district court granted defendants' motion to dismiss for failure to state a valid claim, the district court did not err in granting defendants' motion because compliance with the requirement to arraign detainees within fifteen days lay solely with the court, because an arraignment is a court proceeding that takes place only when scheduled by the court. Rule 5-303 NMRA does not impose any duties on the sheriff or warden to bring an arrestee to court in the absence of a scheduled arraignment. *Moya v. Garcia*, 895 F.3d 1229 (10th Cir. 2018).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Limitations on state prosecuting attorney's discretion to initiate prosecution by indictment or by information, 44 A.L.R.4th 401.

### **31-1-4. Criminal actions; docketing action; service; return.**

A. Upon filing of the complaint of a law enforcement officer, the court shall docket the action. Upon the filing of the complaint of any other person, the court shall collect the docket fee from the person before docketing the action.

B. Upon the docketing of any criminal action, the court may issue a summons directing the defendant to appear before the court at a time stated in the summons.

C. When a warrant is issued in a criminal action, it shall be directed to a law enforcement officer, and the defendant named in the warrant shall, upon arrest, be brought by the officer before the court without unnecessary delay.

D. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the district court to issue process in criminal cases filed in the district court. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the magistrate court or the magistrate, if there is no clerk, to issue process in criminal cases filed in the magistrate court. It shall be the duty of the law enforcement officer to whom process is directed to execute process and return the same to the clerk of the court from which process is issued or, if there is no clerk of the court, to the judge thereof.

E. Except for criminal actions filed in municipal court, all police officers authorized to serve process issued in any criminal action have jurisdiction to serve such process in any county of this state.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-1-4, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 7; 1975, ch. 242, § 11.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 7, repealed 41-1-4, 1953 Comp., relating to officers empowered to issue warrants, and enacted a new 31-1-4 NMSA 1978.

**Cross references.** — For method of arrest for gambling, see 30-19-12 NMSA 1978.

For arrest under forest-fire laws, see 30-32-3 NMSA 1978.

For arrests for traffic offenses, see 66-8-122 NMSA 1978 et seq.

For issuance of summons or warrant, see Rule 5-208 NMRA.

**Compiler's notes.** — Some of the following annotations are from cases and opinions which were decided under former law.

**Constitutional provision and statute in pari materia.** — Constitutional provisions relative to arrests, searches and seizures (art. II, § 10) and former statute were to be considered in pari materia, their general purpose being preservation of personal security and liberty of individual, by forbidding issuance of a warrant except upon probable cause shown under oath, and by preventing as far as possible the institution of baseless and unfounded prosecution. *State v. Trujillo*, 1928-NMSC-016, 33 N.M. 370, 266 P. 922.

**Complaint subscribed by sheriff was insufficient to invoke jurisdiction** of district court where crimes charged therein, burglary and grand larceny, purported in each case to be a felony. *State v. Chacon*, 1957-NMSC-030, 62 N.M. 291, 309 P.2d 230.

**Validity of complaint insignificant.** — Where appellant was arrested by drugstore owner who apprehended appellant outside his store in early morning, then appellant was properly arrested without warrant on probable cause, and appellant was properly before the justice of the peace (now magistrate court) regardless of validity of final

complaint of the store owner. *State v. Hudson*, 1967-NMSC-164, 78 N.M. 228, 430 P.2d 386.

**Purpose of warrant** is to acquire jurisdiction over the person of the accused - to bring him before the court. *State v. Barreras*, 1958-NMSC-085, 64 N.M. 300, 328 P.2d 74.

**Section read with common-law rule.** — This section (former 41-3-1, 1953 Comp.) was to be read in connection with the common-law rule that an officer may arrest, without a warrant, a person whom he has probable cause to believe guilty of a felony. *State v. Barreras*, 1958-NMSC-085, 64 N.M. 300, 328 P.2d 74.

**Definition of warrant.** — A warrant is a writ or precept issued by a magistrate, justice or other competent authority, addressed to a sheriff, constable or other officer, requiring him to arrest the body of a person therein named, and bring him before the magistrate court, to answer, or be examined, touching some offense which he is charged with having committed. *State v. Barreras*, 1958-NMSC-085, 64 N.M. 300, 328 P.2d 74.

**Warrant valid.** — A warrant based upon a detective's information and belief affidavit and approved in writing by the assistant district attorney was valid. *State v. Slicker*, 1968-NMCA-085, 79 N.M. 677, 448 P.2d 478.

**When no warrant required.** — Under former 41-3-8, 1953 Comp., the issuance of a warrant was not necessary to confer jurisdiction over the person of an accused who had already been arrested with probable cause and who was under confinement. *State v. Barreras*, 1958-NMSC-085, 64 N.M. 300, 328 P.2d 74.

**Arrest of both defendant and party named in warrant upheld.** — Arrest was proper where defendant was in company of party for whom arresting officer had warrant and officer had been advised that party for whom he had warrant was accompanied by man answering defendant's description when alleged acts were committed. *State v. Gibby*, 1967-NMSC-219, 78 N.M. 414, 432 P.2d 258.

**"Process" defined.** — The term "process," as used in Subsections D and E, is meant to be generic, including, summons, writs, warrants, and orders. *State v. Gutierrez*, 1985-NMCA-034, 102 N.M. 726, 699 P.2d 1078, cert. denied, 102 N.M. 734, 700 P.2d 197.

**Warrants in criminal cases may issue on Sunday.** — Setting and accepting appearance bonds are ministerial acts that may be performed on Sunday in felony cases as well as misdemeanor cases. 1961 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 61-56.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 5 Am. Jur. 2d Arrest § 10 et seq.; 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 408, 409.

Constitutionality of statute or ordinance authorizing arrest, 1 A.L.R. 585.

Advice or order from superior officers as defense to a police officer for making an unlawful arrest, 3 A.L.R. 647.

Liability for loss of property left unprotected when owner was wrongfully arrested, 5 A.L.R. 362.

Effect of defects or informalities as to appearance or return day in summons or notice of commencement of action, 6 A.L.R. 841, 97 A.L.R. 746.

Time at which an arrest is made as affecting its legality or liability for making it, 9 A.L.R. 1350.

Who may take affidavit as basis for warrant of arrest, 16 A.L.R. 923.

Necessity of showing warrant upon making arrest under warrant, 40 A.L.R. 62.

Liability for false imprisonment, of officer executing warrant for arrest as affected by its being returnable to wrong court, 40 A.L.R. 290.

Power of private person to whom warrant of arrest is directed to deputize another to make the arrest or to delegate his power in that respect, 47 A.L.R. 1089.

Territorial extent of power to arrest under a warrant, 61 A.L.R. 377.

Unlawfulness of arrest as affecting jurisdiction or power of court to proceed in criminal case, 96 A.L.R. 982.

Civil liability of officer making arrest under warrant as affected by his failure to exhibit warrant, or to state fact of, or substance of, warrant, 100 A.L.R. 188.

Prohibition as remedy in case of defective indictment, information or complaint, 102 A.L.R. 298.

Error in naming the offense covered by allegations of specific facts in complaint, indictment or information, 121 A.L.R. 1088.

Summons as amendable to cure error or omission in naming or describing court or judge, or place of court's convening, 154 A.L.R. 1019.

Immunity of nonresident defendant in criminal case from service of process, 20 A.L.R.2d 163.

Omission of signature of issuing officer on civil process or summons as affecting jurisdiction of the person, 37 A.L.R.2d 928.

Private citizen's right to institute mandamus to compel a magistrate or other appropriate official to issue a warrant, or the like, for an arrest, 49 A.L.R.2d 1285.

Privilege of party, witness or attorney, while going to, attending or returning from court as extending to privilege from arrest for crime, 74 A.L.R.2d 592.

Delay between filing of complaint or other charge and arrest of accused as violation of right to speedy trial, 85 A.L.R.2d 980.

Mistake or error in middle initial or middle name of party as vitiating or invalidating civil process, summons, or the like, 6 A.L.R.3d 1179.

Criminal liability for obstructing process as affected by invalidity or irregularity of the process, 10 A.L.R.3d 1146.

Civil liability of one making false or fraudulent return of process, 31 A.L.R.3d 1393.

Modern status of rules as to right to forcefully resist illegal arrest, 44 A.L.R.3d 1078.

Right to resist excessive force used in accomplishing lawful arrest, 77 A.L.R.3d 281.

Individual's right to present complaint or evidence of criminal offense to grand jury, 24 A.L.R.4th 316.

Liability for false arrest or imprisonment under warrant as affected by mistake as to identity of person arrested, 39 A.L.R.4th 705.

Validity of arrest made in reliance upon uncorrected or outdated warrant list or similar police records, 45 A.L.R.4th 550.

Media's dissemination of material in violation of injunction or restraining order as contempt - federal cases, 91 A.L.R. Fed. 270.

6A C.J.S. Arrest §§ 43 to 60; 22 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 324 to 338.

### **31-1-5. Procedures on arrest; reports.**

A. Following arrest, any person accused of a crime is entitled to have reasonable opportunity to make three telephone calls beginning not later than twenty minutes after the time of arrival at a police station, sheriff's office or other place of detention. Nothing in this subsection limits any right to make telephone calls at any time later than twenty minutes after the time of arrival at the police station.

B. Every accused shall be brought before a court having jurisdiction to release the accused without unnecessary delay.

C. Within eighteen hours after the arrest of any person accused with having committed a misdemeanor or a felony, the arresting law enforcement agency shall notify the district attorney of:

- (1) the name of the accused; and
- (2) the offense charged.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-1-5, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 73, § 3.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 18, repealed former 41-1-5, 1953 Comp., relating to issuance of warrants for fugitives.

**Jury instruction on right to make telephone calls.** — Where defendant claimed that defendant had not been informed that defendant could make three telephone calls after arrest, the trial court did not abuse its discretion when the court refused defendant's request to instruct the jury on the requirements of Section 31-1-5 NMSA 1978, because the statute neither provides a defendant with a right to make three calls nor addresses an officer's duty to inform a defendant of the defendant's entitlement to make the calls. *State v. Coleman*, 2011-NMCA-087, 150 N.M. 622, 264 P.3d 523, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-008, 268 P.3d 513.

**Effect of denial to accused to make calls.** — Absent prejudice, no basis for release is established by denial of use of a telephone after arrest. *State v. Gibby*, 1967-NMSC-219, 78 N.M. 414, 432 P.2d 258.

**Burden of proof.** — Once a defendant proves that he has been denied access to a telephone for an extended period of time, the state bears the burden of proving a reasonable basis for the denial. *State v. Bearly*, 1991-NMCA-022, 112 N.M. 50, 811 P.2d 83.

### 31-1-6. Citation in lieu of arrest without a warrant.

A. A law enforcement officer who arrests a person without a warrant for a petty misdemeanor or any offense under Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 may offer the person arrested the option of accepting a citation to appear in lieu of taking the person to jail.

B. A citation issued pursuant to this section shall contain the name and address of the cited person, the offense charged and the time and place to appear. The citation may be a paper citation or an electronic version of a paper citation. Unless the person requests an earlier date, the time specified in the citation shall be at least three days after issuance of the citation. The law enforcement officer shall explain the person's rights not to sign a citation, the effect of not signing the citation, the effect of signing the citation and the effect of failing to appear at the time and place stated on the citation.



C. The person's signature on the citation constitutes a promise to appear at the time and place stated in the citation. One copy of the citation to appear shall be delivered to the person cited, and the law enforcement officer shall keep a duplicate copy for filing with the court as soon as practicable.

D. A law enforcement officer who prepares a citation pursuant to this section may use a paper citation form or an electronic citation form to record the information required by this section. Regardless of the form of citation used, a physical copy of the citation shall be delivered to the person cited as required by this section. An electronic citation may be signed electronically and the law enforcement officer's copy of a citation may be filed with the court electronically.

E. A citation issued pursuant to this section is a valid complaint if the person receives and signs the citation in paper or electronic form.

F. It is a petty misdemeanor for a person signing a citation not to appear at the time and place stated in the citation regardless of the disposition of the offense for which the citation was issued. A written promise to appear may be complied with by appearance of counsel.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-1-6, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 73, § 4; 1987, ch. 114, § 1; 2013, ch. 197, § 1.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 18, repealed former 41-1-6, 1953 Comp., relating to process issued to the sheriff.

**The 2013 amendment,** effective July 1, 2013, provided for the use of electronic citations; in Subsection B, added the second sentence; added Subsection D; and in Subsection E, after "if the person", deleted "receiving it appears in court" and added the remainder of the sentence.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2013, ch. 197, § 5 provided that the department of public safety and the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department shall develop procedures to carry out the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 197, §§ 1 to 4.

**The 1987 amendment,** effective June 19, 1987, in Subsection A, inserted "or any offense under Chapter 17 NMSA 1978" following "without a warrant a petty misdemeanor".

**No right to counsel upon issuance of citation.** — A person issued a citation and placed under custodial arrest for driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor does not have a constitutional right to counsel immediately following a breath alcohol test since it did not amount to initiation of judicial criminal proceedings or prosecutorial

commitment, nor was the period following administration of the test a critical stage. *State v. Sandoval*, 1984-NMCA-053, 101 N.M. 399, 683 P.2d 516.

**Legislative intent.** — This statute is not mandatory, but the apparent legislative intent is that citations should be issued in most petty misdemeanor cases. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-46.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico criminal procedure, see 16 N.M.L. Rev. 25 (1986).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 5 Am. Jur. 2d Arrest § 37 et seq.

22 C.J.S. Criminal Law § 334.

### **31-1-7. Arrest without warrant; liability.**

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, a peace officer may arrest a person and take that person into custody without a warrant when the officer is at the scene of a domestic disturbance and has probable cause to believe that the person has committed an assault or a battery upon a household member. As used in this section, "household member" means a spouse, former spouse, family member, including a relative, parent, present or former step-parent, present or former in-law, child or co-parent of a child, or a person with whom the victim has had a continuing personal relationship. Cohabitation is not necessary to be deemed a household member for purposes of this section.

B. No peace officer shall be held criminally or civilly liable for making an arrest pursuant to this section, provided he acts in good faith and without malice.

C. Whether or not an arrest is made pursuant to this section, a peace officer may remain with the victim and assist the victim in getting to a shelter or receiving proper medical attention.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 178, § 1; 1995, ch. 23, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For Tort Claims Act, see 41-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

**The 1995 amendment**, effective June 16, 1995, in Subsection A, deleted "family or" preceding "household member" at the end of the first sentence, rewrote the second sentence which read "As used in this section, 'family or household members' means spouses, former spouses or persons residing with each other", and added the third sentence.

**Meaning of the phrase "at the scene".** — The phrase "at the scene" as used in Section 31-1-7(A) NMSA 1978 must be read broadly to enable a police officer to make a warrantless arrest within a reasonable time and distance from when and where a domestic disturbance occurred. *State v. Almanzar*, 2014-NMSC-001, *rev'g* 2012-NMCA-111, 288 P.3d 238.

Where defendant and the victim began quarreling in a parking lot; defendant kicked the victim; and the police arrested defendant for domestic violence at a store across the street from the parking lot within minutes after the victim called 911, defendant's warrantless arrest was lawful under Section 31-1-7(A) NMSA 1978 because the arrest was made in close proximity to when and where the incident occurred. *State v. Almanzar*, 2014-NMSC-001, *rev'g* 2012-NMCA-111, 288 P.3d 238.

**Warrantless arrest is authorized only at the scene of a domestic disturbance.** — An officer may not arrest a suspect for domestic battery under Subsection A of Section 31-1-7 NMSA 1978 without a warrant unless the officer is conducting the arrest at the scene where the domestic disturbance occurred. *State v. Almanzar*, 2012-NMCA-111, 228 P.3d 238, *rev'd*, 2014-NMSC-001.

Where police officers responded to a domestic violence incident that had occurred in a parking lot between defendant and defendant's live-in friend; after the incident, defendant and defendant's friend had both left the parking lot and had gone to two separate locations away from the parking lot; the officers found defendant at a convenience store that was near the parking lot; and the officers conducted a pat-down search of defendant and discovered cocaine in defendant's pants pocket, the district court erred in holding that the evidence would have been inevitably discovered during a search incident to a legal arrest for misdemeanor domestic battery because an arrest could only have been effectuated at the parking lot where the domestic battery had occurred. *State v. Almanzar*, 2012-NMCA-111, 228 P.3d 238, *rev'd*, 2014-NMSC-001.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Domestic Relations and Juvenile Law," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 134 (1981).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Validity, in state criminal trial, of arrest without warrant by identified peace officer outside of jurisdiction, when not in fresh pursuit, 34 A.L.R.4th 328.

Validity of arrest made in reliance upon uncorrected or outdated warrant list or similar police records, 45 A.L.R.4th 550.

Burden of proof in civil action for using unreasonable force in making arrest as to reasonableness of force used, 82 A.L.R.4th 598.

**31-1-8. Identification of minor or dependent children upon arrest; required inquiry; guidelines.**

A. A state or local law enforcement officer who arrests a person shall, at the time of the arrest, inquire whether the person is a parent or guardian of minor or dependent children who may be at risk as a result of the arrest. The officer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the safety of minor or dependent children at risk as a result of an arrest in accordance with guidelines established by the department of public safety.

B. The department of public safety, in consultation with the children, youth and families department, shall establish guidelines and a training program for law enforcement officers for ensuring child safety upon the arrest of a parent or guardian. The guidelines and training program shall include:

(1) procedures to ensure that law enforcement officers inquire whether arrestees have minor or dependent children who may be present or at another location at the time of the arrest;

(2) procedures for the proper arrangement of temporary care for children to ensure their safety and well-being; and

(3) education on how the effects of witnessing a violent crime or other event causes emotional harm to children and how law enforcement can assist in mitigating the long-term effects of the trauma.

**History:** Laws 2007, ch. 89, § 2.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2007, ch. 89, contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 15, 2007, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

## **ARTICLE 1A**

### **DNA Evidence**

#### **31-1A-1. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2003 ch. 27, § 2 repealed 31-1A-1 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 29, § 1, relating to procedures for consideration of DNA evidence, effective July 1, 2003. For provisions of former section, see the 2002 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*. For post-conviction consideration of DNA evidence, see 31-1A-2 NMSA 1978.

#### **31-1A-2. Procedures for post-conviction consideration of DNA evidence; requirements.**

A. A person convicted of a felony, who claims that DNA evidence will establish the person's innocence, may petition the district court of the judicial district in which the person was convicted to order the disclosure, preservation, production and testing of evidence that can be subjected to DNA testing. A copy of the petition shall be served on the district attorney for the judicial district in which the district court is located. A petitioner shall be granted full, fair and prompt proceedings upon filing a petition.

B. As a condition to the district court's acceptance of the person's petition, the petitioner shall:

- (1) submit to DNA testing ordered by the district court; and
- (2) authorize the district attorney's use of the DNA test results to investigate all aspects of the case that the petitioner is seeking to reopen.

C. DNA samples obtained pursuant to Subsection B of this section shall be submitted for DNA testing according to the procedures in the DNA Identification Act, and the DNA record shall be entered into the federal bureau of investigation's national DNA index system for storage and exchange of DNA records submitted by forensic DNA laboratories.

D. The petitioner shall show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that:

- (1) the petitioner was convicted of a felony;
- (2) evidence exists that can be subjected to DNA testing;
- (3) the evidence to be subjected to DNA testing:
  - (a) has not previously been subjected to DNA testing;
  - (b) has not previously been subjected to the type of DNA testing that is now being requested; or
  - (c) was previously subjected to DNA testing, but was tested incorrectly or interpreted incorrectly;
- (4) the DNA testing the petitioner is requesting will be likely to produce admissible evidence; and
- (5) identity was an issue in the petitioner's case or that if the DNA testing the petitioner is requesting had been performed prior to the petitioner's conviction and the results had been exculpatory, there is a reasonable probability that the petitioner would not have pled guilty or been found guilty.

E. If the petitioner satisfies the requirements set forth in Subsection D of this section, the district court shall appoint counsel for the petitioner, unless the petitioner waives counsel or retains the petitioner's own counsel.

F. After reviewing a petition, the district court may dismiss the petition, order a response by the district attorney or issue an order for DNA testing.

G. The district court shall order all evidence secured that is related to the petitioner's case and that could be subjected to DNA testing. The evidence shall be preserved during the pendency of the proceeding. The district court may impose appropriate sanctions, including dismissal of the petitioner's conviction or criminal contempt, if the court determines that evidence was intentionally destroyed after issuance of the court's order to secure evidence.

H. The district court shall order DNA testing if the petitioner satisfies the requirements set forth in Subsections B and D of this section.

I. If the results of the DNA testing are exculpatory, the district court may set aside the petitioner's judgment and sentence, may dismiss the charges against the petitioner with prejudice, may grant the petitioner a new trial or may order other appropriate relief.

J. The cost of DNA testing ordered pursuant to this section shall be borne by the state or the petitioner, as the district court may order in the interest of justice. Provided, that a petitioner shall not be denied DNA testing because of the petitioner's inability to pay for the cost of DNA testing. Testing under this provision shall only be performed by a laboratory that meets the minimum standards of the national DNA index system.

K. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to limit:

- (1) other circumstances under which a person may obtain DNA testing; or
- (2) post-conviction relief a petitioner may seek pursuant to other provisions of law.

L. The petitioner shall have the right to appeal a district court's denial of the requested DNA testing, a district court's final order on a petition or a district court's decision regarding relief for the petitioner. The state shall have the right to appeal any final order issued by the district court. An appeal shall be filed by a party within thirty days to the court of appeals.

M. The state shall preserve all evidence that is secured in relation to an investigation or prosecution of a crime and that could be subjected to DNA testing, for not less than the period of time that a person remains subject to incarceration or on probation or parole in connection with the investigation or prosecution.

N. The state may dispose of evidence before the expiration of the time period set forth in Subsection M of this section if:

- (1) no other law, regulation or court order requires that the evidence be preserved;
- (2) the evidence must be returned to its rightful owner;
- (3) preservation of the evidence is impractical due to the size, bulk or physical characteristics of the evidence; and
- (4) the state takes reasonable measures to remove and preserve portions of the evidence sufficient to permit future DNA testing.

O. In proceedings under this section, the Rules of Evidence and the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts shall apply.

P. As used in this section, "DNA" means deoxyribonucleic acid.

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 27, § 1; 2019, ch. 211, § 4.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Standard for granting relief.** — DNA evidence is exculpatory, that is it reasonably tends to negate the petitioner's guilt, when it is material to the petitioner's innocence, is not merely cumulative, is not merely impeaching or contradictory, and raises a reasonable probability that the petitioner would not have pled guilty or been found guilty had the DNA testing been performed prior to the conviction. *State v. Hobbs*, 2020-NMCA-044, cert. granted.

**Cross references.** — For the Rules of Evidence, see 11-101 NMRA et seq.

For the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts, see 1-001 NMRA et seq.

**The 2019 amendment**, effective July 1, 2019, revised the procedures for post-conviction consideration of DNA evidence by mandating a petitioner has prompt proceedings, that DNA samples shall be tested according to the DNA Identification Act and that the results of the testing shall be entered in the FBI national DNA index system, and mandated that the Rules of Evidence and Rules of Civil Procedures for the district courts shall apply to proceedings; in Subsection A, added "A petitioner shall be granted full, fair and prompt proceedings upon filing a petition."; added a new Subsection C and redesignated former Subsections C through M as Subsections D through N, respectively; in Subsection M, after "incarceration or", deleted "supervision" and added "on probation or parole"; added new Subsection O and redesignated former Subsection N as Subsection P.

**Postconviction relief analysis.** — In analyzing whether to grant postconviction relief, the district court must first make a threshold determination as to whether the DNA test results are "exculpatory," that is, they reasonably tend to establish the petitioner's innocence or negate the petitioner's guilt. Second, if the district court finds that the DNA evidence is exculpatory, the controlling inquiry under § 31-1A-2(l) NMSA 1978 is whether and to what extent the evidence would have changed the result of the petitioner's trial. *State v. Hobbs*, 2022-NMSC-018, *rev'g* 2020-NMCA-044, 472 P.3d 1276.

**"Exculpatory" construed.** — DNA evidence is "exculpatory" under § 31-1A-2 NMSA 1978 when it reasonably tends to establish the petitioner's innocence or negate the petitioner's guilt; tending to establish a petitioner's innocence is fundamentally different than actually establishing a petitioner's innocence. *State v. Hobbs*, 2022-NMSC-018, *rev'g* 2020-NMCA-044, 472 P.3d 1276.

**Petitioner entitled to postconviction relief.** — Where petitioner, following his conviction for voluntary manslaughter, petitioned the district court, pursuant to § 31-1A-2 NMSA 1978, for DNA testing of the handgun with which he shot the victim and of the t-shirt that he was wearing at the time of the incident, claiming that if the DNA test results demonstrated that the victim touched the handgun and/or the t-shirt, the evidence would have been exculpatory had it been presented at trial, because it would have contradicted the state's contention that no physical evidence supported defendant's claim of self-defense, and where the results of the DNA analysis demonstrated that the victim could not be excluded as a contributor to DNA evidence found on the handgun and on the t-shirt, the district court did not err in determining that the DNA results were exculpatory, because the DNA results reasonably tended to establish defendant's innocence or negate his guilt by confirming the presence of physical evidence that corroborated his version of events, which was critical to his self-defense claim. Further, the district court did not abuse its discretion in granting a new trial, because the DNA results were the only physical evidence tending to corroborate defendant's testimony that the victim was trying to grab the gun when defendant shot him in self-defense. The existence of evidence that the victim's DNA was on the gun could be sufficient to change the result in defendant's favor in a new trial. *State v. Hobbs*, 2022-NMSC-018, *rev'g* 2020-NMCA-044, 472 P.3d 1276.

## ARTICLE 2

### Fresh Pursuit

#### 31-2-1. [Officer of another state entering this state in fresh pursuit; power to arrest and hold fugitive.]

Any member of a duly organized state, county or municipal peace unit of another state of the United States who enters this state in fresh pursuit, and continues within this state in such fresh pursuit, of a person in order to arrest him on the ground that he is believed to have committed a felony in such other state, shall have the same authority



to arrest and hold such person in custody, as has any member of any duly organized state, county or municipal peace unit of this state, to arrest and hold in custody a person on the ground that he is believed to have committed a felony in this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 12, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 42-201; 1953 Comp., § 41-2-1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Compiler's notes.** — A few states have adopted a Uniform Law on Close Pursuit. Others have adopted a Uniform Law on Fresh Pursuit. However, the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws have not as yet promulgated or approved uniform laws on the subject.

**Section grants same right to New Mexico officer.** — An officer of the New Mexico state police, while in hot pursuit of a person who has committed a felony in New Mexico, may enter the state of Colorado, arrest such a person there and return him to New Mexico without obtaining extradition. 1960 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-66.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 5 Am. Jur. 2d Arrest § 72.

Validity, in state criminal trial, of arrest without warrant by identified peace officer outside of jurisdiction, when not in fresh pursuit, 34 A.L.R.4th 328.

6A C.J.S. Arrest § 18.

### **31-2-2. [Arrested person taken before magistrate; hearing; commitment or discharge.]**

If an arrest is made in this state by an officer of another state in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 [31-2-1 NMSA 1978] of this act he shall without unnecessary delay take the person arrested before a magistrate of the county in which the arrest was made, who shall conduct a hearing for the purpose of determining the lawfulness of the arrest. If the magistrate determines that the arrest was lawful he shall commit the person arrested to await for a reasonable time the issuance of an extradition warrant by the governor of this state. If the magistrate determines that the arrest was unlawful he shall discharge the person arrested.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 12, § 2; 1941 Comp., § 42-202; 1953 Comp., § 41-2-2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For extradition, see 31-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **31-2-3. [Construction of act; power to arrest not limited.]**

Section 1 [31-2-1 NMSA 1978] of this act shall not be construed so as to make unlawful any arrest in this state which would otherwise be lawful.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 12, § 3; 1941 Comp., § 42-203; 1953 Comp., § 41-2-3.

### **31-2-4. ["State" includes District of Columbia.]**

For the purpose of this act [31-2-1 to 31-2-7 NMSA 1978] the word "state" shall include the District of Columbia.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 12, § 4; 1941 Comp., § 42-204; 1953 Comp., § 41-2-4.

### **31-2-5. ["Fresh pursuit" defined.]**

The term "fresh pursuit" as used in this act [31-2-1 to 31-2-7 NMSA 1978] shall include fresh pursuit as defined by the common law, and also the pursuit of a person who has committed a felony or who is reasonably suspected of having committed a felony. It shall also include the pursuit of a person suspected of having committed a supposed felony, though no felony has actually been committed, if there is reasonable ground for believing that a felony has been committed. Fresh pursuit as used herein shall not necessarily imply instant pursuit, but pursuit without unreasonable delay.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 12, § 5; 1941 Comp., § 42-205; 1953 Comp., § 41-2-5.

### **31-2-6. [Certified copies of law to be distributed.]**

Upon the passage and approval by the governor of this act [31-2-1 to 31-2-7 NMSA 1978] it shall be the duty of the secretary of state (or other officer) to certify a copy of this act to the executive department of each of the states of the United States.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 12, § 6; 1941 Comp., § 42-206; 1953 Comp., § 41-2-6.

### **31-2-7. [Citation of act.]**

This act [31-2-1 to 31-2-7 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the Uniform Act on Fresh Pursuit.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 12, § 8; 1941 Comp., § 42-207; 1953 Comp., § 41-2-7.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Compiler's notes.** — A few states have adopted a Uniform Law on Close Pursuit. Others have adopted a Uniform Law on Fresh Pursuit. However, the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws have not as yet promulgated or approved uniform laws on the subject.

## **31-2-8. Authority to arrest misdemeanor; fresh pursuit.**

A. Any county sheriff or municipal police officer who leaves his jurisdictional boundary while in fresh pursuit of a misdemeanor whom he would otherwise have authority to arrest shall have the authority to arrest that misdemeanor anywhere within this state and return him to the jurisdiction in which the fresh pursuit began without further judicial process.

B. For purposes of this section, "fresh pursuit of a misdemeanor" means the pursuit of a person who has committed a misdemeanor in the presence of the pursuing officer. Fresh pursuit shall not necessarily imply instant pursuit, but pursuit without unreasonable delay.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 102, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The authority to arrest is not limited to custodial arrest,** but includes an investigative detention to issue a citation for a traffic violation. *State v. Marquez*, 2008-NMSC-055, 145 N.M. 1, 193 P.3d 548, *rev'd* 2007-NMCA-151, 143 N.M. 79, 173 P.3d 1.

**Arrestable misdemeanor.** — A municipal police officer is authorized to pursue a suspect outside the officer's territorial jurisdiction only if the officer has reason to believe that he or she has observed a violation of an arrestable offense. *State v. Marquez*, 2007-NMCA-151, 143 N.M. 79, 173 P.3d 1, cert. granted, 2007-NMCERT-011, 143 N.M. 155, 173 P.3d 762, *rev'd*, 2008-NMSC-055, 145 N.M. 1, 19 P.3d 548.

**Commission of petty misdemeanor.** — This section authorizes pursuit of a suspect into another county, whether the pursuing officer has reasonable cause to believe the suspect guilty of a misdemeanor or only of a petty misdemeanor. *County of Los Alamos v. Tapia*, 1990-NMSC-038, 109 N.M. 736, 790 P.2d 1017.

**Extraterritorial arrest for D.W.I.** — This section authorizes a municipal police officer to make an extraterritorial arrest for DWI. *Incorporated Cnty. of Los Alamos v. Johnson*, 1989-NMSC-045, 108 N.M. 633, 776 P.2d 1252.

**Arrest on Indian reservation.** — An arrest of a Navajo citizen on the Navajo Reservation by a city police officer following a car chase that started off the reservation was illegal since the officer failed to follow tribal extradition procedures; the misdemeanor fresh pursuit law did not affect the legality of the arrest. *City of Farmington v. Benally*, 1995-NMCA-019, 119 N.M. 496, 892 P.2d 629.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **Bail**

### **31-3-1. Designee to accept bail.**

Any statutory provision or rule of court governing the release of an accused may be carried out by a responsible person designated by the court.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-1, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 8.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 8, repealed 41-3-1, 1953 Comp., relating to the magistrate informing the defendant of the charge and his rights, and enacted a new section.

**Cross references.** — For right to bail, prevention of infliction of cruel and unusual punishment, see N.M. Const., art. II, § 13.

For bail proceedings, authorization of habeas corpus, see 44-1-23 NMSA 1978.

For certiorari to committing magistrate, see 44-1-24 NMSA 1978.

For Bail Bondsmen Licensing Law, see 59A-51-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

For right to bail under the Rules of Criminal Procedure, see Rule 5-401 NMRA.

For justification of compensated sureties, see Rule 5-401B NMRA.

For bail, release provisions in magistrate court, see Rule 6-401 NMRA.

For appearance of defendant, see Rule 6-501 NMRA.

**Generally.** — Provisions with regard to admitting to bail in criminal cases are based upon the idea that a person accused of a crime shall be admitted to bail until adjudged guilty by the court of last resort to him; however, this right is not absolute under all circumstances. *Tijerina v. Baker*, 1968-NMSC-009, 78 N.M. 770, 438 P.2d 514.

**Bail within judge's discretion.** — Former section did not make it compulsory for judge to grant bail, but vested in such judge a discretion. *Ex parte Towndrow*, 1915-NMSC-073, 20 N.M. 631, 151 P. 761.

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "Criminal Procedure - Preventive Detention in New Mexico," see 4 N.M.L. Rev. 247 (1974).

For article, "The Constitutionality of Pretrial Detention Without Bail in New Mexico," see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 685 (1982).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 8A Am. Jur. 2d Bail and Recognizance § 1 et seq.

Constitutional right to bail pending appeal from conviction, 19 A.L.R. 807, 77 A.L.R. 1235.

Acknowledgment of bail bond in open court, necessity of, 38 A.L.R. 1108.

Bail pending appeal from conviction, 45 A.L.R. 458.

Amount of bail required in criminal action, 53 A.L.R. 399.

Lien or encumbrance on his real property as affecting qualifications of surety on bail bond, 56 A.L.R. 1097.

Arresting one who has been released on bail, 62 A.L.R. 462.

Factors in fixing amount of bail in criminal cases, 72 A.L.R. 801.

Delay in taking before magistrate or denial of opportunity to give bail as supporting action for false imprisonment, 79 A.L.R. 13.

Disciplinary power of court in respect of suretyship in judicial proceedings, 91 A.L.R. 889.

Specific crime, necessity of reference to, in bail bond, 103 A.L.R. 535.

Rape as bailable offense, 118 A.L.R. 1115.

Mandamus to compel judge or other officer to grant accused bail or to accept proffered sureties, 23 A.L.R.2d 803.

Statutes relating to sexual psychopaths, 24 A.L.R.2d 350.

Delay in taking before magistrate or denial of opportunity to give bail as supporting action for false imprisonment, 98 A.L.R.2d 966, 3 A.L.R.4th 1057.

Funds deposited in court in lieu of bail as subject of garnishment, 1 A.L.R.3d 936.

Insanity of accused as affecting right to bail in criminal case, 11 A.L.R.3d 1385.

Validity, construction, and application of statutes regulating bail bond business, 13 A.L.R.3d 618.

Pretrial preventive detention by state court, 75 A.L.R.3d 956.

Application of state statutes establishing pretrial release of accused on personal recognizance as presumptive form of release, 78 A.L.R.3d 780.

When is a person in custody of governmental authorities for purpose of exercise of state remedy of habeas corpus - modern cases, 26 A.L.R.4th 455.

Liability of surety on bail bond taken without authority, 27 A.L.R.4th 246.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 4 to 9, 14, 15, 17 to 30, 33 to 41, 43 to 58, 62, 64, 66, 67, 69 to 75, 81.

### **31-3-1.1. Review of youthful offender records.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when considering the setting of bail or other conditions of release of a person charged with a felony, the juvenile disposition of a youthful offender and any evidence given in a hearing in court for a youthful offender may be considered. The juvenile disposition and evidence used pursuant to this section may be considered only if the person is thirty years old or younger. If a judge considers the juvenile disposition of a youthful offender or evidence given in a hearing for the youthful offender pursuant to this section, the disposition and evidence shall be considered confidential and shall be reviewed or discussed in camera. All evidence, motions or other documents or evidence pertaining to the juvenile disposition shall be sealed, unless otherwise considered not to be confidential by law.

**History:** Laws 2016, ch. 9, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2016, ch. 9 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2016, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-3-2. Failure to appear; forfeiture of bail bonds.**

A. Whenever any person fails to appear at the time and place fixed by the terms of recognizance, the court may issue a warrant for his arrest.

B. Whenever a person fails to appear at the time and place fixed by the terms of his bail bond, the court:

- (1) may issue a warrant for his arrest; and
- (2) may declare a forfeiture of the bail. If the court declares a forfeiture, it shall:
  - (a) declare such forfeiture at the time of nonappearance;

(b) give written notice thereof to the surety within four working days of declaration; and

(c) issue a bench warrant for the person's arrest.

C. The court may direct that a forfeiture be set aside, upon such conditions as the court may impose, if it appears that justice does not require the enforcement of the forfeiture.

D. When a forfeiture has not been set aside, the court shall on motion enter a judgment of default, and execution may issue thereon. By entering into a bail bond, the obligors submit to the jurisdiction of the court and irrevocably appoint the clerk of the court as their agent upon whom papers affecting their liability may be served. Liability of the surety may be enforced on motion without the necessity of an independent action.

E. Notice of the motion to enter a judgment of default may be served pursuant to the rules of criminal procedure or may be served on the clerk of the court, who shall forthwith mail copies to the obligors at their last known address. The notice shall require the sureties to appear on or before a given date and show cause why judgment shall not be entered against them for the amount of the bail bond or recognizance. If good cause is not shown, the court may then enter judgment against the obligors on the recognizance, for such sum as it sees fit, not exceeding the penalty fixed by the bail bond or recognizance.

F. When a judgment has been rendered against the defendant or surety for the whole or part of the penalty of a forfeited recognizance, the court rendering such judgment shall remit the amount thereof when, after such rendition, the accused has been arrested and surrendered to the proper court to be tried on such charge or to answer the judgment of the court, provided that the apprehension of the accused in some way was aided by the surety's efforts or by information supplied by the surety.

G. If any amount remains unpaid ten days after entry of judgment, the court may issue execution for satisfaction of judgment.

H. In the event that an obligor does not possess property in this state sufficient to satisfy a judgment against it for the whole or part of the penalty of a forfeited recognizance, the court entering judgment against the obligor on the recognizance shall send written notification to the superintendent of insurance. Immediately upon receipt of such written notification and pursuant to Section 46-6-4 NMSA 1978, the superintendent of insurance shall inform the obligor that unless the judgment is paid or an appeal, writ of error or supersedeas is taken within thirty days of the rendition of the judgment or decree, such obligor shall forfeit all right to do business in this state. If timely appeal, writ of error or supersedeas is not taken, the superintendent of insurance shall immediately take whatever steps necessary to revoke the right of the obligor to do business in this state.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-2, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 9; 1973, ch. 215, § 1; 1987, ch. 228, § 1; 1993, ch. 159, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 9, repealed 41-3-2, 1953 Comp., relating to defendant being permitted to send for counsel, and enacted a new 31-3-2 NMSA 1978.

**The 1987 amendment**, effective June 19, 1987, added all of the language following "bail" in Subsection A(2), made minor stylistic changes in Subsection D, and substituted "shall remit" for "may in its discretion remit or reduce" in Subsection E while adding the proviso at the end of that subsection.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, rewrote former Subsection A as present Subsections A and B and redesignated former Subsections B through G accordingly.

**Notices required when bond forfeited.** — If the district court decides that a bail bond is subject to forfeiture, then the district court must serve the surety with two notices: a notice of the declaration of forfeiture of the bond and another notice of a hearing to show cause why judgment should not be entered for the amount of the bond. *State v. Pacheco*, 2008-NMCA-055, 143 N.M. 851, 182 P.3d 834.

**Four day notice of forfeiture.** — Where the district court issued a notice of forfeiture of a bail bond on Thursday, December 8 and ordered the surety to appear and show cause on Tuesday, December 13 why judgment should not be entered on the bond, and the surety received the notice of forfeiture on Wednesday December 14, the district court provided the surety with notice of forfeiture within the required four day period. *State v. Pacheco*, 2008-NMCA-055, 143 N.M. 851, 182 P.3d 834.

**A bail bond may not be forfeited** for violations of conditions of release other than failure to appear. A statute controls over a bail bond form. *State v. Romero*, 2007-NMSC-030, 141 N.M. 733, 160 P.3d 914.

**Compiler's notes.** — Many of the following annotations are from cases which were decided under former law.

**Purpose of bail is to secure defendant's attendance** to submit to the punishment to be imposed by the court. *State v. Cotton Belt Ins. Co.*, 1981-NMSC-129, 97 N.M. 152, 637 P.2d 834.

**Bail is subject to forfeiture until** such time as the defendant surrenders himself to the authorities to serve his sentence. *State v. Cotton Belt Ins. Co.*, 1981-NMSC-129, 97 N.M. 152, 637 P.2d 834.



**Court's discretion in ordering forfeiture.** — The court must exercise its discretion in determining whether to order forfeiture of the entire amount of the bond. *State v. Amador*, 1982-NMSC-083, 98 N.M. 270, 648 P.2d 309.

**Proper forfeiture of bond.** — Where defendant was charged with the felony offense of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, released on bail by the magistrate court in the amount of \$5,000 subject to certain conditions, fled to Arkansas after his initial bond hearing, and where appellant bond company, over a year later, took defendant into custody in Arkansas and returned him to New Mexico, the district court did not err in affirming the forfeiture of the bond by the magistrate court where the evidence established that appellant did not take any action in Arkansas prior to the forfeiture hearing in the magistrate court and did not appear at the forfeiture hearing to show "good cause" why the defendant failed to appear at his preliminary hearing, that defendant was not in custody in Arkansas, and that Arkansas did not thwart the efforts of appellant to apprehend defendant; appellant failed to sustain its burden of showing an impediment to defendant's appearance or that defendant was taken into custody prior to the entry of the magistrate court judgment. *State v. Naegle*, 2017-NMCA-017.

**Order forfeiting bond must include finding that defendant failed to appear.** — The order forfeiting bond was fatally defective because of the failure to include therein a finding that the defendant (principal on the bond) failed to appear. *State v. Barboa*, 1958-NMSC-030, 64 N.M. 5, 322 P.2d 337.

**And no bail discharge because principal imprisoned in another state.** — If the performance of a recognizance is rendered impossible by the imprisonment of the principal in another state, it is not such an act of law as will discharge bail. *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Surety's responsibilities begin upon prisoner's release.** — A prisoner released on bail is regarded as being transferred from the custody of the public officials charged with his confinement to that of the sureties on his bail bond or recognizance. The sureties are then charged with the duty of producing him to answer the charges against him at the proper time and are liable for a failure to do so, unless the failure is excused for reasons which the courts regard as adequate. *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Principal must fail to respond before surety found in default.** — There must be a finding of a failure of the principal to answer or appear upon the calling of his case for trial or other court action, or otherwise to fail to respond to the court before any default on the undertaking of the surety can be ordered by the court. *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Ceremonial calling dispensed with in principal's absence.** — Notice to the surety on a bail bond is sufficient notice to the principal and to require a ceremonial calling out of the principal's name when his absence is obvious and that fact acknowledged in open

court by the bail would be useless. Thus the court's order to forfeit the bond was valid. *State v. Hathaway*, 1970-NMSC-006, 81 N.M. 159, 464 P.2d 889.

**Obligation of surety is to suffer forfeiture** if the principal does not, after notice to him or the surety, respond to the judgment and sentence and final commitment of the court. *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Authority of magistrate court to set aside forfeiture judgment.** — Subsection F is an exception to the "continuing jurisdiction" rule. The language of the subsection clearly indicates that the legislature intended to affirmatively grant magistrate courts the discretion to set aside a forfeiture judgment and remit all or part of the penalty. *State v. Ramirez*, 1981-NMSC-125, 97 N.M. 125, 637 P.2d 556.

**No mitigation of judgment until principal surrenders.** — Once judgment of forfeiture is entered and the amount fixed, the court has no occasion to mitigate the amount of the judgment it has previously entered, unless the principal is "surrendered to proper court to be tried on such charges, or to answer the judgment of said court." *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Relief in the form of remittitur is discretionary** and will be reviewed only for abuse of discretion. *State v. Cotton Belt Ins. Co.*, 1981-NMSC-129, 97 N.M. 152, 637 P.2d 834.

**Action on recognizance civil in nature.** — Actions on recognizances, though normally pursued in the criminal causes of action, are actually independent civil proceedings brought by the state against appellants pursuant to statute. *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Effect of prosecution of bond liability.** — Where a bond has been declared forfeited on nonappearance of the principal in a criminal case, and the enforcement of the bond liability is prosecuted in a civil action, transfer of the criminal case to another court will not affect the jurisdiction of the first court to determine the enforcement of the forfeiture. *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Security for restitution disallowed.** — There is no authorization under this section for requiring security for restitution as a condition of bail pending appeal. *State v. Montoya*, 1993-NMCA-097, 116 N.M. 297, 861 P.2d 978.

**Bondsman thwarted by actions of another jurisdiction.** — Considering the purposes of bail and the policy to encourage bondsmen to enter into bail contracts, it is unjust to enrich the state treasury when a bondsman has been diligent in his efforts to apprehend and bring back for trial a defendant but has been thwarted by the actions of another sovereign jurisdiction. *State v. Amador*, 1982-NMSC-083, 98 N.M. 270, 648 P.2d 309.

**Refund of forfeited bond.** — Despite the conflict between Rule 7-406 NMRA and Subsection F of this section, a metropolitan court judge may refund a forfeited bond to a bondsman who is able to apprehend a defendant and bring her back to court, as the

conflict concerns substantive law over which the statute controls. 1989 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 89-12.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to civil procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 251 (1983).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 8 Am. Jur. 2d Bail and Recognizance § 109 et seq.

Insanity of principal as relieving bail for his nonappearance, 7 A.L.R. 394.

Induction of principal into military or naval service as exonerating his bail for his nonappearance, 8 A.L.R. 371, 147 A.L.R. 1428, 151 A.L.R. 1462, 153 A.L.R. 1431.

Variance between name in bail bond and in judgment of forfeiture, 20 A.L.R. 411.

Constitutionality of statute relieving against forfeiture of bail or recognizance, 43 A.L.R. 1233.

Escape of principal during his detention on separate charge as affecting liability of bail, 45 A.L.R. 1037.

Right of bail to relief from forfeiture of bond or recognizance in event of subsequent surrender or production of principal, 84 A.L.R. 420.

Relief from forfeiture, excuse for failure of accused to appear which will entitle surety to, 84 A.L.R. 440.

Arraignment and plea, failure of judgment or order forfeiting bail, or deposit in lieu thereof, to recite, 90 A.L.R. 298.

Failure to appear, and the like, resulting in forfeiture or conditional forfeiture of bail, as affecting right to second admission to bail in same noncapital criminal case, 29 A.L.R.2d 945.

Bail jumping after conviction, failure to surrender or appear for sentencing and the like, as contempt, 34 A.L.R.2d 1100.

Death of principal as exoneration of sureties on bail or appearance bond, 63 A.L.R.2d 830.

Limitation of actions, enforceability of bail bond or recognizance against surety where, at time it was filed, prosecution of principal was barred by, 75 A.L.R.2d 1431.

Governor's authority to remit forfeited bail bond, 77 A.L.R.2d 988.

Appealability of order relating to forfeiture of bail, 78 A.L.R.2d 1180.

Funds deposited in court in lieu of bail as subject of garnishment, 1 A.L.R.3d 936.

Dismissal or vacation of indictment as terminating liability or obligation of surety on bail bond, 18 A.L.R.3d 1354.

Liability of surety on bail bond taken without authority, 27 A.L.R.4th 246.

Bail: duration of surety's liability on pretrial bond, 32 A.L.R.4th 504.

Bail: duration of surety's liability on posttrial bail bond, 32 A.L.R.4th 575.

Bail: effect on surety's liability under bail bond of principal's incarceration in other jurisdiction, 33 A.L.R.4th 663.

Bail: effect on surety's liability under bail bond of principal's subsequent incarceration in same jurisdiction, 35 A.L.R.4th 1192.

State statutes making default on bail a separate criminal offense, 63 A.L.R.4th 1064.

Forfeiture of bail for breach of conditions of release other than that of appearance, 68 A.L.R.4th 1082.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 118 to 190.

### **31-3-3. Surrender of principal by surety.**

A. When a surety desires to be discharged from the obligation of its bail bond, the surety may arrest the accused and deliver him to the sheriff of the county in which the action against the accused is pending.

B. The surety shall, at the time of surrendering the accused, deliver to the sheriff a certified copy of the order admitting the accused to bail and a certified copy of the bail bond. Delivery of these documents shall be sufficient authority for the sheriff to receive and retain the accused until he is otherwise bailed or discharged.

C. Upon the delivery of the accused as provided in this section, the surety may apply to the court for an order discharging him from liability as surety; and upon satisfactory proof being made that this section has been complied with, the court shall enter an order discharging the surety from liability.

D. This section shall not apply to a paid surety as defined by Section 31-3-4 NMSA 1978.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-3, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 10.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 10, repealed 41-3-3, 1953 Comp., relating to examination of case by magistrate, and enacted a new section.

**Obligation terminates upon delivery to sheriff.** — By statute, the bail has power to take and deliver the principal at any time to the sheriff and thus be relieved of its obligation. *State v. United Bonding Ins. Co.*, 1970-NMSC-017, 81 N.M. 154, 464 P.2d 884.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 8 Am. Jur. 2d Bail and Recognizance § 80 et seq.

Surrender of principal by sureties on bail bond, 3 A.L.R. 180, 73 A.L.R. 1369.

Right of bail to relief from forfeiture of bond or recognizance in event of subsequent surrender or production of principal, 84 A.L.R. 420.

Dismissal or vacation of indictment as terminating liability or obligation of surety on bail bond, 18 A.L.R.3d 1354.

Bail: duration of surety's liability on pretrial bond, 32 A.L.R.4th 504.

Bail: duration of surety's liability on posttrial bail bond, 32 A.L.R.4th 575.

Bail: effect on liability of bail bond surety of state's delay in obtaining indictment or bringing defendant to trial, 32 A.L.R.4th 600.

Bail: effect on surety's liability under bail bond of principal's subsequent incarceration in same jurisdiction, 35 A.L.R.4th 1192.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 136 to 139.

### **31-3-4. Paid sureties.**

A. A "paid surety" is a surety that has taken money, property or other consideration to act as a surety for the accused.

B. When a paid surety desires to be discharged from the obligation of its bond, it may arrest the accused and deliver him to the sheriff of the county in which the action against the accused is pending.

C. The paid surety shall, at the time of surrendering the accused, deliver to the sheriff a certified copy of the order admitting the accused to bail and a certified copy of the bail bond. Delivery of these documents shall be sufficient authority for the sheriff to receive and retain the accused until he may be brought before the court.

D. A paid surety may be released from the obligation of its bond only by an order of the court.

E. The court shall order the discharge of a paid surety if:

- (1) there has been a final disposition of all charges against the accused;
- (2) the accused is dead;
- (3) circumstances have arisen which the surety could not have foreseen at the time it became a paid surety for the accused; or
- (4) the contractual agreement between the surety, the principal and the state has terminated.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-4, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 11.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 11, repealed 41-3-4, 1953 Comp., relating to adjournment of the magistrate's examination of the defendant, and enacted a new section.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 8 Am. Jur. 2d Bail and Recognizance § 80 et seq.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 136 to 139.

### **31-3-5. Approval of bond.**

No bond shall be accepted from a paid surety, as defined in Section 31-3-4 NMSA 1978, by a magistrate court or a district court unless executed on a form which has been approved by the supreme court.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-4.1, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 73, § 5.

### **31-3-6. Change of venue.**

If the defendant is released pending trial and thereafter a change of venue is granted, the defendant shall be bound to appear according to the change of venue and otherwise in accordance with the terms of his recognizance. The sureties on a bail bond shall be bound to deliver the defendant in accordance with the change of venue without the necessity of giving a new bail bond.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-5, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 12.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 12, repealed 41-3-5, 1953 Comp., relating to disposition of defendant, by the magistrate, in case of an adjournment, and enacted a new section.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 8 Am. Jur. 2d Bail and Recognizance § 117.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 40, 41, 43 to 49, 140, 141, 143 to 155, 183.

### **31-3-7. Bail for witness.**

If it appears by affidavit that the testimony of a person is material in any felony criminal proceeding and that it may become impracticable to secure his presence by subpoena, the judge may require such person to give bail pursuant to Rules of Criminal Procedure for his appearance as a witness. If the witness fails to give bail pursuant to Rules of Criminal Procedure, the witness may be committed to the custody of the sheriff for a period not to exceed five days within which time his deposition shall be taken as provided by Rules of Criminal Procedure. The court upon good cause shown may extend the time for taking such depositions for a period not exceeding five days. In no case except a first or second degree felony shall any surety be required for the bail of such witness.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-6, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 13.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 13, repealed 41-3-6, 1953 Comp., relating to commitment forms to be used by the magistrate, and enacted a new section.

**Arrest of material witness.** — This section does not authorize an arrest of a material witness at the scene of a crime, where there is no evidence that the witness would avoid a subpoena or be unwilling to testify in a subsequent trial. *Perkins v. Click*, 148 F. Supp. 2d 1177 (D.N.M. 2001).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 81 Am. Jur. 2d Witnesses § 4.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 56 to 58, 170 to 174.

### **31-3-8. Defects in bail or bail bond; effect.**

No recognizance, undertaking or bond taken in any criminal proceeding shall be void, nor shall the principal or surety be discharged, from liability thereon for want of

form or substance or for omission of any recital or condition or because the same was entered into on Sunday.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-7, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 14.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 14, repealed 41-3-7, 1953 Comp., relating to the magistrate reading the complaint to the defendant and issuing subpoenas for any required witnesses, and enacted a new section.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 8 Am. Jur. 2d Bail and Recognizance § 51 et seq; §§ 153, 160 to 162.

Variance between name in bail bond and in judgment of forfeiture, 20 A.L.R. 411.

Necessity of reference in bail bond to specific crime, 103 A.L.R. 535.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 93 to 106.

### **31-3-9. Failure to appear; penalty.**

A person released pending any proceeding related to the prosecution or appeal of a criminal offense or a probation revocation proceeding who willfully fails to appear before any court or judicial officer as required:

A. is guilty of a fourth degree felony, if he was released in connection with a felony proceeding; or

B. is guilty of a petty misdemeanor, if he was released in connection with a misdemeanor or a petty misdemeanor proceeding.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-3-8, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 73, § 6; 1999, ch. 150, § 1.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 18, repealed former 41-3-8, 1953 Comp., relating to procedures in the magistrate court after defendant's arrest.

**The 1999 amendment**, effective July 1, 1999, substituted "A" for "Any" and "any proceeding related to the prosecution or appeal of a criminal offense or a probation revocation proceeding" for "trial or appeal in any criminal action" in the first paragraph, substituted "proceeding" for "charge" in Subsection A, and deleted "charge of a" following "in connection with" and added "proceeding" in Subsection B.



**This section is not unconstitutionally vague.** *State v. Aranda*, 1980-NMCA-130, 94 N.M. 784, 617 P.2d 173.

**Only general intent required.** — Failure to appear is not a specific intent crime; therefore, rejection of defendant's tendered instruction defining "willfulness" as requiring specific intent to abscond or thwart legal process was not erroneous. *State v. Elliott*, 2001-NMCA-108, 131 N.M. 390, 37 P.3d 107, cert. quashed, 132 N.M. 288, 47 P.3d 447 (2002).

**Sentencing proceedings included.** — Failure to appear at sentencing is encompassed by this section, since the word "trial", which formerly appeared in this section, could be construed as including all those proceedings within the district court's jurisdiction, at least through sentencing. *State v. Peppers*, 1990-NMCA-057, 110 N.M. 393, 796 P.2d 614, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 260, 794 P.2d 734.

**Attorneys lack authority to compel appearance of individuals.** — Although attorneys are officers of the court, there is no authority under which attorneys can require the appearance of an individual before a court unless authorized to do so by court process, court rule or enabling legislation. Where no such authorization appeared in the record, defendant who willfully failed to appear in district court after making oral promise to assistant district attorney that he would do so to complete plea bargaining agreement on drug charge was not required to appear for purposes of this section, and could not be convicted under Subsection A. *State v. Easterling*, 1976-NMCA-078, 89 N.M. 486, 553 P.2d 1293.

**No requirement of proving express notice to defendant.** — The presence or absence of notice to the defendant may have a bearing at trial on the question of willfulness, depending upon the other facts of the case, but express notice to the defendant is not an independent element, apart from the determination of willfulness, which the state must prove at either the preliminary hearing or at trial. *State v. Masters*, 1982-NMCA-166, 99 N.M. 58, 653 P.2d 889.

**Willful failure to appear is question of fact.** — The word "willfully," as used in this section, concerns the defendant's state of mind and is a factual question. *State v. Masters*, 1982-NMCA-166, 99 N.M. 58, 653 P.2d 889.

**Court order failed to compel appearance.** — Facts as charged and as elicited at trial simply did not constitute a violation of this section when "strictly construed" against the State because: (1) the trial court's order violated due process in that it was unclear whether or not the defendant was required to appear on the date in question; and (2) courts would not extend punishment to cases that were not plainly within the statutory language used. *State v. Hicks*, 2002-NMCA-038, 132 N.M. 68, 43 P.3d 1078, cert. denied, 132 N.M. 83, 44 P.3d 529.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Failure to appear, and the like, resulting in forfeiture or conditional forfeiture of bail, as affecting right to second admission to bail in same noncapital criminal case, 29 A.L.R.2d 945.

State statutes making default on bail a separate criminal offense, 63 A.L.R.4th 1064.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 70 to 75.

### **31-3-10. Termination of liability.**

All recognizances secured by the execution of a bail bond shall be null and void upon the finding that the accused person is guilty, and all bond liability shall thereupon terminate.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-3-10, enacted by Laws 1987, ch. 228, § 2.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Purpose of bail bond.** — A bail bond is a type of bond to obtain the release of a person from imprisonment and to secure his appearance before the court. *State v. Valles*, 2004-NMCA-118, 136 N.M. 429, 99 P.3d 1164.

**Statute governs.** — Because the bail bond form which the supreme court requires sureties to sign when posting bail for a criminal defendant and a statute conflict on when the surety's obligation under the bond terminates, the statute governs. *State v. Valles*, 2004-NMCA-118, 136 N.M. 429, 99 P.3d 1164.

**Surety discharged when defendant found guilty.** — With the 1987 enactment of this section, the legislature established that the contractual agreement between surety, the principal and the state was terminated when defendant was found guilty, and the court is therefore required to order the discharge of the surety under 31-3-4 E(4) NMSA 1978. *State v. Valles*, 2004-NMCA-118, 136 N.M. 429, 99 P.3d 1164.

### **31-3-11. Release of individuals who are pregnant or lactating.**

A. The court shall consider an individual's pregnancy or lactation status when determining whether the individual is eligible for release or bond and in the computation of good time credit. A presumption shall be made in favor of release for an individual who is pregnant or lactating. An individual released pursuant to this section shall be placed on the least restrictive conditions of release necessary to ensure return to custody.

B. As used in this section, "release" means:

(1) custodial release, which is release under such court-imposed restrictions as to satisfy the court that the person remains in custody while released; and

(2) noncustodial release, which is release under such conditions that are not considered custodial.

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 73, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2019, ch. 73, § 2 made Laws 2019, ch. 73, § 1 effective July 1, 2019.

### **31-3-12. Availability of global positioning system data on defendants on pretrial release.**

Any public entity that possesses or controls global positioning system data with respect to a defendant on pretrial release shall make that data available without a warrant to a law enforcement officer pursuant to an ongoing and pending criminal investigation for which there is reasonable suspicion to believe the data will be probative. Any data provided to the law enforcement officer shall be limited to data that relates to the criminal investigation and is not more than one year old. The data shall not be made a part of any public record unless admitted as evidence during a criminal trial. The law enforcement officer may request immediate access to the data if it involves an investigation of:

A. any of the following serious violent felony offenses:

- (1) murder in the first degree;
- (2) first or second degree felony human trafficking of a child;
- (3) first degree felony abuse of a child;
- (4) sexual exploitation of a child constituting at least a second degree felony;

or

(5) a serious violent felony offense as provided in Subparagraphs (a) through (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection L of Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978;

B. a felony offense during which a firearm was brandished pursuant to Section 31-18-16 NMSA 1978 or during which a firearm was discharged; or

C. a felony offense during which great bodily harm was inflicted as defined in Section 30-1-12 NMSA 1978 or that caused the death of a person.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 28.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 28 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-3-13. Hold for violation of conditions of release.**

A. When a court receives notice that a person on pretrial release for a felony is arrested for a subsequent felony, the court shall issue an order for the person to remain in custody.

B. The person shall remain in custody until each judge assigned to any of the person's pending previous felony cases or another judge assigned for that purpose considers modification or revocation of the person's conditions of release.

**History:** Laws 2024, ch. 53, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2024, ch. 53 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 15, 2024, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2024, ch. 53, § 2 provided that the supreme court may issue rules to implement the provisions of Laws 2024, ch. 53.

## **ARTICLE 3A**

### **Witness Immunity (Recompiled.)**

#### **31-3A-1. Recompiled.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Recompilations.** — Section 31-3A-1 NMSA 1978 was recompiled as 31-6-15 NMSA 1978 by direction of the compilation commission.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **Extradition**

#### **31-4-1. Definitions.**

Where appearing in this act [31-4-1 to 31-4-30 NMSA 1978], the term "governor" includes any person performing the functions of governor by authority of the law of this state. The term "executive authority" includes the governor, and any person performing the functions of governor in a state other than this state. The term "state", referring to a

state other than this state, includes any other state or territory, organized or unorganized, of the United States of America. The term "prosecuting attorney" includes the various district attorneys of this state and their duly appointed, qualified and acting assistants, the attorney general and his duly appointed, qualified and acting assistants.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 42-1901; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Uniform Criminal Extradition Act is constitutional.** *Ex parte Dalton*, 1952-NMSC-049, 56 N.M. 407, 244 P.2d 790.

**Extradition not required.** — The state was not required to extradite defendant from Arizona so as to prevent his classification as a fugitive under 31-21-15 NMSA 1978 and the consequent revocation of probation. *State v. McDonald*, 1991-NMCA-132, 113 N.M. 305, 825 P.2d 238, cert. denied, 113 N.M. 44, 822 P.2d 1127 (1992).

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "Tribal Control of Extradition from Reservations," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 626 (1970).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 1 et seq.

Right to delay of one arrested on extradition warrant to enable him to present evidence that he is not subject to extradition, 11 A.L.R. 1410.

Meaning of word "similar" in statute as to evidence in extradition proceeding, 17 A.L.R. 102.

Right to try one for an offense other than that named in extradition proceedings, 21 A.L.R. 1405.

One charged with desertion or failure to support wife or child as fugitive from justice, subject to extradition, 32 A.L.R. 1167, 54 A.L.R. 281.

Right to prove alibi or absence from demanding state, 51 A.L.R. 797, 61 A.L.R. 715.

Extradition of juveniles, 73 A.L.R.3d 700.

Application of doctrine of specialty to federal criminal prosecution of accused extradited from foreign country, 112 A.L.R. Fed. 473.

Test of "dual criminality" where extradition to or from foreign nation is sought, 132 A.L.R. Fed. 525.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 2 et seq.

## 31-4-2. Fugitives from justice; duty of governor.

Subject to the provisions of this act [31-4-1 to 31-4-30 NMSA 1978], the provisions of the constitution of the United States controlling and any and all acts of congress enacted in pursuance thereof, it is the duty of the governor of this state to have arrested and delivered up to the executive authority of any other state of the United States any person charged in that state with treason, felony or other crime, who has fled from justice and is found in this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 2; 1941 Comp., § 42-1902; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-2.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Expenses incurred for jailing fugitive.** — County had no right to sue a state to recover expenses for detaining and extraditing a fugitive. It was the governor of the state of New Mexico who empowered Colfax county through the aegis of his extradition warrant. Without that warrant, the county and its officers were powerless to assert jurisdiction over the fugitive and make the fugitive answerable to the New Hampshire charges. In actuality, Colfax county acted as an agent of the governor of New Mexico, and any powers the county exercised flowed directly from the New Mexico executive. *Colfax Cnty. Bd. of Cnty. Comm'rs v. State of N.H.*, 16 F.3d 1107 (10th Cir. 1994)

**Purpose of extradition clause of federal constitution,** U.S. Const., art. IV, § 2, is to preclude any state from becoming a sanctuary for fugitives from the justice of another state and thus "balkanize" the administration of criminal justice among the several states. *Bazaldua v. Hanrahan*, 1979-NMSC-025, 92 N.M. 596, 592 P.2d 512.

The intent of the extradition clause to the United States constitution is to enable each state to bring offenders to trial as swiftly as possible in the state where the alleged offense occurred. The purpose of the clause is to prevent any state from becoming a sanctuary for fugitives from justice of another state. *State ex rel. Schiff v. Brennan*, 1983-NMSC-042, 99 N.M. 641, 662 P.2d 642.

**Governor's grant of extradition prima facie evidence** that constitutional and statutory requirements have been met. Thereafter, the burden shifts to the accused to prove beyond a reasonable doubt in the asylum state that he is not a fugitive from the demanding state. *Bazaldua v. Hanrahan*, 1979-NMSC-025, 92 N.M. 596, 592 P.2d 512.

**Courts of asylum state bound by demanding state's judicial determination.** — Under U.S. Const., art. IV, § 2, the courts of the asylum state are bound to accept the demanding state's judicial determination of probable cause for arrest since the proceedings of the demanding state are clothed with the traditional presumption of regularity. *Bazaldua v. Hanrahan*, 1979-NMSC-025, 92 N.M. 596, 592 P.2d 512.

**Court may not discharge accused arrested under governor's warrant where** there is merely contradictory evidence on the subject of his presence in or absence from the

demanding state at the time of the alleged crime, as habeas corpus is not the proper proceeding to try the question of alibi or any question as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. *Bazaldua v. Hanrahan*, 1979-NMSC-025, 92 N.M. 596, 592 P.2d 512.

**However, no further judicial inquiries, once governor acts on extradition.** — Once the governor of an asylum state has acted on a requisition for extradition based on the demanding state's judicial determination that probable cause existed, no further judicial inquiry may be had on that issue in the asylum state. *Bazaldua v. Hanrahan*, 1979-NMSC-025, 92 N.M. 596, 592 P.2d 512.

**Review of requisition for extradition.** — Once a governor has granted extradition, a court in the asylum state considering release on habeas corpus can do no more than decide: (1) whether the extradition documents on their face are in order; (2) whether the petitioner has been charged with a crime in the demanding state; (3) whether the petitioner is the person named in the request for extradition; and (4) whether the petitioner is a fugitive. *Bazaldua v. Hanrahan*, 1979-NMSC-025, 92 N.M. 596, 592 P.2d 512.

**Extradition of juveniles.** 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-14 (rendered under prior law, now see Section 32A-10-1 NMSA 1978).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition §§ 22 to 26, 30, 95.

One charged with desertion or failure to support wife or child as fugitive from justice, subject to extradition, 32 A.L.R. 1167, 54 A.L.R. 281.

Extradition of fugitive in custody under charge in asylum state, 42 A.L.R. 585.

One who left demanding state by official permission as a fugitive from justice for purposes of extradition, 67 A.L.R. 1480.

Extradition of escaped or paroled convict, or one at liberty on bail, 78 A.L.R. 419.

Once removed from demanding state or country as a fugitive from justice within contemplation of extradition laws, 85 A.L.R. 118.

One not in demanding state at time of offense, but who afterward entered and left state, as fugitive from justice within extradition law, 91 A.L.R. 1262.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 7 et seq.

### **31-4-3. Form of demand.**

No demand for the extradition of a person charged with crime in another state shall be recognized by the governor unless in writing, alleging, except in cases arising under

Section 6 [31-4-6 NMSA 1978], that the accused was present in the demanding state at the time of the commission of the alleged crime, and that thereafter he fled from the state, and accompanied by a copy of an indictment found or by information supported by affidavit in the state having jurisdiction of the crime, or by a copy of an affidavit made before a magistrate there, together with a copy of any warrant which was issued thereupon; or by a copy of a judgment of conviction or of a sentence imposed in execution thereof, together with a statement by the executive authority of the demanding state that the person claimed has escaped from confinement or has broken the terms of his bail, probation or parole. The indictment, information or affidavit made before the magistrate must substantially charge the person demanded with having committed a crime under the law of that state; and the copy [copy] of indictment, information, affidavit, judgment of conviction or sentence must be authenticated by the executive authority making the demand.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 3; 1941 Comp., § 42-1903; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-3.

### ANNOTATIONS

**District court not authorized to review issues beyond scope of demanding documents.** — Language in this section requiring the indictment, information or affidavit to "substantially charge the person demanded with having committed a crime" does not authorize the district court to go beyond the charging documents and review issues that should be litigated in the state demanding extradition. *Hopper v. State ex rel. Schiff*, 1984-NMSC-034, 101 N.M. 71, 678 P.2d 699.

**Error held harmless where documentation eventually provided.** — In a proceeding for a writ of habeas corpus challenging the petitioner's extradition to Ohio, there was no harm in the fact that the parties may have been served with incomplete documentation since the missing documents were eventually provided. *Reed v. State ex rel. Ortiz*, 1997-NMSC-055, 124 N.M. 129, 947 P.2d 86, *rev'd on other grounds*, 524 U.S. 151, 118 S. Ct. 1860, 141 L. Ed. 2d 131 (1998).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition §§ 67 to 89.

Extradition of one who violates parole, 78 A.L.R. 419.

Recitals in rendition warrant as to copy of indictment or affidavit, sufficiency of, 89 A.L.R. 595.

Allegation or proof of presence of accused in demanding state at time of commission of alleged crime or that accused is a fugitive, sufficiency of statements in demanding papers as to, 135 A.L.R. 973.

Statute authorizing extradition of one who commits an act within the state or a third state resulting in a crime in the demanding state, constitutionality, construction and application of, 151 A.L.R. 239.



Modern status of rule relating to jurisdiction of state court to try criminal defendant brought within jurisdiction illegal or as result of fraud or mistake, 25 A.L.R.4th 157.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 16 et seq.

### **31-4-4. Governor may investigate case.**

When a demand shall be made upon the governor of this state by the executive authority of another state for the surrender of a person so charged with crime, the governor may call upon the attorney general or any prosecuting officer in this state to investigate or assist in investigating the demand, and to report to him the situation and circumstances of the person so demanded, and whether he ought to be surrendered.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 4; 1941 Comp., § 42-1904; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-4.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 96.

Mission or motive of defendant in going to asylum state as affecting right to extradite him, 13 A.L.R. 415.

Bar of limitations as proper subject of investigation in extradition proceedings, 77 A.L.R. 902.

Determination in extradition proceedings, or on habeas corpus in such proceedings, whether a crime is charged, 81 A.L.R. 552, 40 A.L.R.2d 1151.

Motive or ulterior purpose of officials demanding or granting extradition as proper subject of inquiry, 94 A.L.R. 1493.

Sanity or insanity or pendency of lunacy proceedings as matters for consideration in extradition proceedings, 114 A.L.R. 693.

35 C.J.S. Extradition §§ 30 to 33.

### **31-4-5. Extradition of persons imprisoned or awaiting trial in another state or who have left the demanding state under compulsion.**

When it is desired to have returned to this state a person charged in this state with a crime, and such person is imprisoned or is held under criminal proceedings then pending against him in another state, the governor of this state may agree with the executive authority of such other state for the extradition of such person before the conclusion of such proceedings or his term of sentence in such other state, upon

condition that such person be returned to such other state at the expense of this state as soon as the prosecution in this state is terminated.

The governor of this state may also surrender on demand of the executive authority of any other state any person in this state who is charged in the manner provided in Section 23 [31-4-25 NMSA 1978] of this act with having violated the laws of the state whose executive authority is making the demand, even though such person left the demanding state involuntarily.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 5; 1941 Comp., § 42-1905; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-5.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For surrendering to another state a person detained in this state under prosecution or conviction in this state, see 31-4-19 NMSA 1978.

**Asylum state has no discretion.** — Where New Mexico courts held that respondent was not a fugitive from justice, but a refugee from injustice because respondent fled Ohio because of fear that respondent's parole would be revoked without due process and that respondent would be returned to prison where respondent faced the threat of bodily injury, the New Mexico courts went beyond the permissible inquiry in an extradition case and permitted litigation of issues not open in the asylum state. The extradition clause of the United States constitution is mandatory and affords no discretion to the executive officers of the courts of the asylum state. *N.M. ex rel. Ortiz v. Reed*, 118 S.Ct. 1860, 524 U.S. 151, 141 L. Ed. 2d 131 (1998), *rev'g Reed v. State ex. rel. Ortiz*, 1997-NMSC-055, 124 N.M. 129, 947 P.2d 86.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 152.

Extradition of fugitive in custody under charge in asylum state, 42 A.L.R. 585.

Extradition, as a fugitive from justice, of one who left the demanding state by official permission, 67 A.L.R. 1480.

Determination whether crime is charged, 40 A.L.R.2d 1151.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 15.

**Law Reviews.** — For Article, "Developing a State Constitutional Law Strategy in New Mexico Criminal Prosecutions," see 39 N.M.L. Rev. 407 (2009).

## **31-4-6. Extradition of persons not present in demanding state at time of commission of crime.**

The governor of this state:

A. may also surrender, on demand of the executive authority of any other state, any person in this state charged in such other state in the manner provided in Section 31-4-3 NMSA 1978 with committing an act in this state, or in a third state, intentionally resulting in a crime in the state whose executive authority is making the demand. The provisions of the Uniform Criminal Extradition Act not otherwise inconsistent shall apply to such cases, even though the accused was not in that state at the time of the commission of the crime and has not fled therefrom; and

B. shall not arrest or deliver a person if the charge is based on engaging in a protected health care activity, pursuant to the provisions of the Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care Protection Act [24-35-1 to 24-35-8 NMSA 1978], including a charge based on vicarious, joint or several liability or conspiracy, unless the executive authority of the demanding state alleges in writing that the accused was physically present in the demanding state at the time of the commission of the alleged offense and that thereafter, the accused fled from the demanding state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 6; 1941 Comp., § 42-1906; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-6; 2023, ch. 167, § 9.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, provided that the governor shall not extradite a person if the charge is based on engaging in a protected health care activity pursuant to the Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care Protection Act, and provided an exception; added new subsection designation "A."; and added new Subsection B.

**Proper request by demanding state must be honored.** — Extradition demanded by another state for the crime of non-support, properly requested under this section, should be honored by New Mexico if the demanding state has a law making it a crime to fail to support a wife or child when the accused is outside the demanding state at the time of failure to support occurs. 1953 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 53-5713.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 28, 29.

One not in demanding state at time of offense, but who afterward entered and left state, as fugitive from justice within extradition law, 91 A.L.R. 1262.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute authorizing extradition of one who commits an act within the state or a third state resulting in a crime in the demanding state, 151 A.L.R. 239.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 11.

**31-4-7. Issue of governor's warrant of arrest; its recitals.**

If the governor decides that the demand should be complied with, he shall sign a warrant of arrest, which shall be sealed with the state seal, and be directed to any peace officer or other person whom he may think fit to entrust with the execution thereof. The warrant must substantially recite the facts necessary to the validity of its issuance.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 7; 1941 Comp., § 42-1907; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-7.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Prisoner is not entitled to bail after governor's extradition warrant has been served.** *State ex rel. Schiff v. Brennan*, 1983-NMSC-042, 99 N.M. 641, 662 P.2d 642.

**Enumeration of rights not required.** — A warrant issued in accordance with this section is not required to enumerate the rights contained in Section 31-4-10 NMSA 1978. *Johnson v. Shuler*, 2001-NMSC-009, 130 N.M. 144, 20 P.3d 126.

**County cannot recover expenses incurred for jailing fugitive.** — Where a fugitive from New Hampshire was detained in the Colfax County jail while awaiting extradition to New Hampshire; the governors of New Mexico and New Hampshire played the exclusive roles in the extradition process such that neither New Hampshire nor its governor made any demand on Colfax County or directed Colfax County to act on their behalf; the extradition warrant issued by the governor of New Mexico granted Colfax County jurisdiction to hold the fugitive and Colfax County acted as the New Mexico governor's agent in the extradition process; and New Hampshire had no contact with Colfax County, Colfax County was barred from demanding payment of state expenses incurred for jailing the fugitive. *Colfax Cnty. Bd. of Cnty. Comm'r v. State of N.H.*, 16 F.3d 1107 (10th Cir. 1994).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 117 to 119.

Sufficiency of recitals in rendition warrant in extradition as regards copy of indictment or affidavit, 89 A.L.R. 595.

35 C.J.S. Extradition §§ 35, 36.

### **31-4-8. Manner and place of execution.**

Such warrant shall authorize the peace officer or other person to whom directed to arrest the accused at any time and any place where he may be found within the state and to command the aid of all peace officers or other persons in the execution of the warrant, and to deliver the accused, subject to the provisions of this act [31-4-1 to 31-4-30 NMSA 1978], to the duly authorized agent of the demanding state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 8; 1941 Comp., § 42-1908; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-8.

### **31-4-9. Authority of arresting officer.**

Every such peace officer or other person empowered to make the arrest shall have the same authority, in arresting the accused, to command assistance therein, as peace officers have by law in the execution of any criminal process directed to them, with like penalties against those who refuse their assistance.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 9; 1941 Comp., § 42-1909; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-9.

### **31-4-10. Rights of accused person; application for writ of habeas corpus.**

No person arrested upon such warrant shall be delivered over to the agent whom the executive authority demanding him shall have appointed to receive him unless he shall first be taken forthwith before a judge of a court of record in this state, who shall inform him of the demand made for his surrender and of the crime with which he is charged, and that he has the right to demand and procure legal counsel; and if the prisoner or his counsel shall state that he or they desire to test the legality of his arrest, the judge of such court of record shall fix a reasonable time to be allowed him within which to apply for a writ of habeas corpus. When such writ is applied for, notice thereof, and of the time and place of hearing thereon, shall be given to the prosecuting officer of the county in which the arrest is made and in which the accused is in custody, and to the said agent of the demanding state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 10; 1941 Comp., § 42-1910; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-10.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For habeas corpus, see 44-1-1 to 44-1-37 NMSA 1978.

**Violations of the extradition act.** — The New Mexico constitution does not provide greater due process rights than the federal constitution for violations of the state extradition act and the metropolitan court was not deprived of personal jurisdiction over a defendant because of his illegal extradition. *State v. Nysus*, 2001-NMCA-023, 130 N.M. 431, 25 P.3d 270, cert.denied, 130 N.M. 254, 23 P.3d 929.

**Jurisdiction occurs upon arrest on out-of-state charges.** — Under this section, the district court does not obtain jurisdiction over the person until after an arrest on the out-of-state charge has been made, so, where there was never an arrest, and the defendant has not suffered any damage, subsequent statutory proceedings for extradition are not precluded by a court's earlier actions without jurisdiction. *State v. Nicolini*, 1978-NMSC-021, 91 N.M. 484, 576 P.2d 290.

**Application for writ.** — If a fugitive desires to test the legality of his arrest, the judge of the court of record determines a reasonable time within which he is to apply for the writ of habeas corpus. This provision of the extradition act helps assure that a fugitive will

not remain incarcerated in the asylum state for an unduly long period of time after arrest under a governor's warrant. 1974 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 74-38.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Habeas Corpus in New Mexico," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 291 (1981).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition §§ 123 to 143.

Right to appeal from order releasing one in extradition proceedings, 5 A.L.R. 1156.

Right of one arrested on extradition warrant to delay to enable him to present evidence that he is not subject to extradition, 11 A.L.R. 1410.

Motive or mission of defendant in going to asylum state as affecting right to extradite him, 13 A.L.R. 415.

Right to try one for offense other than that named in extradition proceedings, 21 A.L.R. 1405.

Right to prove absence from demanding state or alibi on habeas corpus in extradition proceedings, 51 A.L.R. 797, 61 A.L.R. 715.

Bar of limitations as proper subject of investigation in extradition proceedings or in habeas corpus proceedings for release of one sought to be extradited, 77 A.L.R. 902.

Determination in extradition proceedings, or on habeas corpus in such proceedings, whether a crime is charged, 81 A.L.R. 552, 40 A.L.R.2d 1151.

Bond to indemnify public against expense of extradition or other criminal proceedings in event they are unsuccessful as contrary to public policy, 94 A.L.R. 355.

Motive or ulterior purpose of officials demanding or granting extradition as proper subject of inquiry, 94 A.L.R. 1493.

Sanity or insanity or pendency of lunacy proceedings as matters for consideration in extradition proceedings, 114 A.L.R. 693.

Discharge on habeas corpus of one held in extradition proceedings as precluding subsequent extradition proceedings, 33 A.L.R.3d 1443.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 34.

**31-4-11. Penalty for noncompliance with preceding section.**

Any officer who shall deliver to the agent for extradition of the demanding state a person in his custody under the governor's warrant, in willful disobedience to the last section [31-4-10 NMSA 1978], shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, shall be fined (not more than \$1,000.00 or be imprisoned not more than six months, or both).

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 11; 1941 Comp., § 42-1911; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-11.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Necessity that demanding state show probable cause to arrest fugitive in extradition proceedings, 90 A.L.R.3d 1074.

### **31-4-12. Confinement in jail when necessary.**

The officer or persons executing the governor's warrant of arrest, or the agent of the demanding state to whom the prisoner may have been delivered, may, when necessary, confine the prisoner in the jail of any county or city through which he may pass; and the keeper of such jail must receive and safely keep the prisoner until the officer or person having charge of him is ready to proceed on his route, such officer or person being chargeable with the expense of keeping.

The officer or agent of a demanding state to whom a prisoner may have been delivered following extradition proceedings in another state, or to whom a prisoner may have been delivered after waiving extradition in such other state, and who is passing through this state with such a prisoner for the purpose of immediately returning such prisoner to the demanding state may, when necessary, confine the prisoner in the jail of any county or city through which he may pass; and the keeper of such jail must receive and safely keep the prisoner until the officer or agent having charge of him is ready to proceed on his route, such officer or agent, however, being chargeable with the expense of keeping; provided, however, that such officer or agent shall produce and show to the keeper of such jail satisfactory written evidence of the fact that he is actually transporting such prisoner to the demanding state after a requisition by the executive authority of such demanding state. Such prisoner shall not be entitled to demand a new requisition while in this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 12; 1941 Comp., § 42-1912; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-12.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Identification of officer required before he can accept prisoners.** — Under the provisions of the Uniform Criminal Extradition Act, 31-4-1 to 31-4-30 NMSA 1978, there is no requirement that guards, as such, be designated by name. It is certain, however, that the sheriff or other designated officer who represents the executive authority of the requisitioning state and is the agent of that state for receipt of prisoners, has to be named and duly accredited as the demanding state's agent before prisoners will be delivered to him. 1961 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 61-9.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 58 to 62.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 67.

### **31-4-13. Arrest prior to requisition.**

Whenever any person within this state shall be charged on the oath of any credible person before any judge or magistrate of this state with the commission of any crime in any other state and, except in cases arising under Section 6 [31-4-6 NMSA 1978] with having fled from justice, or with having been convicted of a crime in that state and having escaped from confinement, or having broken the terms of his bail, probation or parole, or whenever complaint shall have been made before any judge or magistrate in this state setting forth on the affidavit of any credible person in another state that a crime has been committed in such other state and that the accused has been charged in such state with the commission of the crime, and, except in cases arising under Section 6, has fled from justice, or with having been convicted of a crime in that state and having escaped from confinement, or having broken the terms of his bail, probation or parole, and is believed to be in this state, the judge or magistrate shall issue a warrant directed to any peace officer commanding him to apprehend the person named therein, wherever he may be found in this state, and to bring him before the same or any other judge, magistrate or court who or which may be available in or convenient of access to the place where the arrest may be made, to answer the charge or complaint and affidavit, and a certified copy of the sworn charge or complaint and affidavit upon which the warrant is issued shall be attached to the warrant.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 13; 1941 Comp., § 42-1913; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-13.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Prisoner is not entitled to bail after governor's extradition warrant has been served.** *State ex rel. Schiff v. Brennan*, 1983-NMSC-042, 99 N.M. 641, 662 P.2d 642.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 58 to 62.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 67.

### **31-4-14. Arrest without a warrant.**

The arrest of a person may be lawfully made also by any peace officer or a private person without a warrant upon reasonable information that the accused stands charged in the courts of a state with a crime punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, but when so arrested the accused must be taken before a judge or magistrate with all practicable speed and complaint must be made against him under oath setting forth the ground for the arrest as in the preceding section [31-4-13 NMSA 1978]; and thereafter his answer shall be heard as if he had been arrested on a warrant.



**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 14; 1941 Comp., § 42-1914; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-14.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Bondsman arresting third party.** — Neither the common-law nor statutory authority of a bondsman to make a warrantless arrest of his principal absolves a bondsman of criminal responsibility ensuing from the armed, unauthorized, and forcible entry into the residence of a third party. *State v. Lopez*, 1986-NMCA-094, 105 N.M. 538, 734 P.2d 778, cert. quashed, 105 N.M. 521, 734 P.2d 761, and cert. denied, 479 U.S. 1092, 107 S. Ct. 1305, 94 L. Ed. 2d 160 (1987).

A foreign bondsman must comply with this article in seeking the rearrest of his principal. *State v. Lopez*, 1986-NMCA-094, 105 N.M. 538, 734 P.2d 778, cert. quashed, 105 N.M. 521, 734 P.2d 761, and cert. denied, 479 U.S. 1092, 107 S. Ct. 1305, 94 L. Ed. 2d 160 (1987); *Lopez v. McCotter*, 875 F.2d 273 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 996, 110 S. Ct. 549, 107 L. Ed. 2d 546 (1989).

**Retroactive application of *State v. Lopez*.** — The decision of the court of appeals in *State v. Lopez*, 1986-NMCA-094, 105 N.M. 538, 734 P.2d 778, holding that a foreign bondsman must comply with this article in seeking the rearrest of his principal was so "unexpected" under preexisting law as to prevent its application retroactively. *Lopez v. McCotter*, 875 F.2d 273 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 996, 110 S. Ct. 549, 107 L. Ed. 2d 546 (1989).

### 31-4-15. Commitment to await requisition; bail.

If from the examination before the judge or magistrate it appears that the person held is the person charged with having committed the crime alleged and, except in cases arising under Section 6 [31-4-6 NMSA 1978], that he has fled from justice, the judge or magistrate must, by a warrant reciting the accusation, commit him to the county jail for such a time not exceeding thirty days and specified in the warrant, as will enable the arrest of the accused to be made under a warrant of the governor on a requisition of the executive authority of the state having jurisdiction of the offense, unless the accused give bail as provided in the next section [31-4-16 NMSA 1978], or until he shall be legally discharged.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 15; 1941 Comp., § 42-1915; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-15.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Constitutional basis for extradition not contingent upon right to speedy trial.** — United States Const., art. IV, § 2, the basis for extradition, by its terms, is not made contingent upon a sixth amendment right to a speedy trial. *State v. Sandoval*, 1980-NMSC-139, 95 N.M. 254, 620 P.2d 1279.

**Concepts of res judicata, double jeopardy and estoppel do not apply** to extradition proceedings and are not within the purview of inquiry in an extradition proceeding. *State v. Sandoval*, 1980-NMSC-139, 95 N.M. 254, 620 P.2d 1279.

**No bail for parole violators under interstate compact.** — The extradition statutes, this section and Section 31-4-16 NMSA 1978, provide for bail in certain instances. These provisions for bail, however, would not apply in the case where the parole board is investigating a parolee being held in jail for parole violation under the terms of the interstate compact. 1957 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-33.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 58 to 62.  
35 C.J.S. Extradition § 67.

### **31-4-16. Bail; in what cases; conditions of bond.**

Unless the offense with which the prisoner is charged is shown to be an offense punishable by death or life imprisonment under the laws of the state in which it was committed, a judge or magistrate in this state may admit the person arrested to bail by bond, with sufficient sureties, and in such sum as he deems proper, conditioned for his appearance before him at a time specified in such bond, and for his surrender, to be arrested upon the warrant of the governor of this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 16; 1941 Comp., § 42-1916; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Prisoner is not entitled to bail after governor's extradition warrant has been served.** *State ex rel. Schiff v. Brennan*, 1983-NMSC-042, 99 N.M. 641, 662 P.2d 642.

**No bail for parole violators under interstate compact.** — The extradition statutes, this section and Section 31-4-15 NMSA 1978, provide for bail in certain instances. These provisions for bail, however, would not apply in the case where the parole board is investigating a parolee being held in jail for parole violation under the terms of the interstate compact. 1957 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-33.

**But otherwise for parolees not under compact.** — It may be that an out-of-state parolee not under the parole board's supervision under the terms of the interstate compact may be entitled to bail under the extradition provisions. 1957 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-33.

**When right to bail governed by laws of sister state.** — New Mexico Const., art. II, § 13, affords the right to bail to all persons charged with or convicted of crime under the laws of the state of New Mexico. A fugitive from justice is charged with or convicted of crime under the laws of a sister state; therefore, it is the constitution and laws of that

state which should dictate whether the right to bail exists and in what form. 1974 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 74-38.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 63, 66, 121.

Bond to indemnify public against expense of extradition or other criminal proceedings in event they are unsuccessful as contrary to public policy, 94 A.L.R. 355.

Right of extraditee to bail after issuance of governor's warrant and pending final disposition of habeas corpus claim, 13 A.L.R.5th 118.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 18.

### **31-4-17. Extension of time of commitment, adjournment.**

If the accused is not arrested under warrant of the governor by the expiration of the time specified in the warrant or bond, a judge or magistrate may discharge him or may recommit him for a further period not to exceed sixty days, or a judge or magistrate judge may again take bail for his appearance and surrender, as provided in Section 16 [31-4-16 NMSA 1978], but within a period not to exceed sixty days after the date of such new bond.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 17; 1941 Comp., § 42-1917; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-17.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Constitutional basis for extradition not contingent upon right to speedy trial.** — United States Const., art. IV, § 2, the basis for extradition, by its terms, is not made contingent upon a sixth amendment right to a speedy trial. *State v. Sandoval*, 1980-NMSC-139, 95 N.M. 254, 620 P.2d 1279.

**Concepts of res judicata, double jeopardy and estoppel do not apply** to extradition proceedings and are not within the purview of inquiry in an extradition proceeding. *State v. Sandoval*, 1980-NMSC-139, 95 N.M. 254, 620 P.2d 1279.

### **31-4-18. Forfeiture of bail.**

If the prisoner is admitted to bail, and fails to appear and surrender himself according to the conditions of his bond, the judge, or magistrate, by proper order, shall declare the bond forfeited and order his immediate arrest without warrant if he be within this state. Recovery may be had on such bond in the name of the state as in the case of other bonds given by the accused in criminal proceedings within this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 18; 1941 Comp., § 42-1918; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-18.

### **31-4-19. Persons under criminal prosecution in this state at time of requisition.**

If a criminal prosecution has been instituted against such person under the laws of this state and is still pending, the governor, in his discretion, either may surrender him on demand of the executive authority of another state or hold him until he has been tried and discharged or convicted and punished in this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 19; 1941 Comp., § 42-1919; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-19.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For obtaining a person detained in another state, under prosecution or conviction, see 31-4-5 NMSA 1978.

For nonwaiver by New Mexico, see 31-4-23 NMSA 1978.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 35 C.J.S. Extradition § 15.

### **31-4-20. Guilt or innocence of accused, when inquired into.**

The guilt or innocence of the accused as to the crime of which he is charged may not be inquired into by the governor or in any proceeding after the demand for extradition accompanied by a charge of crime in legal form as above provided shall have been presented to the governor, except as it may be involved in identifying the person held as the person charged with the crime.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 20; 1941 Comp., § 42-1920; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-20.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Defendant's guilt or innocence reserved for courts of demanding state.** — Questions relating to the guilt or innocence of the defendant for the crime charged in the demanding state, logically, are reserved for the courts of the demanding state and may not be inquired into by the courts of the asylum state except for the identity of the person held as being the person charged with the crime. *State v. Sandoval*, 1980-NMSC-139, 95 N.M. 254, 620 P.2d 1279.

**Asylum state may not adjudicate defendant's right to speedy trial.** — An asylum state, in extradition proceedings, is without authority to adjudicate the defendant's right to a speedy trial in the demanding state upon charges lodged against him there. *State v. Sandoval*, 1980-NMSC-139, 95 N.M. 254, 620 P.2d 1279.

**Concepts of res judicata, double jeopardy and estoppel do not apply** to extradition proceedings and are not within the purview of inquiry in an extradition proceeding. *State v. Sandoval*, 1980-NMSC-139, 95 N.M. 254, 620 P.2d 1279.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition §§ 127 to 143.

Necessity and sufficiency of identification of accused as the person charged, to warrant extradition, 93 A.L.R.2d 912.

Necessity that demanding state show probable cause to arrest fugitive in extradition proceedings, 90 A.L.R.3d 1074.

Modern status of rule relating to jurisdictional of state court to try criminal defendant brought within jurisdiction illegally or as result of fraud or mistake, 25 A.L.R.4th 157.

35 C.J.S. Extradition § 29.

### **31-4-21. Governor may recall warrant or issue alias.**

The governor may recall his warrant of arrest or may issue another warrant whenever he deems proper.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 21; 1941 Comp., § 42-1921; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-21.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 122.

### **31-4-22. Written waiver of extradition proceedings.**

Any person arrested in this state charged with having committed any crime in another state or alleged to have escaped from confinement or broken the terms of his bail, probation or parole may waive the issuance and service of the warrant provided for in Sections 31-4-7 and 31-4-8 NMSA 1978 and all other procedure incidental to extradition proceedings by executing or subscribing in the presence of a magistrate or a judge of a magistrate court or of any court of record within this state a writing which states that he consents to return to the demanding state; provided, however, that before such waiver shall be executed or subscribed by such person it shall be the duty of such judge to inform such person of his rights to the issuance and service of a warrant of extradition and to obtain a writ of habeas corpus as provided for in Section 31-4-10 NMSA 1978.

If and when such consent has been duly executed it shall forthwith be forwarded to the office of the governor of this state and filed therein. The judge shall direct the officer having such person in custody to deliver forthwith such person to the duly accredited agent or agents of the demanding state, and shall deliver or cause to be delivered to such agent or agents a copy of such consent; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the rights of the accused person to return voluntarily and without formality to the demanding state, nor shall this waiver procedure be

deemed to be an exclusive procedure or to limit the powers, rights or duties of the officers of the demanding state or of this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 25a; 1941 Comp., § 42-1922; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-22; 1981, ch. 258, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 54, 55, 57.

### **31-4-23. Nonwaiver by this state.**

Nothing in this act [31-4-1 to 31-4-30 NMSA 1978] contained shall be deemed to constitute a waiver by this state of its right, power or privilege to try such demanded person for crime committed within this state, or of its right, power or privilege to regain custody of such person by extradition proceedings or otherwise for the purpose of trial, sentence or punishment for any crime committed within this state, nor shall any proceedings had under this act which result in, or fail to result in, extradition be deemed a waiver by this state of any of its rights, privileges or jurisdiction in any way whatsoever.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 25b; 1941 Comp., § 42-1923; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-23.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For criminal prosecution pending in this state, see 31-4-19 NMSA 1978.

**Prosecution continues upon defendant's return.** — Jurisdiction to prosecute on forgery charge was not waived when defendant, prior to trial for the charge, was extradited under this section and subsequently returned to the state. *State v. Blankenship*, 1968-NMCA-026, 79 N.M. 178, 441 P.2d 218.

### **31-4-24. Fugitives from this state; duty of governors.**

Whenever the governor of this state shall demand a person charged with crime or with escaping from confinement or breaking the terms of his bail, probation or parole in this state, from the executive authority of any other state, or from the chief justice or an associate justice of the supreme court of the District of Columbia authorized to receive such demand under the laws of the United States, he shall issue a warrant under the seal of this state, to some agent, commanding him to receive the person so charged if delivered to him and convey him to the proper officer of the county in this state in which the offense was committed.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 22; 1941 Comp., § 42-1924; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-24.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition §§ 95 to 103, 114 to 122.

35 C.J.S. Extradition §§ 35, 36.

### **31-4-25. Application for issuance of requisition; by whom made; contents.**

A. When the return to this state of a person charged with crime in this state is required, the prosecuting attorney shall present to the governor his written application for a requisition for the return of the person charged, in which application shall be stated the name of the person so charged, the crime charged against him, the approximate time, place and circumstances of its commission, the state in which he is believed to be, including the location of the accused therein, at the time the application is made and certifying that, in the opinion of the said prosecuting attorney, the ends of justice require the arrest and return of the accused to this state for trial and that the proceeding is not instituted to enforce a private claim.

B. When the return to this state is required of a person who has been convicted of a crime in this state and has escaped from confinement or broken the terms of his bail, probation or parole, the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the offense was committed, the parole board, or the warden of the institution or sheriff of the county, from which escape was made, shall present to the governor a written application for a requisition for the return of such person, in which application shall be stated the name of the person, the crime of which he was convicted, the circumstances of his escape from confinement or of the breach of the terms of his bail, probation or parole, the state in which he is believed to be, including the location of the person therein at the time application is made.

C. The application shall be verified by affidavit, shall be executed in duplicate and shall be accompanied by two certified copies of the indictment returned, or information and affidavit filed or of the complaint made to the judge or magistrate, stating the offense with which the accused is charged, or of the judgment of conviction or of the sentence. The prosecuting officer, parole board, warden or sheriff may also attach such further affidavits and other documents in duplicate as he shall deem proper to be submitted with such application. One copy of the application, with the action of the governor indicated by endorsement thereon, and one of the certified copies of the indictment, complaint, information and affidavits, or of the judgment of conviction or of the sentence shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state to remain of record in that office. The other copies of all papers shall be forwarded with the governor's requisition.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 23; 1941 Comp., § 42-1925; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-25.

### **31-4-26. Costs and expenses.**

When the punishment of the crime shall be the confinement of the criminal in the penitentiary, the expenses shall be paid out of the state treasury, on the certificate of the governor and warrant of the auditor; and in all other cases they shall be paid out of the county treasury in the county wherein the crime is alleged to have been committed.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 24; 1941 Comp., § 42-1926; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-26.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Includes extradition of juveniles.** — The costs of extraditing a juvenile from another state who stands charged in New Mexico with the commission of a crime, are governed by this section. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-14 (rendered under prior law, now see Section 32A-10-1 NMSA 1978).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 35 C.J.S. Extradition § 20.

### **31-4-27. Immunity from service of process in certain civil actions.**

A person brought into this state by, or after waiver of, extradition based on a criminal charge shall not be subject to service of personal process in civil actions arising out of the same facts as the criminal proceedings for which he is being or has been returned, until he has been convicted in the criminal proceedings, or, if acquitted, until he has had reasonable opportunity to return to the state from which he was extradited.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 25; 1941 Comp., § 42-1927; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-27; Laws 1975, ch. 69, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 159.

Immunity of nonresident defendant in criminal case from service of process, 20 A.L.R.2d 163.

### **31-4-28. No right of asylum; no immunity from other criminal prosecutions while in this state.**

After a person has been brought back to this state by, or after waiver of, extradition proceedings, he may be tried in this state for other crimes which he may be charged with having committed here as well as that specified in the requisition for his extradition.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 26; 1941 Comp., § 42-1928; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-28.



## ANNOTATIONS

**Due process clause of federal constitution is not violated** by this section. 1953 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 53-5767.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 31A Am. Jur. 2d Extradition § 153, 157.

Right to try one for an offense other than that named in extradition proceedings, 21 A.L.R. 1405.

### **31-4-29. Interpretation.**

The provisions of this act [31-4-1 to 31-4-30 NMSA 1978] shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purposes to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 27; 1941 Comp., § 42-1929; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-29.

### **31-4-30. Short title.**

This act [31-4-1 to 31-4-30 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the Uniform Criminal Extradition Act.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 65, § 30; 1941 Comp., § 42-1930; 1953 Comp., § 41-19-30.

### **31-4-31. Transfer under treaty; governor.**

When a treaty is in effect between the United States and a foreign country providing for the transfer of convicted criminal offenders who are citizens or nationals of foreign countries to the foreign countries of which they are citizens or nationals, the governor is authorized, subject to the terms of such treaty, to act on behalf of the state of New Mexico and to consent to the transfer of the convicted criminal offender.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-4-31, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 156, § 1.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Interstate Compacts**

### **31-5-1 to 31-5-3. Repealed.**

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 2001, ch. 322, art XV, repealed 31-5-1 through 31-5-3 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1937, ch. 10, §§ 1 and 2, and Laws 1959, ch. 34, § 1, regarding

Uniform Act for Out-of-State Parolee Supervision, effective June 15, 2001. For provisions of the former sections, see the 2000 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-5-4. [Western Interstate Corrections Compact; form.]**

The Western Interstate Corrections Compact is enacted into law and entered into on behalf of New Mexico with any and all other states legally joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

#### **WESTERN INTERSTATE CORRECTIONS COMPACT**

##### **Article I - Purpose and Policy**

The party states, desiring by common action to improve their institutional facilities and provide programs of sufficiently high quality for the confinement, treatment and rehabilitation of various types of offenders, declare that it is the policy of each of the party states to provide such facilities and programs on a basis of cooperation with one another, thereby serving the best interests of such offenders and of society. The purpose of this compact is to provide for the development and execution of such programs of cooperation for the confinement, treatment and rehabilitation of offenders.

##### **Article II - Definitions**

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- A. "state" means a state of the United States, the territory of Hawaii, or, subject to the limitation contained in Article VII, Guam.
- B. "sending state" means a state party to this compact in which conviction was had.
- C. "receiving state" means a state party to this compact to which an inmate is sent for confinement other than a state in which conviction was had.
- D. "inmate" means a male or female offender who is under sentence to or confined in a prison or other correctional institution.
- E. "institution" means any prison, reformatory or other correctional facility, including but not limited to a facility for the mentally ill or mentally defective, in which inmates may lawfully be confined.

##### **Article III - Contracts**

- A. Each party state may make one or more contracts with any one or more of the other party states for the confinement of inmates on behalf of a sending state in institutions situated within receiving states. Any such contract shall provide for:

(1) its duration.

(2) payments to be made to the receiving state by the sending state for inmate maintenance; extraordinary medical and dental expenses, and any participation in or receipts by inmates of rehabilitative or correctional services, facilities, programs or treatment not reasonably included as part of normal maintenance.

(3) participation in programs of inmate employment, if any; the disposition or crediting of any payments received by inmates on account thereof; and the crediting of proceeds from or disposal of any products resulting therefrom.

(4) delivery and retaking of inmates.

(5) such other matters as may be necessary and appropriate to fix the obligations, responsibilities and rights of the sending and receiving states.

B. Prior to the construction or completion of construction of any institution or addition thereto by a party state, any other party state or states may contract therewith for the enlargement of the planned capacity of the institution or addition thereto, or for the inclusion therein of particular equipment or structures, and for the reservation of a specific percentum of the capacity of the institution to be kept available for use by inmates of the sending state or states so contracting. Any sending state so contracting may, to the extent that monies are legally available therefor, pay to the receiving state, a reasonable sum as consideration for such enlargement of capacity, or provision of equipment or structures, and reservation of capacity. Such payment may be in a lump sum or in installments as provided in the contract.

C. The terms and provisions of this compact shall be a part of any contract entered into by the authority of [this compact] or pursuant thereto, and nothing in any such contract shall be inconsistent therewith.

#### Article IV - Procedures and Rights

A. Whenever the duly constituted judicial or administrative authorities in a state party to this compact, and which has entered into a contract pursuant to Article III, shall decide that confinement in, or transfer of an inmate to, an institution within the territory of another party state is necessary in order to provide adequate quarters and care or desirable in order to provide an appropriate program of rehabilitation or treatment, said officials may direct that the confinement be within an institution within the territory of said other party state, the receiving state to act in that regard solely as agent for the sending state.

B. The appropriate officials of any state party to this compact shall have access, at all reasonable times, to any institution in which it has a contractual right to confine inmates for the purpose of inspecting the facilities thereof and visiting such of its inmates as may be confined in the institution.

C. Inmates confined in an institution pursuant to the terms of this compact shall at all times be subject to the jurisdiction of the sending state and may at any time be removed therefrom for transfer to a prison or other institution within the sending state, for transfer to another institution in which the sending state may have a contractual or other right to confine inmates, for release on probation or parole, for discharge or for any other purpose permitted by the laws of the sending state; provided that the sending state shall continue to be obligated to such payments as may be required pursuant to the terms of any contract entered into under the terms of Article III.

D. Each receiving state shall provide regular reports to each sending state on the inmates of that sending state in institutions pursuant to this compact including a conduct record of each inmate and certify said record to the official designated by the sending state, in order that each inmate may have the benefit of his or her record in determining and altering the disposition of said inmate in accordance with the law which may obtain in the sending state and in order that the same may be a source of information for the sending state.

E. All inmates who may be confined in an institution pursuant to the provisions of this compact shall be treated in a reasonable and humane manner and shall be cared for and treated equally with such similar inmates of the receiving state as may be confined in the same institution. The fact of confinement in a receiving state shall not deprive any inmate so confined of any legal rights which said inmate would have had if confined in an appropriate institution of the sending state.

F. Any hearing or hearings to which an inmate confined pursuant to this compact may be entitled by the laws of the sending state may be had before the appropriate authorities of the sending state, or of the receiving state if authorized by the sending state. The receiving state shall provide adequate facilities for such hearings as may be conducted by the appropriate officials of a sending state. In the event such hearings [hearing] or hearings are had before officials of the receiving state, the governing law shall be that of the sending state and a record of the hearing or hearings as prescribed by the sending state shall be made. Said record together with any recommendations of the hearing officials shall be transmitted forthwith to the official or officials before whom the hearing would have been had if it had taken place in the sending state. In any and all proceedings had pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision, the officials of the receiving state shall act solely as agents of the sending state and no final determination shall be made in any matter except by the appropriate officials of the sending state. Costs of records made pursuant to this subdivision shall be borne by the sending state.

G. Any inmate confined pursuant to this compact shall be released within the territory of the sending state unless the inmate, and the sending and receiving states, shall agree upon release in some other place. The sending state shall bear the cost of such return to its territory.

H. Any inmate confined pursuant to the terms of this compact shall have any and all rights to participate in and derive any benefits or incur or be relieved of any obligations

or have such obligations modified or his status changed on account of any action or proceeding in which he could have participated if confined in any appropriate institution of the sending state located within such state.

I. The parent, guardian, trustee or other person or persons entitled under the laws of the sending state to act for, advise or otherwise function with respect to any inmate shall not be deprived of or restricted in his exercise of any power in respect of any inmate confined pursuant to the terms of this compact.

#### Article V - Acts Not Reviewable in Receiving State; Extradition

A. Any decision of the sending state in respect of any matter over which it retains jurisdiction pursuant to this compact shall be conclusive upon and not reviewable within the receiving state, but if at the time the sending state seeks to remove an inmate from an institution in the receiving state there is pending against the inmate within such state any criminal charge or if the inmate is suspected of having committed within such state a criminal offense, the inmate shall not be returned without the consent of the receiving state until discharged from prosecution or other form of proceeding, imprisonment or detention for such offense. The duly accredited officers of the sending state shall be permitted to transport inmates pursuant to this compact through any and all states party to this compact without interference.

B. An inmate who escapes from an institution in which he is confined pursuant to this compact shall be deemed a fugitive from the sending state and from the state in which the institution is situated. In the case of an escape to a jurisdiction other than the sending or receiving state, the responsibility for institution of extradition proceedings shall be that of the sending state, but nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent or affect the activities of officers and agencies of any jurisdiction directed toward the apprehension and return of an escapee.

#### Article VI - Federal Aid

Any state party to this compact may accept federal aid for use in connection with any institution or program, the use of which is or may be affected by this compact or any contract pursuant hereto and any inmate in a receiving state pursuant to this compact may participate in any such federally aided program or activity for which the sending and receiving states have made contractual provision provided that if such program or activity is not part of the customary correctional regimen the express consent of the appropriate official of the sending state shall be required therefor.

#### Article VII - Entry into Force

This compact shall enter into force and become effective and binding upon the states so acting when it has been enacted into law by any two contiguous states from among the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. For the

purposes of this article, Alaska and Hawaii shall be deemed contiguous to each other; to any and all of the states of California, Oregon and Washington; and to Guam. Thereafter, this compact shall enter into force and become effective and binding as to any other of said states, or any other state contiguous to at least one party state upon similar action by such state. Guam may become party to this compact by taking action similar to that provided for joinder by any other eligible party state and upon the consent of congress to such joinder. For the purposes of this article, Guam shall be deemed contiguous to Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon and Washington.

#### Article VIII - Withdrawal and Termination

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon a party state until it shall have enacted a statute repealing the same and providing for the sending of formal written notice of withdrawal from the compact to the appropriate officials of all other party states. An actual withdrawal shall not take effect until two years after the notices provided in said statute have been sent. Such withdrawal shall not relieve the withdrawing state from its obligations assumed hereunder prior to the effective date of withdrawal. Before the effective date of withdrawal, a withdrawing state shall remove to its territory, at its own expense, such inmates as it may have confined pursuant to the provisions of this compact.

#### Article IX - Other Arrangements Unaffected

Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to abrogate or impair any agreement or other arrangement which a party state may have with a nonparty state for the confinement, rehabilitation or treatment of inmates nor to repeal any other laws of a party state authorizing the making of cooperative institutional arrangements.

#### Article X - Construction and Severability

The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed and shall be severable. If any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state participating therein, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-11, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 112, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For filing interstate compacts with supreme court librarian, see 14-3-20 NMSA 1978.

**Interstate compacts are specifically treated in Section 14-3-20 NMSA 1978 (interstate compacts).** *State v. Ellis*, 95 N.M. 427, 1980-NMCA-187, 622 P.2d 1047, cert. denied, 95 N.M. 426, 622 P.2d 1046.

**Scope of court's authority to order transfer.** — New Mexico courts do not have the authority under the western interstate corrections compact and accompanying statutes to order the transfer of a prisoner from New Mexico to a neighboring state when that prisoner has not alleged any constitutional violations and instead seeks transfer due to a desire to be near his parents and an unproven fear of other prisoners. *State v. Tarver*, 2005-NMCA-030, 137 N.M. 115, 108 P.3d 1.

**State Rules Act, Section 14-4-1 NMSA 1978, et seq.,** is inapplicable to interstate agreements. *State v. Ellis*, 1980-NMCA-187, 95 N.M. 427, 622 P.2d 1047 (Ct. App.), cert. denied, 95 N.M. 426, 622 P.2d 1046.

**State does not have valid transfer agreement within Arizona.** — Due to the fact that an exhaustive search of the supreme court library found only one contract for a term from April 24, 1973, to June 30, 1974, and a renewal for July 1, 1975, to June 30, 1976, New Mexico does not have a valid agreement with Arizona concerning transfers of prisoners. *State v. Ellis*, 1980-NMCA-187, 95 N.M. 427, 622 P.2d 1047, cert. denied, 95 N.M. 426, 622 P.2d 1046.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 60 Am. Jur. 2d Penal and Correctional Institutions §§ 148 to 152.

Right of state or federal prisoner to credit for time served in another jurisdiction before delivery to state or federal authorities, 18 A.L.R.2d 511, 90 A.L.R.3d 408.

### **31-5-5. Inmate commitment or transfer.**

The secretary of corrections may commit or transfer an inmate to any institution in or outside New Mexico if New Mexico has entered into a contract or contracts for the confinement of inmates in the institution pursuant to Article III of the Western Interstate Corrections Compact [31-5-4 NMSA 1978].

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-12, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 112, § 2; 1985, ch. 119, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1985 amendment**, effective April 2, 1985, added the catchline, substituted "The secretary of corrections" for "Any court or other agency or officer of this state having power to commit or transfer an inmate (as defined in Article II(d) of the Western Interstate Corrections Compact) to any institution for confinement" at the beginning of the section and substituted "an inmate" for "the inmate" following "transfer."

### **31-5-6. [Enforcement of compact; submission of reports.]**

The courts, departments, agencies and officers of New Mexico and its subdivisions shall enforce this compact [31-5-4 NMSA 1978] and do all things appropriate to the effectuation of its purposes and intent which may be within their respective jurisdictions including but not limited to the making and submission of reports required by the compact.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-13, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 112, § 3.

### **31-5-7. [Board of parole; hearings within and outside state.]**

The New Mexico board of parole is authorized to hold hearings within and outside New Mexico pursuant to Article IV (F) of the Western Interstate Corrections Compact [31-5-4 NMSA 1978].

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-14, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 112, § 4.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole referring to corrections division of the criminal justice department, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

### **31-5-8. [Contracts of governor; approval by board of finance.]**

The governor may enter into contracts on behalf of New Mexico to implement the participation of this state in the Western Interstate Corrections Compact pursuant to Article III of the compact [31-5-4 NMSA 1978], provided that any contract entered into by the governor must be approved by the state board of finance before the same shall be binding.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-15, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 112, § 5.

### **31-5-9. [Release of inmate from institution outside state; transportation to home or place of employment.]**

If an inmate is released from an institution outside of New Mexico, pursuant to Article IV (G) of the compact [31-5-4 NMSA 1978], the superintendent of the penitentiary shall provide him with transportation to either his home or place of employment if in New Mexico, or if neither of these is applicable to any point in New Mexico selected by the inmate.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-16, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 112, § 6.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**



**Severability.** — Laws 1959, ch. 112, § 7, provided for the severability of the act if any part or application thereof is held invalid.

## **31-5-10. Interstate Compact on Mentally Disordered Offenders.**

The Interstate Compact on Mentally Disordered Offenders is entered into with all other jurisdictions legally joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

### **INTERSTATE COMPACT ON MENTALLY DISORDERED OFFENDERS**

#### **Article 1 - Purpose and Policy**

A. The party states, desiring by common action to improve their programs for the care and treatment of mentally disordered offenders, declare that it is the policy of each of the party states to:

(1) strengthen their own programs and laws for the care and treatment of the mentally disordered offender;

(2) encourage and provide for such care and treatment in the most appropriate locations, giving due recognition to the need to achieve adequacy of diagnosis, care, treatment, aftercare and auxiliary services and facilities and, to every extent practicable, to do so in geographic locations convenient for providing a therapeutic environment;

(3) authorize cooperation among the party states in providing services and facilities, when it is found that cooperative programs can be more effective and efficient than programs separately pursued;

(4) place such mentally disordered offender in a legal status which will facilitate his care, treatment and rehabilitation;

(5) authorize research and training of personnel on a cooperative basis in order to improve the quality or quantity of personnel available for the proper staffing of programs, services and facilities for mentally disordered offenders; and

(6) care for and treat mentally disordered offenders under conditions which will improve the public safety.

B. Within the policies set forth in this article, it is the purpose of this compact to:

(1) authorize negotiation, entry into and operations under contractual arrangements among any two or more of the party states for the establishment and maintenance of cooperative programs in any one or more of the fields for which specific provision is made in the several articles of this compact;

(2) set the limits within which such contracts may operate, so as to assure protection of the civil rights of mentally disordered offenders and protection of the rights and obligations of the public and of the party states; and

(3) facilitate the proper disposition of criminal charges pending against mentally disordered offenders, so that programs for their care, treatment and rehabilitation may be carried on efficiently.

## Article 2 - Definitions

As used in this compact:

A. "mentally disordered offender" means a person who has been determined, by adjudication or other method legally sufficient for the purpose in the party state where the determination is made, to be mentally ill and:

(1) is under sentence for the commission of crime; or

(2) who is confined or committed on account of the commission of an offense for which, in the absence of mental illness, the person would be subject to incarceration in a penal or correctional facility;

B. "patient" means a mentally disordered offender who is cared for, treated or transferred pursuant to this compact;

C. "sending state" means a state party to this compact in which the mentally disordered offender was convicted; or the state in which he would be subject to trial on or conviction of an offense except for his mental condition; or, within the meaning of Article 5 of this compact, the state whose authorities have filed a petition in connection with an untried indictment, information or complaint; and

D. "receiving state" means a state party to this compact to which a mentally disordered offender is sent for care, aftercare, treatment or rehabilitation, or within the meaning of Article 5 of this compact, the state in which a petition in connection with an untried indictment, information or complaint has been filed.

## Article 3 - Contracts

A. Each party state may make one or more contracts with any one or more of the other party states for the care and treatment of mentally disordered offenders on behalf of a sending state in facilities situated in receiving states, or for the participation of mentally disordered offenders in programs of aftercare on conditional release administered by the receiving state. Any such contract shall provide for:

(1) its duration;

(2) payments to be made to the receiving state by the sending state for patient care, treatment and extraordinary services, if any;

(3) determination of responsibility for ordering or permitting the furnishing of extraordinary services, if any;

(4) participation in compensated activities, if any, available to patients, the disposition or crediting of any payment received by patients on account thereof and the crediting of proceeds from or disposal of any products resulting therefrom;

(5) delivery and retaking of mentally disordered offenders; and

(6) other matters as necessary and appropriate to fix the obligations, responsibilities and rights of the sending and receiving states.

B. Prior to the construction or completion of construction of any facility for mentally disordered offenders or addition to such facility by a party state, any other party state or states may contract therewith for the enlargement of the planned capacity of the facility or addition thereto, or for the inclusion therein of particular equipment or structures, and for the reservation of a specific percentage of the capacity of the facility to be kept available for use by patients of the sending state or states so contracting. Any sending state so contracting may, to the extent that money is legally available therefor, pay to the receiving state a reasonable sum as consideration for such enlargement of capacity or provision of equipment or structures and reservation of capacity. The payment may be in a lump sum or in installments as provided in the contract.

C. A party state may contract with any one or more other party states for the training of professional or other personnel whose services, by reason of such training, would become available for or be improved in respect of ability to participate in the care and treatment of mentally disordered offenders. Such contracts may provide for such training to take place at any facility being operated or to be operated for the care and treatment of mentally disordered offenders, at any institution or facility having resources suitable for the offering of such training or may provide for the separate establishment of training facilities, provided that no separate establishment shall be undertaken unless it is determined that an appropriate existing facility or institution cannot be found at which to conduct the contemplated program. Any contract entered into pursuant to this subarticle shall provide for:

(1) the administration, financing and precise nature of the program;

(2) the status and employment or other rights of the trainees; and

(3) all other necessary matters.

D. No contract entered into pursuant to this compact shall be inconsistent with any provision thereof.

## Article 4 - Procedures and Rights

A. Whenever the duly constituted judicial or administrative authorities in a state party to this compact, and which has entered into a contract pursuant to Article 3, decide that custody, care and treatment in, or transfer of a patient to, a facility within the territory of another party state, or conditional release for aftercare in another party state is necessary in order to provide adequate care and treatment or is desirable in order to provide an appropriate program of therapy or other treatment, or is desirable for clinical reasons, said officials may direct that the custody, care and treatment be within a facility or in a program of aftercare within the territory of the other party state, the receiving state to act in that regard solely as agent for the sending state.

B. The appropriate officials of any state party to this compact shall have access at all reasonable times to any facility in which it has a contractual right to secure care or treatment of patients for the purpose of inspection and visiting such of its patients as may be in the facility or served by it.

C. Except as otherwise provided in Article 6, patients in a facility pursuant to the terms of this compact shall at all times be subject to the jurisdiction of the sending state and may at any time be removed for transfer to a facility within the sending state, for transfer to another facility in which the sending state may have a contractual or other right to secure care and treatment of patients, for release on aftercare or other conditional status, for discharge or for any other purpose permitted by the laws of the sending state, provided that the sending state shall continue to be obligated to such payments as may be required pursuant to the terms of any contract entered into under the terms of Article 3.

D. Each receiving state shall provide regular reports to each sending state on the patients of that sending state in facilities pursuant to this compact, including a psychiatric and behavioral record of each patient, and certify the record to the official designated by the sending state in order that each patient may have the benefit of his or her record in determining and altering the disposition of the patient in accordance with the law which may obtain in the sending state and in order that the record may be a source of information for the sending state.

E. All patients who may be in a facility or receiving aftercare from a facility pursuant to the provisions of this compact shall be treated in a reasonable and humane manner and shall be cared for, treated and supervised in accordance with the standards pertaining to the program administered at the facility. The fact of presence in a receiving state shall not deprive any patient of any legal rights which the patient would have had if in custody or receiving care, treatment or supervision as appropriate in the sending state.

F. Any hearing or hearings to which a patient present in a receiving state pursuant to this compact may be entitled by the laws of the sending state shall be had before the appropriate authorities of the sending state, or of the receiving state if authorized by the

sending state. The receiving state shall provide adequate facilities for such hearings as may be conducted by the appropriate officials of a sending state. In the event such hearing or hearings are had before officials of the receiving state, the governing law shall be that of the sending state and a record of the hearing or hearings as prescribed by the sending state shall be made. The record, together with any recommendations of the hearing officials, shall be transmitted forthwith to the official or officials before whom the hearing would have been had if it had taken place in the sending state. In all proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this subarticle, the officials of the receiving state shall act solely as agents of the sending state, and no final determination shall be made in any matter except by the appropriate officials of the sending state. Costs of records made pursuant to this subarticle shall be borne by the sending state.

G. Any patient confined pursuant to this compact shall be released within the territory of the sending state unless the patient and the sending and receiving states agree upon release in some other place. The sending state shall bear the cost of such return to its territory.

H. Any patient pursuant to the terms of this compact shall be subject to civil process and shall have all rights to sue, be sued and participate in and derive any benefits or incur or be relieved of any obligations or have such obligations modified or his status changed on account of any action or proceeding in which he could have participated if in any appropriate facility of the sending state or being supervised therefrom, as the case may be, located within such state.

I. The parent, guardian, trustee or other person or persons entitled under the laws of the sending state to act for, advise or otherwise function with respect to any patient shall not be deprived of, or restricted in his exercise of, any power in respect of any patient pursuant to the terms of this compact.

#### Article 5 - Disposition of Charges

A. Whenever the authorities responsible for the care and treatment of a mentally disordered offender, whether convicted or adjudicated in the state or subject to care, aftercare, treatment or rehabilitation pursuant to a contract, are of the opinion that charges based on untried indictments, informations or complaints in another party state present obstacles to the proper care and treatment of a mentally disordered offender or to the planning or execution of a suitable program for him, such authorities may petition the appropriate court in the state where the untried indictment, information or complaint is pending for prompt disposition thereof. If the mentally disordered offender is a patient in a receiving state, the appropriate authorities of the sending state, upon recommendation of the appropriate authorities in the receiving state, shall, if they concur in the recommendation, file the petition contemplated by this subarticle.

B. The court shall hold a hearing on the petition within thirty days of the filing thereof. The hearing shall be only to determine whether the proper safeguarding and advancement of the public interest, the condition of the mentally disordered offender

and the prospects for more satisfactory care, treatment and rehabilitation of him warrant disposition of the untried indictment, information or complaint prior to termination of the defendant's status as a mentally disordered offender in the sending state. The prosecuting officer of the jurisdiction from which the untried indictment, information or complaint is pending, the petitioning authorities and such other persons as the court may determine shall be entitled to be heard.

C. Upon any hearing pursuant to this article, the court may order such adjournments or continuances as may be necessary for the examination or observation of the mentally disordered offender or for the securing of necessary evidence. In granting or denying any such adjournment or continuance, the court shall give primary consideration to the purposes of this compact, and more particularly to the need for expeditious determination of the legal and mental status of a mentally disordered offender so that his care, treatment and discharge to the community only under conditions which will be consonant with the public safety may be implemented.

D. The presence of a mentally disordered offender within a state wherein a petition is pending or being heard pursuant to this article, or his presence within any other state through which he is being transported in connection with such petition or hearing, shall be only for the purposes of this compact, and no court, agency or person shall have or obtain jurisdiction over the mentally disordered offender for any other purpose by reason of his presence pursuant to this article. The mentally disordered offender shall, at all times, remain in the custody of the sending state. Any acts of officers, employees or agencies of the receiving state in providing or facilitating detention, housing or transportation for the mentally disordered offender shall be only as agents for the sending state.

E. Promptly upon conclusion of the hearing, the court shall dismiss the untried indictment, information or complaint, if it finds that the purposes enumerated in Subarticle B of this article would be served thereby. Otherwise, the court shall make such order with respect to the petition and the untried indictment, information or complaint as may be appropriate in the circumstances and consistent with the status of the defendant as a mentally disordered offender in the custody of, and subject to the jurisdiction of, the sending state.

F. No fact or other matter established or adjudicated at any hearing pursuant to this article or in connection therewith shall be deemed established or adjudicated, nor shall the same be admitted in evidence, in any subsequent prosecution of the untried indictment, information or complaint concerned in a petition filed pursuant to this article unless:

(1) the defendant or his duly empowered legal representative requested or expressly acquiesced in the making of the petition, and was afforded an opportunity to participate in person in the hearing; or

(2) the defendant himself offers or consents to the introduction of the determination or adjudication at such subsequent proceedings.

#### Article 6 - Acts Not Reviewable in Receiving State; Return

A. Any decision of the sending state in respect of any matter over which it retains jurisdiction pursuant to this compact shall be conclusive upon, and not reviewable within, the receiving state, but, if at the time the sending state seeks to remove a patient from the receiving state, there is pending against the patient within such state any criminal charge, or if the patient is suspected of having committed within such state a criminal offense, the patient shall not be returned without the consent of the receiving state until discharged from prosecution or other form of proceeding, imprisonment or detention for such offense. The duly accredited officers of the sending state shall be permitted to transport patients pursuant to this compact through all states party to this compact without interference.

B. A patient who escapes while receiving care and treatment, or who violates provisions of aftercare by leaving the jurisdiction, or while being detained or transported pursuant to this compact, shall be deemed an escapee from the sending state and from the state in which the facility is situated or the aftercare was being provided. In the case of an escape to a jurisdiction other than the sending or receiving state, the responsibility for return shall be that of the sending state, but nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent or affect the activities of officers and agencies of any jurisdiction directed toward the apprehension and return of an escapee.

#### Article 7 - Federal Aid

Any state party to this compact may accept federal aid for use in connection with any facility or program, the use of which is or may be affected by this compact or any contract pursuant thereto, and any patient in a receiving state pursuant to this compact may participate in any such federally aided program or activity for which the sending and receiving states have made contractual provision, provided that, if such program or activity is not part of the customary regimen of the facility or program, the express consent of the appropriate official of the sending state shall be required therefor.

#### Article 8 - Entry into Force

This compact shall enter into force and become effective and binding upon the states so acting when it has been enacted into law by any two states from among the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Thereafter, this compact shall enter into force and become effective and binding as to any other of said states, or any other state, upon similar action by such state.

#### Article 9 - Withdrawal and Termination

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon a party state until it has enacted a statute repealing the compact and providing for the sending of formal written notice of withdrawal from the compact to the appropriate officials of all other party states. An actual withdrawal shall not take effect until two years after the notices provided in the statute have been sent. Such withdrawal shall not relieve the withdrawing state from its obligations assumed hereunder prior to the effective date of withdrawal. Before the effective date of withdrawal, a withdrawing state shall remove to its territory, at its own expense, such patients as it may have in other party states pursuant to the provisions of this compact.

#### Article 10 - Other Arrangements Unaffected

Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to abrogate or impair any agreement or other arrangement which a party state may have with a nonparty state for the custody, care, treatment, rehabilitation or aftercare of patients, nor to repeal any other laws of a party state authorizing the making of cooperative arrangements.

#### Article 11 - Construction and Severability

The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed and shall be severable. If any phrase, clause, or sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating state or of the United States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact is held contrary to the constitution of any state participating therein, the compact shall remain in effect as to the remaining states and in effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-17, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 201, § 1.

#### ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For filing interstate compacts with supreme court librarian, see 14-3-20 NMSA 1978.

**Rights not created.** — Provisions relating to mechanisms by which corrections officials can arrange to transfer inmates needing psychiatric care to an appropriate facility were not meant to create rights enforceable by inmates against state officials; thus, this section did not create a liberty interest subject to due process protections. *Riddle v. Mondragon*, 83 F.3d 1197 (10th Cir. 1996).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 53 Am. Jur. 2d Mentally Incompetent Persons § 1 et seq.



Extraterritorial effect and recognition of adjudication of competency or incompetency, sanity or insanity, 102 A.L.R. 444.

Prejudicial effect of argument or comment that accused, if acquitted on ground of insanity, would be released from institution to which committed, 44 A.L.R.2d 978.

Right, without judicial proceeding, to arrest and detain one who is, or is suspected of being, mentally deranged, 92 A.L.R.2d 570.

Release of one committed to institution as consequence of acquittal of crime on ground of insanity, 95 A.L.R.2d 54.

Instructions in criminal case in which defendant pleads insanity as to his hospital confinement in the event of acquittal, 11 A.L.R.3d 737, 81 A.L.R.4th 659.

Appealability of orders or rulings, prior to final judgment in criminal case, as to accused's mental competency, 16 A.L.R.3d 714.

Validity of statutory provision for commitment to mental institution of one acquitted of crime on ground of insanity without formal determination of mental condition at time of acquittal, 50 A.L.R.3d 144.

Validity of statutes authorizing asexualization or sterilization of criminals or mental defectives, 53 A.L.R.3d 960.

Jurisdiction of court to permit sterilization of mentally defective person in absence of specific statutory authority, 74 A.L.R.3d 1210.

Right to relief under Federal Civil Rights Act of 1871 (42 U.S.C. § 1983) for alleged wrongful commitment to or confinement in mental hospital, 16 A.L.R. Fed. 440.

### **31-5-11. Compact authority.**

The governor may negotiate and enter into contracts on behalf of this state pursuant to Article 3 of the Interstate Compact on Mentally Disordered Offenders [31-5-10 NMSA 1978] and may perform the contracts. No funds, personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies or materials shall be pledged for, committed or used on account of any such contract unless legally available therefor.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-18, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 201, § 2.

### **31-5-12. Agreement on Detainers.**

The Agreement on Detainers is entered into with all other jurisdictions legally joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

## AGREEMENT ON DETAINERS

### Article 1 - Findings

The party states find that charges outstanding against a prisoner, detainers based on untried indictments, informations or complaints, and difficulties in securing speedy trial of persons already incarcerated in other jurisdictions, produce uncertainties which obstruct programs of prisoner treatment and rehabilitation. Accordingly, it is the policy of the party states and the purpose of this agreement to encourage the expeditious and orderly disposition of such charges and determination of the proper status of any and all detainers based on untried indictments, informations or complaints. The party states also find that proceedings with reference to such charges and detainers, when emanating from another jurisdiction, cannot properly be had in the absence of cooperative procedures. It is the further purpose of this agreement to provide such cooperative procedures.

### Article 2 - Definitions

As used in this agreement:

A. "state" means a state of the United States, the United States, a territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia or the commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

B. "sending state" means a state in which a prisoner is incarcerated at the time that he initiates a request for final disposition pursuant to Article 3 of this agreement or at the time that a request for custody or availability is initiated pursuant to Article 4 of this agreement; and

C. "receiving state" means the state in which trial is to be had on an indictment, information or complaint pursuant to Article 3 or Article 4 of this agreement.

### Article 3 - Prisoner's Request for Final Disposition

A. Whenever a person has entered upon a term of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution of a party state, and whenever during the continuance of the term of imprisonment there is pending in any other party state any untried indictment, information or complaint on the basis of which a detainer has been lodged against the prisoner, he shall be brought to trial within one hundred eighty days after he has caused to be delivered to the prosecuting officer and the appropriate court of the prosecuting officer's jurisdiction written notice of the place of his imprisonment and his request for a final disposition to be made of the indictment, information or complaint, but for good cause shown in open court, the prisoner or his counsel being present, the court having jurisdiction of the matter may grant any necessary or reasonable continuance. The request of the prisoner shall be accompanied by a certificate of the appropriate official having custody of the prisoner, stating the term of commitment under which the prisoner

is being held, the time already served, the time remaining to be served on the sentence, the amount of good time earned, the time of parole eligibility of the prisoner and any decisions of the state parole agency relating to the prisoner.

B. The written notice and request for final disposition referred to in Subarticle A shall be given or sent by the prisoner to the warden, commissioner of corrections or other official having custody of him who shall promptly forward it together with the certificate to the appropriate prosecuting official and court by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.

C. The warden, commissioner of corrections or other official having custody of the prisoner shall promptly inform him of the source and contents of any detainer lodged against him and shall also inform him of his right to make a request for final disposition of the indictment, information or complaint on which the detainer is based.

D. Any request for final disposition made by a prisoner pursuant to Subarticle A shall operate as a request for final disposition of all untried indictments, informations or complaints on the basis of which detainers have been lodged against the prisoner from the state to whose prosecuting official the request for final disposition is specifically directed. The warden, commissioner of corrections or other official having custody of the prisoner shall forthwith notify all appropriate prosecuting officers and courts in the several jurisdictions within the state to which the prisoner's request for final disposition is being sent of the proceeding being initiated by the prisoner. Any notification sent pursuant to this subarticle shall be accompanied by copies of the prisoner's written notice, request and the certificate. If trial is not had on any indictment, information or complaint contemplated hereby prior to the return of the prisoner to the original place of imprisonment, such indictment, information or complaint shall not be of any further force or effect, and the court shall enter an order dismissing the same with prejudice.

E. Any request for final disposition made by a prisoner pursuant to Subarticle A shall also be deemed to be a waiver of extradition with respect to any charge or proceeding contemplated thereby or included therein by reason of Subarticle D, and a waiver of extradition to the receiving state to serve any sentence there imposed upon him, after completion of his term of imprisonment in the sending state. The request for final disposition shall also constitute a consent by the prisoner to the production of his body in any court where his presence may be required in order to effectuate the purposes of this agreement and a further consent voluntarily to be returned to the original place of imprisonment in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. Nothing in this subarticle shall prevent the imposition of a concurrent sentence if otherwise permitted by law.

F. Escape from custody by the prisoner subsequent to his execution of the request for final disposition referred to in Subarticle A shall void the request.

#### Article 4 - Prosecutor's Request for Final Disposition

A. The appropriate officer of the jurisdiction in which an untried indictment, information or complaint is pending is entitled to have a prisoner against whom he has lodged a detainer and who is serving a term of imprisonment in any party state made available in accordance with Article 5 A of this agreement upon presentation of a written request for temporary custody or availability to the appropriate authorities of the state in which the prisoner is incarcerated, but the court having jurisdiction of the indictment, information or complaint shall have duly approved, recorded and transmitted the request, and there shall be a period of thirty days after receipt by the appropriate authorities before the request is honored, within which period the governor of the sending state may disapprove the request for temporary custody or availability, either upon his own motion or upon motion of the prisoner.

B. Upon receipt of the officer's written request as provided in Subarticle A, the appropriate authorities having the prisoner in custody shall furnish the officer with a certificate stating the term of commitment under which the prisoner is being held, the time already served, the time remaining to be served on the sentence, the amount of good time earned, the time of parole eligibility of the prisoner and any decisions of the state parole agency relating to the prisoner. Said authorities simultaneously shall furnish all other officers and appropriate courts in the receiving state who have lodged detainers against the prisoner with similar certificates and with notices informing them of the request for custody or availability and of the reasons therefor.

C. In respect of any proceeding made possible by this article, trial shall be commenced within one hundred twenty days of the arrival of the prisoner in the receiving state, but for good cause shown in open court, the prisoner or his counsel being present, the court having jurisdiction of the matter may grant any necessary or reasonable continuance.

D. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to deprive any prisoner of any right which he may have to contest the legality of his delivery as provided in Subarticle A, but such delivery may not be opposed or denied on the ground that the executive authority of the sending state has not affirmatively consented to or ordered such delivery.

E. If trial is not had on any indictment, information or complaint contemplated hereby prior to the prisoner's being returned to the original place of imprisonment pursuant to Article 5 E of this agreement, such indictment, information or complaint shall not be of any further force or effect, and the court shall enter an order dismissing the same with prejudice.

#### Article 5 - Transfer of Custody

A. In response to a request made under Article 3 or Article 4 of this agreement, the appropriate authority in a sending state shall offer to deliver temporary custody of the prisoner to the appropriate authority in the state where the indictment, information or complaint is pending against the person in order that speedy and efficient prosecution

may be had. If the request for final disposition is made by the prisoner, the offer of temporary custody shall accompany the written notice provided for in Article 3 of this agreement. In the case of a federal prisoner, the appropriate authority in the receiving state shall be entitled to temporary custody as provided by this agreement or to the prisoner's presence in federal custody at the place for trial, whichever custodial arrangement may be approved by the custodian.

B. The officer or other representative of a state accepting an offer of temporary custody shall present upon demand:

(1) proper identification and evidence of his authority to act for the state into whose temporary custody the prisoner is to be given; and

(2) a certified copy of the indictment, information or complaint on the basis of which the detainer has been lodged and on the basis of which the request for temporary custody of the prisoner has been made.

C. If the appropriate authority refuses or fails to accept temporary custody of the person, or if an action on the indictment, information or complaint on the basis of which the detainer has been lodged is not brought to trial within the period provided in Article 3 or Article 4 of this agreement, the appropriate court of the jurisdiction where the indictment, information or complaint had been pending shall enter an order dismissing it with prejudice, and any detainer based thereon shall cease to be of any force or effect.

D. The temporary custody referred to in this agreement shall be only for the purpose of permitting prosecution on the charge or charges contained in one or more untried indictments, informations or complaints which form the basis of the detainer or detainers or for prosecution on any other charge or charges arising out of the same transaction. Except for his attendance at court and while being transported to or from any place at which his presence may be required, the prisoner shall be held in a suitable jail or other facility regularly used for persons awaiting prosecution.

E. At the earliest practicable time consonant with the purposes of this agreement, the prisoner shall be returned to the sending state.

F. During the continuance of temporary custody or while the prisoner is otherwise being made available for trial as required by this agreement, time being served on the sentence shall continue to run but good time shall be earned by the prisoner only if, and to the extent that, the law and practice of the jurisdiction which imposed the sentence may allow.

G. For all purposes other than that for which temporary custody as provided in this agreement is exercised, the prisoner shall be deemed to remain in the custody of and subject to the jurisdiction of the sending state and any escape from temporary custody may be dealt with in the same manner as an escape from the original place of imprisonment or in any other manner permitted by law.

H. From the time that a party state receives custody of a prisoner pursuant to this agreement until the prisoner is returned to the territory and custody of the sending state, the state in which the one or more untried indictments, informations or complaints are pending or in which trial is being had shall be responsible for the prisoner and shall also pay all costs of transporting, caring for, keeping and returning the prisoner. The provisions of this subarticle govern unless the states concerned have entered into a supplementary agreement providing for a different allocation of costs and responsibilities as between or among themselves. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to alter or affect any internal relationship among the departments, agencies and officers of an [and] in the government of a party state or between a party state and its subdivisions as to the payment of costs or responsibilities therefor.

#### Article 6 - Application

A. In determining the duration and expiration dates of the time periods provided in Articles 3 and 4 of this agreement, the running of the time periods shall be tolled whenever and for as long as the prisoner is unable to stand trial, as determined by the court having jurisdiction of the matter.

B. No provision of this agreement and no remedy made available by this agreement shall apply to any person who is adjudged to be mentally ill.

#### Article 7 - Compact Administrator

Each state party to this agreement shall designate an officer who, acting jointly with like officers of other party states, shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out more effectively the terms and provisions of this agreement, and who shall provide, within and without the state, information necessary to the effective operation of this agreement.

#### Article 8 - Party States

This agreement shall enter into full force and effect as to a party state when such state has enacted the agreement into law. A state party to this agreement may withdraw herefrom by enacting a statute repealing this agreement. However, the withdrawal of any state shall not affect the status of any proceedings already initiated by inmates or by state officers at the time the withdrawal takes effect, nor shall it affect their rights in respect thereof.

#### Article 9 - Construction

This agreement shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate its purposes. The provisions of this agreement shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this agreement is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this agreement

and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this agreement shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state party hereto, the agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-19, enacted by Laws 1971, ch. 270, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For filing interstate compacts with supreme court librarian, see 14-3-20 NMSA 1978.

**Not applicable to parolees.** — The interstate agreement on detainers does not apply to parolees. *State v. Frohnhof*, 2011-NMCA-109, 150 N.M. 643, 267 P.3d 78, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-009, 269 P.3d 903.

Where the state of New Mexico lodged a detainer against defendant; defendant requested a final disposition of the detainer; prior to the 180-day deadline, defendant was paroled in Colorado; and defendant's trial did not commence before the 180-day deadline, the district court properly denied defendant's motion to dismiss, because the interstate agreement on detainers did not apply to defendant who was a parolee. *State v. Frohnhof*, 2011-NMCA-109, 150 N.M. 643, 267 P.3d 78, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-009, 269 P.3d 903.

**Applicability.** — The Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act is an agreement between the governments of member states. The federal government also subscribes to the act and, for purposes of it, is considered a single state. It applies to transfers between states, not transfers within a state. Hence, it has no application if a prisoner in federal custody in one federal judicial district faces another federal indictment in a different federal judicial district. *U.S. v. Walling*, 974 F.2d 140 (10th Cir. 1992).

**Applicability.** — The provisions of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act do not apply to pretrial detainees. *U.S. v. Muniz*, 1 F.3d 1018 (10th Cir. 1993)

**Agreement not applicable where detainer for sentencing only.** — A request for the disposition of an outstanding sentencing is not cognizable under the Interstate Agreement on Detainers; the 180-day requirement of Paragraph A of Article 3 applies only where a detainer for "trial" is present, not where the detainer is only for sentencing. *State v. Sparks*, 1986-NMCA-010, 104 N.M. 62, 716 P.2d 253, cert. denied, 103 N.M. 798, 715 P.2d 71.

**Probation and parole proceedings.** — This section does not apply to probation revocation proceedings. *State v. McDonald*, 1991-NMCA-132, 113 N.M. 305, 825 P.2d 238, cert. denied, 113 N.M. 44, 822 P.2d 1127 (1992).

**Probation and parole proceedings.** — The Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act applies only to detainees lodged on untried criminal charges and has no applicability to probation or parole revocation detainees. *McDonald v. N.M. Parole Bd.*, 955 F.2d 631 (10th Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 504 U.S. 920, 112 S. Ct. 1968, 118 L. Ed. 2d 568 (1992).

**Prisoner's burden of substantial compliance.** — Where a prisoner bypasses the statutory procedure and attempts to communicate directly with the receiving state, absent actual notice by the receiving state, he or she has the burden of complying substantially with the requirements of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act. *State v. Tarango*, 1987-NMCA-027, 105 N.M. 592, 734 P.2d 1275, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 521, 734 P.2d 761, *overruled on other grounds by Zurla v. State*, 1990-NMSC-011, 109 N.M. 640, 789 P.2d 588.

**Substantial compliance.** — Substantial compliance for purposes of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act means the prisoner must file the proper documents, including the certificate of status, with the proper prosecuting officer and the appropriate court of the prosecuting officer's jurisdiction, using registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. *State v. Tarango*, 1987-NMCA-027, 105 N.M. 592, 734 P.2d 1275, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 521, 734 P.2d 761, *overruled on other grounds by Zurla v. State*, 1990-NMSC-011, 109 N.M. 640, 789 P.2d 588.

The defendant failed to meet the requirements of this section since his petition for a writ of habeas corpus requesting revocation of the Arizona arrest warrant and removal of detainer did not constitute a request for final disposition of detainer, and there was no evidence that he gave actual notice to Arizona, or otherwise substantially complied with the statutory requirements. *Palmer v. Williams*, 1995-NMSC-040, 120 N.M. 63, 897 P.2d 1111.

The defendant's letter to the district attorney's office stating, "Were you to file a detainer . . . , I could request final disposition" was inadequate to activate his rights under the Interstate Agreement for Detainers Act. *State v. Morawe*, 1996-NMCA-110, 122 N.M. 489, 927 P.2d 44.

**Actual notice of critical information required.** — While the defendant did not have to furnish the certificate required by Paragraph A of Article 3 to give the prosecutor and the district court actual notice, he did have an obligation to furnish the information that would be contained therein. Since the county prosecutor and the district court did not have actual notice of critical information, such as the fact that the defendant was presently incarcerated in the Texas penal complex, the defendant was not relieved of his burden of substantially complying with the requirements of this agreement. *State v. Smith*, 1993-NMCA-070, 115 N.M. 749, 858 P.2d 416, cert. denied, 115 N.M. 795, 858 P.2d 1274.

**Invocation of protections.** — Writs of habeas corpus ad prosequendum will not, by themselves, invoke the protections of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers. *State v.*



*Montoya*, 1994-NMCA-155, 119 N.M. 95, 888 P.2d 977, cert. denied, 119 N.M. 168, 889 P.2d 203 (1995).

**Expiration of 180-day period on Sunday.** — Where the 180-day limitation period of Paragraph A of Article 3 expires on a Sunday, a trial is timely if held the next day. *State v. Alderete*, 1980-NMCA-084, 95 N.M. 691, 625 P.2d 1208, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 674, 615 P.2d 991.

**Time limitation tolled only when prisoner unable to stand trial or on continuance for good cause.** — The time limitations of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act (Section 31-5-12 NMSA 1978) are intended to permit sufficient time and opportunity for the disposition of all pretrial proceedings and the commencement of trial before the time limitations expire. Time is tolled only when the prisoner is "unable to stand trial"; in all other circumstances, the mechanism for reasonably or necessarily extending the time limits is by a request for continuance "for good cause shown." *State v. Shaw*, 1982-NMCA-133, 98 N.M. 580, 651 P.2d 115.

**Evidence of "for good cause shown".** — Continuances because of the unavailability of a trial judge, where the assigned judge was elected to the supreme court and the other judges in the district had a full complement of cases, and because of a local rule which required the assignment of all cases involving a single defendant to one judge were "for good cause shown," pursuant to Paragraph A of Article 3 of this section. *State v. Aaron*, 1984-NMCA-124, 102 N.M. 187, 692 P.2d 1336.

**Good cause for continuance.** — The state had good cause to request a continuation beyond the 120-day limit for commencement of the defendant's trial based on its discovery that the grand jury that indicted the defendant included an unsworn juror, a deficiency that required additional time to correct. *State v. Livernois*, 1997-NMSC-019, 123 N.M. 128, 934 P.2d 1057.

**Continuation of trial date does not violate 180-day period.** — Where a trial has in fact been continued although there is no formal order continuing the trial date, the 180-day limitation period of Paragraph A of Article 3 is not violated. *State v. Alderete*, 1980-NMCA-084, 95 N.M. 691, 625 P.2d 1208, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 674, 615 P.2d 991.

**The timing of defendant's trial did not violate the Interstate Agreement on Detainers.** — Where defendant was charged with murder, tampering with evidence and conspiracy to commit tampering with evidence, and where defendant moved to dismiss all charges with prejudice because his trial occurred outside of the 180-day time period generally prescribed by the Interstate Agreement on Detainers (IAD) and because there was not good cause for a continuance, the district court acted within its discretion by concluding that the complexity of the case and the volume of discovery amounted to good cause for a continuance. *State v. Chavez*, 2022-NMCA-007, cert. granted.

**State's representation that it will reindict is not a de facto continuance** under Paragraph A of Article 3. *State v. Shaw*, 1982-NMCA-133, 98 N.M. 580, 651 P.2d 115.

**Time period does not commence anew upon refiling of indictment.** — A second indictment on the identical charges for which a defendant was previously returned to New Mexico for pretrial and trial proceedings cannot avoid the time restrictions of Paragraph A of Article 3 on the theory that the time commences anew from the filing of the second indictment. *State v. Shaw*, 1982-NMCA-133, 98 N.M. 580, 651 P.2d 115.

**When defendant's request for final disposition does not trigger 180-day rule.** — Where the defendant wrote the district attorney in Albuquerque to request a final disposition of pending Arizona charges on the same day that he pleaded guilty to California felony charges, he had not entered upon "term of imprisonment" within this section; therefore, his request did not trigger section's requirement of trial within 180 days after request for disposition of the charge. *State v. Duncan*, 1980-NMCA-162, 95 N.M. 215, 619 P.2d 1259.

**Triggering the 180-day provision.** — The Interstate Agreement for Detainers Act becomes effective only when a detainer is filed, and a letter sent by the defendant to the district attorney's office before issuance of the detainer was insufficient to trigger the 180-day trial provision. *State v. Morawe*, 1996-NMCA-110, 122 N.M. 489, 927 P.2d 44.

**Not applicable to sentencing.** — Because the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act does not apply to sentencing and because a habitual offender proceeding addresses sentence enhancement, a defendant held in prison in another state does not have a right to a final disposition of habitual offender status within 180 days of serving a request for a final disposition. *State v. Padilla*, 2006-NMCA-070, 139 N.M. 700, 137 P.3d 640, cert. denied, 2006-NMCERT-006, 140 N.M. 224, 141 P.3d 1278.

**Waiver of time limits.** — Although the defendant did not specifically request a waiver of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act time limitations, such a waiver was implied from the defendant's waiver of all speedy trial time limitations. *State v. Montoya*, 1994-NMCA-155, 119 N.M. 95, 888 P.2d 977, cert. denied, 119 N.M. 168, 889 P.2d 203 (1995).

**Agreement not pertinent following absolute release of prisoner.** — When a sending state absolutely releases a prisoner within 120 days of his arrival in the receiving state, provisions of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act cease to be pertinent. *State v. Quiroz*, 1980-NMCA-039, 94 N.M. 517, 612 P.2d 1328, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 675, 615 P.2d 992.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico criminal procedure, see 16 N.M.L. Rev. 25 (1986).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Validity, construction, and application of interstate agreement on detainers, 98 A.L.R.3d 160.

Availability of postconviction relief under 28 USCS § 2254 based on alleged governmental violation of Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act (18 USCS Appx), 63 A.L.R. Fed. 155.

### **31-5-13. Definition.**

As used in the Agreement on Detainers [31-5-12 NMSA 1978] with reference to the courts of this state, the phrase "appropriate court" means the district court.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-20, enacted by Laws 1971, ch. 270, § 2.

### **31-5-14. Cooperation.**

All courts, departments, agencies, officers and employees of this state and its political subdivisions are hereby directed to enforce the Agreement on Detainers [31-5-12 NMSA 1978] and to cooperate with one another and with other party states in enforcing the agreement and effectuating its purpose.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-21, enacted by Laws 1971, ch. 270, § 3.

### **31-5-15. Habitual offenders.**

Nothing in this act [31-5-12 to 31-5-16 NMSA 1978] or in the Agreement on Detainers [31-5-12 NMSA 1978] shall be construed to require the application of the habitual offenders laws to any person on account of any conviction had in a proceeding brought to final disposition by reason of the use of that agreement.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-22, enacted by Laws 1971, ch. 270, § 4.

### **31-5-16. Transfers.**

The corrections department shall give over the person of any inmate whenever required by the operation of the Agreement on Detainers [31-5-12 NMSA 1978].

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-20-23, enacted by Laws 1971, ch. 270, § 5.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For reorganization of the corrections department, see 9-3-3 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

### **31-5-17. Interstate Corrections Compact.**

The Interstate Corrections Compact is enacted into law and entered into by New Mexico with any other states legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

## Article 1. Purpose and Policy

The party states, desiring by common action to fully utilize and improve their institutional facilities and provide adequate programs for the confinement, treatment and rehabilitation of various types of offenders, declare that it is the policy of each of the party states to provide such facilities and programs on a basis of cooperation with one another, thereby serving the best interests of such offenders and of society and effecting economies in capital expenditures and operational costs. The purpose of this compact is to provide for the mutual development and execution of such programs of cooperation for the confinement, treatment and rehabilitation of offenders with the most economical use of human and material resources.

## Article 2. Definitions

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

A. "state" means a state of the United States, the United States of America, a territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia or the commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

B. "sending state" means a state party to this compact in which conviction or court commitment was had;

C. "receiving state" means a state party to this compact to which an inmate is sent for confinement other than a state in which conviction or court commitment was had;

D. "inmate" means a male or female offender who is committed under sentence to or confined in a penal or correctional institution; and

E. "institution" means any penal or correctional facility, including but not limited to a facility for the mentally ill or mentally defective, in which inmates may lawfully be confined.

## Article 3. Contracts

A. Each party state may make one or more contracts with any one or more of the other party states for the confinement of inmates on behalf of a sending state in institutions situated within receiving states. Any such contract shall provide for:

(1) its duration;

(2) payments to be made to the receiving state by the sending state for inmate maintenance, extraordinary medical and dental expenses, and any participation in or receipt by inmates of rehabilitative or correctional services, facilities, programs or treatment not reasonably included as part of normal maintenance;

(3) participation in programs of inmate employment, if any; the disposition or crediting of any payments received by inmates on account thereof; and the crediting of proceeds from or disposal of any products resulting therefrom;

(4) delivery and retaking of inmates; and

(5) such other matters as may be necessary and appropriate to fix the obligations, responsibilities and rights of the sending and receiving states.

B. The terms and provisions of this compact shall be a part of any contract entered into by the authority of or pursuant thereto, and nothing in any such contract shall be inconsistent therewith.

#### Article 4. Procedures and Rights

A. Whenever the duly constituted authorities in a state party to this compact, and which has entered into a contract pursuant to Article 3, shall decide that confinement in, or transfer of an inmate to, an institution within the territory of another party state is necessary or desirable in order to provide adequate quarters and care or an appropriate program of rehabilitation or treatment, said officials may direct that the confinement be within an institution within the territory of said other party state, the receiving state to act in that regard solely as agent for the sending state.

B. The appropriate officials of any state party to this compact shall have access, at all reasonable times, to any institution in which it has a contractual right to confine inmates for the purpose of inspecting the facilities thereof and visiting such of its inmates as may be confined in the institution.

C. Inmates confined in an institution pursuant to the terms of this compact shall at all times be subject to the jurisdiction of the sending state and may at any time be removed therefrom for transfer to a prison or other institution within the sending state, for transfer to another institution in which the sending state may have a contractual or other right to confine inmates, for release on probation or parole, for discharge, or for any other purpose permitted by the laws of the sending state; provided that the sending state shall continue to be obligated to such payments as may be required pursuant to the terms of any contract entered into under the terms of Article 3.

D. Each receiving state shall provide regular reports to each sending state on the inmates of that sending state in institutions pursuant to this compact including a conduct record of each inmate and certify said record to the official designated by the sending state, in order that each inmate may have official review of his or her record in determining and altering the disposition of said inmate in accordance with the law which may obtain in the sending state and in order that the same may be a source of information for the sending state.

E. All inmates who may be confined in an institution pursuant to the provisions of this compact shall be treated in a reasonable and humane manner and shall be treated equally with such similar inmates of the receiving state as may be confined in the same institution. The fact of confinement in a receiving state shall not deprive any inmate so confined of any legal rights which said inmate would have had if confined in an appropriate institution of the sending state.

F. Any hearing or hearings to which an inmate confined pursuant to this compact may be entitled by the laws of the sending state may be had before the appropriate authorities of the sending state, or of the receiving state if authorized by the sending state. The receiving state shall provide adequate facilities for such hearings as may be conducted by the appropriate officials of a sending state. In the event such hearing or hearings are had before officials of the receiving state, the governing law shall be that of the sending state and a record of the hearing or hearings as prescribed by the sending state shall be made. Said record together with any recommendations of the hearing officials shall be transmitted forthwith to the official or officials before whom the hearing would have been had if it had taken place in the sending state. In any and all proceedings had pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision, the officials of the receiving state shall act solely as agents of the sending state and no final determination shall be made in any matter except by the appropriate officials of the sending state.

G. Any inmate confined pursuant to this compact shall be released within the territory of the sending state unless the inmate, and the sending and receiving states, shall agree upon release in some other place. The sending state shall bear the cost of such return to its territory.

H. Any inmate confined pursuant to the terms of this compact shall have any and all rights to participate in and derive any benefits or incur or be relieved of any obligations or have such obligations modified or his status changed on account of any action or proceeding in which he could have participated if confined in any appropriate institution of the sending state located within such state.

I. The parent, guardian, trustee or other person or persons entitled under the laws of the sending state to act for, advise or otherwise function with respect to any inmate shall not be deprived of or restricted in his exercise of any power in respect of any inmate confined pursuant to the terms of this compact.

#### Article 5. Acts Not Reviewable in Receiving State: Extradition

A. Any decision of the sending state in respect of any matter over which it retains jurisdiction pursuant to this compact shall be conclusive upon and not reviewable within the receiving state, but if at the time the sending state seeks to remove an inmate from an institution in the receiving state there is pending against the inmate within such state any criminal charge or if the inmate is formally accused of having committed within such state a criminal offense, the inmate shall not be returned without the consent of the receiving state until discharged from prosecution or other form of proceeding,

imprisonment or detention for such offense. The duly accredited officers of the sending state shall be permitted to transport inmates pursuant to this compact through any and all states party to this compact without interference.

B. An inmate who escapes from an institution in which he is confined pursuant to this compact shall be deemed a fugitive from the sending state and from the state in which the institution is situated. In the case of an escape to a jurisdiction other than the sending or receiving state, the responsibility for institution of extradition or rendition proceedings shall be that of the sending state, but nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent or affect the activities of officers and agencies of any jurisdiction directed toward the apprehension and return of an escapee.

#### Article 6. Federal Aid

Any state party to this compact may accept federal aid for use in connection with any institution or program, the use of which is or may be affected by this compact or any contract pursuant hereto and any inmate in a receiving state pursuant to this compact may participate in any such federally aided program or activity for which the sending and receiving states have made contractual provision, provided that if such program or activity is not part of the customary correctional regimen, the express consent of the appropriate official of the sending state shall be required therefor.

#### Article 7. Entry into Force

This compact shall enter into force and become effective and binding upon the states so acting when it has been enacted into law by any two states. Thereafter, this compact shall enter into force and become effective and binding as to any other of said states upon similar action by such state.

#### Article 8. Withdrawal and Termination

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon a party state until it shall have enacted a statute repealing the same and providing for the sending of formal written notice of withdrawal from the compact to the appropriate officials of all other party states. An actual withdrawal shall not take effect until one year after the notices provided in said statute have been sent. Such withdrawal shall not relieve the withdrawing state from its obligations assumed hereunder prior to the effective date of withdrawal. Before the effective date of withdrawal, a withdrawing state shall remove to its territory, at its own expense, such inmates as it may have confined pursuant to the provisions of this compact.

#### Article 9. Other Arrangements Unaffected

Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to abrogate or impair any agreement or other arrangement which a party state may have with a nonparty state for

the confinement, rehabilitation or treatment of inmates nor to repeal any other laws of a party state authorizing the making of cooperative institutional arrangements.

#### Article 10. Construction and Severability

The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed and shall be severable. If any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state participating therein, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

**History:** Laws 1982, ch. 56, § 1.

#### **31-5-18. Secretary of corrections; powers.**

The secretary of corrections is authorized and directed to do all things necessary or incidental to the carrying out of the compact [31-5-17 NMSA 1978] in every particular, and he may in his discretion delegate this authority to another appropriate official.

**History:** Laws 1982, ch. 56, § 2.

#### **31-5-19. Convicted offenders; contracts with United States attorney general.**

The secretary of corrections is authorized to contract with the United States attorney general for the custody, care, housing, subsistence, education, treatment and training either of persons convicted of criminal offenses in the courts of New Mexico in order that they may be housed in United States prisons or correctional facilities for these purposes or of persons convicted of criminal offenses in the courts of the United States in order that they may be housed in New Mexico correctional facilities for such purposes.

**History:** Laws 1982, ch. 54, § 1.

#### **31-5-20. [Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision.]**

The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision is enacted into law and entered into on behalf of New Mexico with any and all other states legally joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

#### INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR ADULT OFFENDER SUPERVISION



## ARTICLE I - Purpose

A. The compacting states to this interstate compact recognize that each state is responsible for the supervision of adult offenders in the community and is authorized pursuant to the bylaws and rules of this compact to travel across state lines both to and from each compacting state in such a manner as to track the location of offenders, transfer supervision authority in an orderly and efficient manner and, when necessary, return offenders to the originating jurisdictions. The compacting states also recognize that congress, by enacting the Crime Control Act, 4 U.S.C. Section 112, 1965, has authorized and encouraged compacts for cooperative efforts and mutual assistance in the prevention of crime.

B. It is the purpose of this compact and the interstate commission created hereunder, through means of joint and cooperative action among the compacting states:

(1) to provide the framework for the promotion of public safety and protection of the rights of victims in the community through the control and regulation of the interstate movement of offenders;

(2) to provide for the effective tracking, supervision and rehabilitation of these offenders by the sending and receiving states; and

(3) to equitably distribute the costs, benefits and obligations of the compact among the compacting states.

C. In addition, this compact will:

(1) create an interstate commission that will establish uniform procedures to manage the movement between states of adults placed under community supervision and released to the community under the jurisdiction of courts, paroling authorities, corrections or other criminal justice agencies and that will promulgate rules to achieve the purpose of this compact;

(2) ensure an opportunity for input and timely notice to victims and to jurisdictions as to where defined offenders are authorized to travel or to relocate across state lines;

(3) establish a system of uniform data collection, access to information on active cases by authorized criminal justice officials and regular reporting of compact activities to heads of state councils, state executive, judicial and legislative branches and criminal justice administrators;

(4) monitor compliance with rules governing interstate movement of offenders and initiate interventions to address and correct noncompliance; and

(5) coordinate training and education regarding regulations of interstate movement of offenders for officials involved in such activity.

D. The compacting states recognize that there is no "right" of any offender to live in another state and that duly accredited officers of a sending state may at all times enter a receiving state and there apprehend and retake any offender under supervision subject to the provisions of this compact and bylaws and rules promulgated hereunder.

E. It is the policy of the compacting states that the activities conducted by the interstate commission created herein are the formation of public policies and are therefore public business.

## ARTICLE II - Definitions

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different construction:

A. "adult" means both individuals legally classified as adults and juveniles treated as adults by court order, statute or operation of law;

B. "bylaws" mean those bylaws established by the interstate commission for its governance or for directing or controlling the interstate commission's actions or conduct;

C. "compact" means the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision;

D. "compact administrator" means the individual in each compacting state appointed pursuant to the terms of this compact responsible for the administration and management of the state's supervision and transfer of offenders subject to the terms of this compact, the rules adopted by the interstate commission and policies adopted by the state council under this compact;

E. "compacting state" means any state that has enacted the enabling legislation for this compact;

F. "commissioner" means the voting representative of each compacting state appointed pursuant to Article III of this compact;

G. "interstate commission" means the interstate commission for adult offender supervision established by this compact;

H. "member" means the commissioner of a compacting state or his designee, who shall be a person officially connected with the commissioner;

I. "non-compacting state" means any state that has not enacted the enabling legislation for this compact;

J. "offender" means an adult placed under or subject to supervision as the result of the commission of a criminal offense and released to the community under the jurisdiction of courts, paroling authorities, corrections or other criminal justice agencies;

K. "person" means any individual, corporation, business enterprise or other legal entity, either public or private;

L. "rules" means acts of the interstate commission, duly promulgated pursuant to Article VIII of this compact, substantially affecting interested parties in addition to the interstate commission, which shall have the force and effect of law in the compacting states;

M. "state" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia and any other territorial possessions of the United States; and

N. "state council" means the resident members of the state council for interstate adult offender supervision created by each compacting state under Article IV of this compact.

### ARTICLE III - The Compact Commission

A. The compacting states hereby create the "interstate commission for adult offender supervision". The interstate commission shall be a body corporate and joint agency of the compacting states. The interstate commission shall have all the responsibilities, powers and duties set forth herein, including the power to sue and be sued and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by subsequent action of the respective legislatures of the compacting states in accordance with the terms of this compact. The interstate commission shall consist of commissioners selected and appointed by resident members of a state council for interstate adult offender supervision for each state. In addition to the commissioners who are the voting representatives of each state, the interstate commission shall include individuals who are not commissioners but who are members of interested organizations; such non-commissioner members must include a member of the national organizations of governors, legislators, state chief justices, attorneys general and crime victims. All non-commissioner members of the interstate commission shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members. The interstate commission may provide in its bylaws for such additional, ex-officio, nonvoting members as it deems necessary.

B. Each compacting state represented at any meeting of the interstate commission is entitled to one vote. A majority of the compacting states shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the interstate commission. The interstate commission shall meet at least once each calendar year. The chairperson may call additional meetings and, upon the request of twenty-seven or more compacting states, shall call additional meetings. Public notice shall be given of all meetings and meetings shall be open to the public.

C. The interstate commission shall establish an executive committee that shall include commission officers, members and others as shall be determined by the bylaws. The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the interstate commission during periods when the interstate commission is not in session, with the exception of rulemaking and amendment to the compact. The executive committee shall oversee the day-to-day activities managed by the executive director and interstate commission staff, administer enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the compact and its bylaws as directed by the interstate commission and perform other duties as directed by the interstate commission or set forth in the bylaws.

#### ARTICLE IV - The State Council

Each compacting state shall create a "state council for interstate adult offender supervision" that shall be responsible for the appointment of the commissioner who shall serve on the interstate commission from that state. Each state council shall appoint as its commissioner the compact administrator from that state to serve on the interstate commission in such capacity under or pursuant to applicable law of the compacting state. While each compacting state may determine the membership of its own state council, its membership must include at least one representative from the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government and victims groups and its compact administrator. Each compacting state retains the right to determine the qualifications of the compact administrator who shall be appointed by the state council or by the governor in consultation with the legislature and the judiciary. In addition to appointment of its commissioner to the interstate commission, each state council shall exercise oversight and advocacy concerning its participation in interstate commission activities and other duties as may be determined by each compacting state, including development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within that state.

#### ARTICLE V - Powers and Duties of the Interstate Commission

The interstate commission shall have the following powers:

A. to adopt a seal and suitable bylaws governing the management and operation of the interstate commission;

B. to promulgate rules that shall have the force and effect of statutory law and shall be binding in the compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided in this compact;

C. to oversee, supervise and coordinate the interstate movement of offenders subject to the terms of this compact and any bylaws adopted and rules promulgated by the interstate commission;

D. to enforce compliance with compact provisions and interstate commission rules and bylaws, using all necessary and proper means, including the use of judicial process;

E. to establish and maintain offices;

F. to purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

G. to borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including members and their staffs;

H. to establish and appoint committees and hire staff that it deems necessary for the carrying out of its functions, including an executive committee as required by Article III that shall have the power to act on behalf of the interstate commission in carrying out its powers and duties hereunder;

I. to elect or appoint such officers, attorneys, employees, agents or consultants and to fix their compensation, define their duties and determine their qualifications; and to establish the interstate commission's personnel policies and programs relating to, among other things, conflicts of interest, rates of compensation and qualifications of personnel;

J. to accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services and to receive, utilize and dispose of same;

K. to lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal or mixed;

L. to sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed;

M. to establish a budget and make expenditures and levy dues as provided in Article X of this compact;

N. to sue and be sued;

O. to provide for dispute resolution among compacting states;

P. to perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact;

Q. to report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary and state councils of the compacting states concerning the activities of the interstate commission during the preceding year. The reports shall also include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the interstate commission;

R. to coordinate education, training and public awareness regarding the interstate movement of offenders for officials involved in such activity; and

S. to establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting and exchanging of data.

#### ARTICLE VI - Organization and Operation of the Interstate Commission

A. The interstate commission shall, by a majority of the members, within twelve months of the first interstate commission meeting, adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact, including:

- (1) establishing the fiscal year of the interstate commission;
- (2) establishing an executive committee and such other committees as may be necessary;
- (3) providing reasonable standards and procedures:
  - (a) for the establishment of committees; and
  - (b) for any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the interstate commission;
- (4) providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the interstate commission and ensuring reasonable notice of each such meeting;
- (5) establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers of the interstate commission;
- (6) providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the interstate commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws of any compacting state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of the interstate commission;
- (7) providing a mechanism for winding-up the operations of the interstate commission and for the equitable return of any surplus funds that may exist upon the termination of the compact after the payment and reserving of all of its debts and obligations;
- (8) providing transition rules for "start-up" administration of the compact; and
- (9) establishing standards and procedures for compliance and technical assistance in carrying out the compact.

B. The interstate commission shall, by a majority of the members, elect from among its members a chairperson and a vice chairperson, each of whom shall have such authorities and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The chairperson or, in his absence or disability, the vice chairperson, shall preside at all meetings of the interstate commission. The officers so elected shall serve without compensation or remuneration from the interstate commission; provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted funds, the officers shall be reimbursed for any actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as officers of the interstate commission. The interstate commission shall, through its executive committee, appoint or retain an executive director for such period, upon such terms and conditions and for such compensation as the interstate commission may deem appropriate. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the interstate commission, and hire and supervise such other staff as may be authorized by the interstate commission, but shall not be a member.

C. The interstate commission shall maintain its corporate books and records in accordance with the bylaws.

D. The members, officers, executive director and employees of the interstate commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of any such person. The interstate commission shall defend the commissioner of a compacting state, or his representatives or employees or the interstate commission's representatives or employees, in any civil action seeking to impose liability, arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from intentional wrongdoing on the part of such person. The interstate commission shall indemnify and hold the commissioner of a compacting state, the appointed designee or employees or the interstate commission's representatives or employees, harmless in the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against such persons arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that such persons had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing on the part of such person.

## ARTICLE VII - Activities of the Interstate Commission

A. The interstate commission shall meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact.

B. Except as otherwise provided in this compact and unless a greater percentage is required by the bylaws, in order to constitute an act of the interstate commission such act shall have been taken at a meeting of the interstate commission and shall have received an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.

C. Each member of the interstate commission shall have the right and power to cast a vote to which that compacting state is entitled and to participate in the business and affairs of the interstate commission. A member shall vote in person on behalf of the compacting state and shall not delegate a vote to another compacting state. However, a state council shall appoint another authorized representative, in the absence of the commissioner from that state, to cast a vote on behalf of the compacting state at a specified meeting. The bylaws may provide for members' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of telecommunication or electronic communication. Any voting conducted by telephone, or other means of telecommunication or electronic communication shall be subject to the same quorum requirements of meetings where members are present in person.

D. The interstate commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. The chairperson of the interstate commission may call additional meetings at any time and, upon the request of a majority of the members, shall call additional meetings.

E. The interstate commission's bylaws shall establish conditions and procedures under which the interstate commission shall make its information and official records available to the public for inspection or copying. The interstate commission may exempt from disclosure any information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect personal privacy rights or proprietary interests. In promulgating such rules, the interstate commission may make available to law enforcement agencies records and information otherwise exempt from disclosure, and may enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies to receive or exchange information or records subject to non-disclosure and confidentiality provisions.

F. Public notice shall be given of all meetings and all meetings shall be open to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in the compact. The interstate commission shall promulgate rules consistent with the principles contained in the federal Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b), as may be amended. The interstate commission and any of its committees may close a meeting to the public where it determines by a two-thirds' vote that a meeting would be likely to:

- (1) relate solely to the interstate commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
- (2) disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;



- (3) disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- (4) involve accusing any person of a crime, or formally censuring any person;
- (5) disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (6) disclose investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
- (7) disclose information contained in or related to examination, operating or condition reports prepared by, or on behalf of or for the use of, the interstate commission with respect to a regulated entity for the purpose of regulation or supervision of such entity;
- (8) disclose information, the premature disclosure of which would significantly endanger the life of a person or the stability of a regulated entity; or
- (9) specifically relate to the interstate commission's issuance of a subpoena or its participation in a civil action or proceeding.

G. For every meeting closed pursuant to this provision, the interstate commission's chief legal officer shall publicly certify that, in his opinion, the meeting may be closed to the public, and shall reference each relevant exemptive provision. The interstate commission shall keep minutes that shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in any meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of any actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of each of the views expressed on any item and the record of any roll-call vote, reflected in the vote of each member on the question. All documents considered in connection with any action shall be identified in the minutes.

H. The interstate commission shall collect standardized data concerning the interstate movement of offenders as directed through its bylaws and rules, which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of collection and data exchange and reporting requirements.

## ARTICLE VIII - Rulemaking Functions of the Interstate Commission

A. The interstate commission shall promulgate rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of the compact, including transition rules governing administration of the compact during the period in which it is being considered and enacted by the states. Rulemaking shall occur pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article and the bylaws and rules adopted pursuant thereto. Such rulemaking shall substantially conform to the principles of the federal Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 551 et seq., and the federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 1

et seq., as may be amended. All rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

B. If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any compacting state.

C. When promulgating a rule, the interstate commission shall:

- (1) publish the proposed rule stating with particularity the text of the rule that is proposed and the reason for the proposed rule;
- (2) allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which information shall be publicly available;
- (3) provide an opportunity for an informal hearing; and
- (4) promulgate a final rule and its effective date, if appropriate, based on the rulemaking record.

D. Not later than sixty days after a rule is promulgated, any interested person may file a petition in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or in the federal district court where the interstate commission's principal office is located for judicial review of such rule. If the court finds that the interstate commission's action is not supported by substantial evidence, as defined in the Administrative Procedure Act, in the rulemaking record, the court shall hold the rule unlawful and set it aside. Subjects to be addressed within twelve months after the first meeting must at a minimum include:

- (1) notice to victims and opportunity to be heard;
- (2) offender registration and compliance;
- (3) violations or returns;
- (4) transfer procedures and forms;
- (5) eligibility for transfer;
- (6) collection of restitution and fees from offenders;
- (7) data collection and reporting;
- (8) the level of supervision to be provided by the receiving state;

(9) transition rules governing the operation of the compact and the interstate commission during all or part of the period between the effective date of the compact and the date on which the last eligible state adopts the compact; and

(10) mediation, arbitration and dispute resolution.

E. The existing rules governing the operation of the previous compact superseded by this compact shall be null and void twelve months after the first meeting of the interstate commission created hereunder.

F. Upon determination by the interstate commission that an emergency exists, it may promulgate an emergency rule that shall become effective immediately upon adoption, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided hereunder shall be retroactively applied to said rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety days after the effective date of the rule.

#### ARTICLE IX - Oversight, Enforcement, and Dispute Resolution by the Interstate Commission

A. The interstate commission shall oversee the interstate movement of adult offenders in the compacting states and shall monitor such activities being administered in non-compacting states that may significantly affect compacting states. The courts and executive agencies in each compacting state shall enforce this compact and shall take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent. In any judicial or administrative proceeding in a compacting state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact that may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the interstate commission, the interstate commission shall be entitled to receive all service of process in any such proceeding and shall have standing to intervene in the proceeding for all purposes.

B. The compacting states shall report to the interstate commission on issues or activities of concern to them and cooperate with and support the interstate commission in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities. The interstate commission shall attempt to resolve any disputes or other issues that are subject to the compact and that may arise among compacting states and non-compacting states. The interstate commission shall enact a bylaw or promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes among the compacting states.

C. The interstate commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions of this compact using any or all means set forth in Section B of Article XII of this compact.

#### ARTICLE X - Finance

A. The interstate commission shall pay or provide for the payment of the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities.

B. The interstate commission shall levy on and collect an annual assessment from each compacting state to cover the cost of the internal operations and activities of the interstate commission and its staff that must be in a total amount sufficient to cover the interstate commission's annual budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the interstate commission, taking into consideration the population of the compacting state and the volume of interstate movement of offenders in each compacting state and shall promulgate a rule binding upon all compacting states that governs said assessment.

C. The interstate commission shall not incur any obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the interstate commission pledge the credit of any of the compacting states, except by and with the authority of the compacting state.

D. The interstate commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the interstate commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the interstate commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the interstate commission.

#### ARTICLE XI - Compacting States, Effective Date and Amendment

A. Any state is eligible to become a compacting state. The compact shall become effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the compact into law by no less than thirty-five of the states. The initial effective date shall be the later of July 1, 2001, or upon enactment into law by the thirty-fifth state. Thereafter it shall become effective and binding, as to any other compacting state, upon enactment of the compact into law by that state. The governors of non-compacting states or their designees will be invited to participate in interstate commission activities on a non-voting basis prior to adoption of the compact by all states and territories of the United States.

B. Amendments to the compact may be proposed by the interstate commission for enactment by the compacting states. No amendment shall become effective and binding upon the interstate commission and the compacting states unless and until it is enacted into law by unanimous consent of the compacting states.

#### ARTICLE XII - Withdrawal, Default, Termination and Judicial Enforcement

A. Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each and every compacting state; provided that a compacting state may withdraw from the compact by enacting a statute specifically repealing the statute that enacted the compact into law. The effective date of withdrawal is the effective date of the repeal. The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the chairperson of the interstate commission in writing upon the introduction of legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state. The interstate commission shall notify the other compacting states of

the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw within sixty days of its receipt thereof. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of withdrawal, including any obligations, the performance of which extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal. Reinstatement following withdrawal of any compacting state shall occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting the compact or upon such later date as determined by the interstate commission.

B. If the interstate commission determines that any compacting state has at any time defaulted in the performance of any of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, the bylaws or any duly promulgated rules, the interstate commission may impose any or all of the following penalties:

(1) fines, fees and costs in such amounts as are deemed to be reasonable as fixed by the interstate commission;

(2) remedial training and technical assistance as directed by the interstate commission; and

(3) suspension and termination of membership in the compact. Suspension shall be imposed only after all other reasonable means of securing compliance under the bylaws and rules have been exhausted. Immediate notice of suspension shall be given by the interstate commission to the governor, the chief justice or chief judicial officer of the state, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature and the state council.

The grounds for default include failure of a compacting state to perform such obligations or responsibilities imposed upon it by this compact, interstate commission bylaws or duly promulgated rules. The interstate commission shall immediately notify the defaulting state in writing of the penalty imposed by the interstate commission on the defaulting state pending a cure of the default. The interstate commission shall stipulate the conditions and the time period within which the defaulting state must cure its default. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default within the time period specified by the interstate commission, in addition to any other penalties imposed herein, the defaulting state may be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the compacting states, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this compact shall be terminated from the effective date of suspension. Within sixty days of the effective date of termination of a defaulting state, the interstate commission shall notify the governor, the chief justice or chief judicial officer and the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature and the state council of such termination. The defaulting state is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including any obligations, the performance of which extends beyond the effective date of termination. The interstate commission shall not bear any costs relating to the defaulting state unless otherwise mutually agreed upon between the interstate commission and the defaulting state. Reinstatement following termination of any compacting state requires both a re-

enactment of the compact by the defaulting state and the approval of the interstate commission pursuant to the rules.

C. The interstate commission may, by majority vote of the members, initiate legal action in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or, at the discretion of the interstate commission, in the federal district where the interstate commission has its offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its duly promulgated rules and bylaws against any compacting state in default. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

D. The compact dissolves effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of the compacting state, which reduces membership in the compact to one compacting state. Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the business and affairs of the interstate commission shall be wound-up and any surplus funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

#### ARTICLE XIII - Severability and Construction

A. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision is deemed unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.

B. The provisions of this compact shall be liberally constructed to effectuate its purposes.

#### ARTICLE XIV - Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws

A. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a compacting state that is not inconsistent with this compact. All compacting states' laws conflicting with this compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

B. All lawful actions of the interstate commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the interstate commission, are binding upon the compacting states. All agreements between the interstate commission and the compacting states are binding in accordance with their terms. Upon the request of a party to a conflict over meaning or interpretation of interstate commission actions, and upon a majority vote of the compacting states, the interstate commission may issue advisory opinions regarding such meaning or interpretation. In the event any provision of this compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any compacting state, the obligations, duties, powers or jurisdiction sought to be conferred by such provision upon the interstate commission shall be ineffective and such obligations, duties, powers or jurisdiction shall remain in the compacting state and shall be exercised by the agency thereof to which such obligations, duties, powers or jurisdiction are delegated by law in effect at the time this compact becomes effective.

**History:** Laws 2001, ch. 322, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 2001, ch. 322, art. XI provided that the compact becomes effective on the latter of July 1, 2001, or enactment of the compact into law by the thirty-fifth jurisdiction. As of June 19, 2002, 35 states had entered the compact.

## ARTICLE 6

### Grand Jury

#### 31-6-1. Grand jury panels; calling; qualifying.

The district judge may convene one or more grand juries at any time, without regard to court terms. A grand jury shall serve for a period of no longer than three months. The district judge shall summon and qualify as a panel for grand jury service such number of jurors as he deems necessary. Each grand jury shall be composed of twelve regular jurors and a sufficient number of alternates to insure the continuity of the inquiry and the taking of testimony. All deliberations shall be conducted by any twelve jurors, comprised of regular jurors or substituted alternates. No more than twelve jurors may deliberate. No juror may vote on an indictment unless the juror has heard all evidence presented on the charge. The district judge may discharge or excuse members of a grand jury and substitute alternate grand jurors as necessary. The names of jurors summoned for grand jury service shall be drawn from the master jury wheel of the district court for the county.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-1, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 1; 1981, ch. 262, § 1; 1983, ch. 62, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-1, 1953 Comp., relating to right to challenge grand jury.

**The 1983 amendment** inserted "regular" in the fourth sentence, added "and a sufficient number of alternates to insure the continuity of the inquiry and the taking of testimony" at the end of the fourth sentence and inserted the fifth and sixth sentences.

**Selection of a grand jury must be under the control of the district court.** — The district court is the constitutionally and statutorily designated neutral entity that is assigned the responsibility for determining which grand jurors sit in any particular case to decide the question of indictment. The district court may not delegate its core statutory responsibilities over grand jury proceedings. *De Leon v. Hartley*, 2014-NMSC-005.

Where, after the orientation and swearing of the grand jurors, the district court transferred the process of selecting and excusing jurors to the district attorney's office without further apparent involvement by the district court; the list of grand jurors used by the district attorney's office contained notations that suggested that someone in the district attorney's office excused several grand jurors; and the district court found that there was no fraud or prejudice to defendant in the conduct of the grand jury proceeding and denied defendant's pretrial motion to quash the indictment, the district court should have quashed the indictment irrespective of whether any actual fraud or prejudice was established when the improper involvement of the district attorney in the excusal of grand jurors was brought to the attention of the district court. *De Leon v. Hartley*, 2014-NMSC-005.

**Remedy for irregularities in the grand jury process.** — When undeniable irregularities in the grand jury process are brought to the court's attention in advance of trial, a grand jury indictment resulting from that process must be quashed. *De Leon v. Hartley*, 2014-NMSC-005.

**Indictment returned after the three-month term has expired does not deprive the court of jurisdiction.** — The number of days in the term of a grand jury, being merely a matter of statute, goes not to the jurisdiction of the court, but to the manner in which the power is to be exercised. *State v. Bent*, 2012-NMSC-038, 289 P.3d 1225, *rev'g* 2011-NMCA-093, 150 N.M. 561, 263 P.3d 903.

**Challenges to an indictment returned after the three-month term has expired.** — Statutory challenges to an indictment that is returned after the three-month period has expired must be adjudicated before trial and before a jury issues a verdict on the offenses charged in the indictment. *State v. Bent*, 2012-NMSC-038, 289 P.3d 1225, *rev'g* 2011-NMCA-093, 150 N.M. 561, 263 P.3d 903.

Where the grand jury returned an indictment against defendant long after the three-month period of the grand jury's term had expired; the trial court denied defendant's motions to quash the indictment and for an interlocutory appeal; defendant did not file a request with the supreme court for extraordinary relief; and a jury convicted defendant of the offenses charged in the indictment, there was no adequate remedy available for defendant. *State v. Bent*, 2012-NMSC-038, 289 P.3d 1225, *rev'g* 2011-NMCA-093, 150 N.M. 561, 263 P.3d 903.

**The three-month limitation on the term of a grand jury is a mandatory limitation on the grand jury's jurisdiction**, because it is central to the legal constitution and empanelment of the grand jury. *State v. Bent*, 2011-NMCA-093, 150 N.M. 561, 263 P.3d 903, cert. granted, 2011-NMCERT-009, 269 P.3d 903, *rev'd*, 2012-NMSC-038, 289 P.3d 1225.

**An indictment that is returned after the grand jury's three-month term has expired** is void ab initio and confers no jurisdiction to try the defendant. *State v. Bent*, 2011-



NMCA-093, 150 N.M. 561, 263 P.3d 903, cert. granted, 2011-NMCERT-009, 269 P.3d 903, *rev'd*, 2012-NMSC-038, 289 P.3d 1225.

**An indictment returned after the grand jury's term has expired is void.** — Where a grand jury was convened in October 2007; grand jurors were summoned for service in November 2007; the district judge verbally extended the grand jury's term beyond the three-month term; and the grand jury returned an indictment against defendant when it was recalled in May 2008 to hear defendant's case, the indictment was void and the district court did not have jurisdiction to try defendant. *State v. Bent*, 2011-NMCA-093, 150 N.M. 561, 263 P.3d 903, cert. granted, 2011-NMCERT-009, 269 P.3d 903, *rev'd*, 2012-NMSC-038, 289 P.3d 1225.

**Report not a judgment.** -- The report of a grand jury convened to consider petitions filed by plaintiff alleging crimes of which plaintiff was the victim is not a final, appealable order. *McKenzie v. Fifth Judicial Dist. Ct.*, 1988-NMCA-085, 107 N.M. 778, 765 P.2d 194, cert. denied, 107 N.M. 785, 765 P. 3d 758

**Directory nature of section.** — This section and 31-6-2 NMSA 1978 are merely directory, not mandatory. *State v. Apodaca*, 1987-NMCA-033, 105 N.M. 650, 735 P.2d 1156, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 618, 735 P.2d 535, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Garcia*, 1990-NMCA-065, 110 N.M. 419, 796 P.2d 1115, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 282, 795 P.2d 87.

**Substitution of grand jurors by the court clerk is proper** where he acts pursuant to a standing order of the district judge, so long as such an order does not amount to an abuse of discretion. *State v. Gilbert*, 1982-NMSC-095, 98 N.M. 530, 650 P.2d 814.

**Effect of grand jury no bill.** — A grand jury no bill does not prevent the district attorney from either resubmitting a matter to the grand jury or charging a defendant by information; this result is reached because of the absence of limitation upon the district attorney's authority as prosecutor. *State v. Chavez*, 1979-NMCA-075, 93 N.M. 270, 599 P.2d 1067, cert. denied, 93 N.M. 172, 598 P.2d 215.

**Length of session governed by court.** — The determination as to when grand jury had completed the business before them rested with the court. *State v. Raulie*, 1930-NMSC-074, 35 N.M. 135, 290 P. 789.

**When court may refuse to present matters to grand jury.** — A district court to which an otherwise valid citizen petition for grand jury is presented possesses the discretion to determine whether the matters stated in the petition are reasonably within the lawful scope of grand jury inquiry. Only where the petition clearly seeks to involve a grand jury in matters beyond its purview may the court refuse to present those matters to a grand jury or to convene a grand jury where no regularly sitting grand jury is available. 1982 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 82-14.

**Effect of saving clause's absence.** — The absence of a saving clause in either Laws 1969, ch. 222 or ch. 276 indicates the legislature did not intend the repealed law relative to jury selection to remain effective after July 1, 1969 and did intend that the provisions of both Laws 1969, ch. 222 and ch. 276 be complied with insofar as possible, after that date. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-98 (rendered under prior law).

**Law reviews.** — For article, "The Grand Jury: True Tribunal of the People or Administrative Agency of the Prosecutor?" see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 141 (1972).

For comment, "The Use of an Information Following the Return of a Grand Jury No Bill: State v. Joe Nestor Chavez," see 10 N.M.L. Rev. 217 (1979-80).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 271 (1982).

For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 7 et seq.

Misconduct of officers in selection or summoning of jurors or grand jurors as contempt of court, 7 A.L.R. 345.

Matters within investigating powers of grand jury, 22 A.L.R. 1356, 106 A.L.R. 1383, 120 A.L.R. 437.

Power of grand jury to contract, 26 A.L.R. 605.

Effect of, and remedies for, exclusion of eligible class or classes of persons from jury list in criminal case, 52 A.L.R. 919.

Constitutional or statutory changes affecting grand jury on substituting information for indictment as an ex post facto law, 53 A.L.R. 716.

Quo warranto to test right to serve as grand or petit juror, 91 A.L.R. 1009.

Communicating with grand jury or member thereof as a criminal offense, 112 A.L.R. 319.

Contemporaneous existence on functioning of two or more grand juries, 121 A.L.R. 814.

Eligibility of women as jurors, 157 A.L.R. 461.

Exclusion of women as violation of constitutional rights of accused or as ground for reversal of conviction, 9 A.L.R.2d 661.

Attorneys: exclusion from jury list in criminal cases, 32 A.L.R.2d 890.

Jurisdiction or power of grand jury after expiration of term of court for which organized, 75 A.L.R.2d 544.

Accused's right to inspection of minutes of state grand jury, 20 A.L.R.3d 7.

Validity and construction of statute authorizing grand jury to submit report concerning public servant's noncriminal misconduct, 63 A.L.R.3d 586.

Law enforcement officers as qualified jurors in criminal cases, 72 A.L.R.3d 895.

Former law enforcement officers as qualified jurors in criminal cases, 72 A.L.R.3d 958.

Validity of enactment requiring juror to be an elector or voter or have qualifications thereof, 78 A.L.R.3d 1147.

Validity of indictment as affected by substitution or addition of grand jurors after commencement of investigation, 2 A.L.R.4th 980.

Limitations on state prosecuting attorney's discretion to initiate prosecution by indictment or by information, 44 A.L.R.4th 401.

Exclusion of women from grand or trial jury or jury panel in criminal case as violation of constitutional rights of accused or as ground for reversal of conviction - state cases, 70 A.L.R.5th 587.

Purposeful inclusion of Negroes in grand or petit jury as unconstitutional discrimination, 4 A.L.R. Fed. 449.

Civil liability of witness in action under 42 USCS § 1983 for deprivation of civil rights, based on testimony given at pretrial criminal proceeding, 94 A.L.R. Fed. 892.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 6, 7, 8, 11, 14 et seq., 20 et seq.

### **31-6-2. Foreman of grand jury.**

The jurors shall select one of their number as foreman of the grand jury. The foreman shall preside over the sessions of the grand jury. The foreman shall administer oaths to witnesses. The foreman will sign all reports, indictments or other undertakings of the grand jury. The foreman may appoint one member of the grand jury as a clerk to aid in the keeping of notes or minutes and the tallying of votes during secret sessions when no persons other than grand jury members may be present. The foreman may

recess the sessions of the grand jury and reconvene them. The foreman, for good cause, may request the court to excuse or discharge individual grand jurors and to replace them with alternate grand jurors as necessary to continue the work of the grand jury.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-2, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 2; 1979, ch. 337, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-2, 1953 Comp., relating to challenges of the grand jury panel.

**Directory nature of section.** — Section 31-6-1 NMSA 1978 and this section are merely directory, not mandatory. *State v. Apodaca*, 1987-NMCA-033, 105 N.M. 650, 735 P.2d 1156, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 618, 735 P.2d 535, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Garcia*, 1990-NMCA-065, 110 N.M. 419, 796 P.2d 1115, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 282, 795 P.2d 87.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 54, 55.

### 31-6-3. Challenge to grand jury.

Any person held to answer for an offense by grand jury indictment, upon arraignment to the charge therein, by motion to quash the indictment stating with particularity the ground therefor, may challenge the validity of the grand jury. A failure to file such motion is a waiver of the challenge. Grounds that may be presented by such motion are limited to the following:

- A. the grand jury was not selected in accordance with law;
- B. a member of the grand jury returning the indictment was ineligible to serve as a juror;
- C. a member of the grand jury returning the indictment was a witness or is likely to become a witness; or
- D. a member of the grand jury returning the indictment was not qualified to serve due to a conflict of interest, bias, partiality or inability to follow the law.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-3, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 3; 2003, ch. 363, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-3, 1953 Comp., relating to challenges to individual grand jurors.

**Cross references.** — For drawing and empaneling jurors, see 38-5-1 NMSA 1978.

**The 2003 amendment,** effective July 1, 2003, inserted "or is likely to become a witness; or" at the end of Subsection C and added Subsection D.

**The effect of this section** is to prohibit a grand juror from testifying before the grand jury of which he or she is a member. Defendant's contention that grand jurors were witnesses against him because the grand jury had returned two indictments against him prior to returning the present indictment, and had "witnessed" the actions of defendant which led to a subsequent contempt citation was without merit as it perverted the meaning of "witness" as used in the grand jury statutes. *State v. Hogervorst*, 1977-NMCA-057, 90 N.M. 580, 566 P.2d 828, cert. denied, 90 N.M. 636, 567 P.2d 485.

**Challenge is not to court's jurisdiction.** — An attack on the eligibility of one grand juror does not raise an issue as to the jurisdiction of the court, but goes only to the procedural requirements for returning an indictment. *State v. Velasquez*, 1982-NMCA-154, 99 N.M. 109, 654 P.2d 562, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 148, 655 P.2d 160.

**Juror's bias not ground for attack where indictment sufficient.** — Bias or prejudice on the part of an individual grand juror furnishes no ground of attack on an indictment that is sufficient on its face. *State v. Laskay*, 1986-NMCA-008, 103 N.M. 799, 715 P.2d 72, cert. denied, 103 N.M. 798, 715 P.2d 71.

**Unless prejudice caused indictment by malice or ill will.** — A challenge would not be precluded in the event that grand jurors were so prejudiced against a person that the jurors would be ineligible to serve because an indictment by jurors so prejudiced would violate their oath to indict no person through malice, hatred or ill will. *State v. Laskay*, 1986-NMCA-008, 103 N.M. 799, 715 P.2d 72, cert. denied, 103 N.M. 798, 715 P.2d 71.

**Residence as qualification for grand jury service is question of fact.** *State v. Watkins*, 1979-NMCA-003, 92 N.M. 470, 590 P.2d 169.

**Temporary absence of person from county of residence,** without the intention of abandoning that residence, will not destroy the person's qualification to serve as a grand juror. *State v. Watkins*, 1979-NMCA-003, 92 N.M. 470, 590 P.2d 169.

**Where grand jury which heard defendant's false testimony returned indictment for perjury based on that testimony,** such jurors are not witnesses under this section, nor are they presumed to be biased. *State v. Watkins*, 1979-NMCA-003, 92 N.M. 470, 590 P.2d 169.

**Accused not present during empaneling.** — It was never the practice to bring accused into court when empaneling the grand jury. *Territory v. Young*, 1881-NMSC-007, 2 N.M. 93.

**Objections raised before plea available.** — Any objections to legal qualifications of grand jurors were to be raised and presented in proper form to court before defendant entered his plea of not guilty and were not available on motion in arrest of judgment. *Territory v. Armijo*, 1894-NMSC-011, 7 N.M. 571, 37 P. 1117 (decided under former law).

**But not after plea.** — Objections to character of grand jury, or qualification of an individual member, came too late after plea to the merits. *Territory v. Romero*, 1883-NMSC-006, 2 N.M. 474 (decided under former law).

**Effect of saving clause's absence.** — The absence of a saving clause in either Laws 1969, ch. 222 or ch. 276 indicates the legislature did not intend the repealed law relative to jury selection to remain effective after July 1, 1969 and did intend that the provisions of both Laws 1969, ch. 222 and ch. 276 be complied with insofar as possible, after that date. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-98 (rendered under prior law).

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 20 et seq.

Effect of, and remedies for, exclusion from grand jury list of eligible class or classes of persons, 52 A.L.R. 919.

Prejudice of member of grand jury against defendant as ground of attack on indictment, 88 A.L.R. 899.

Women as grand jurors, 157 A.L.R. 461.

Right to challenge personnel of grand jury, 169 A.L.R. 1169.

Women: exclusion of women from grand jury a violation of constitutional rights of accused or as ground for reversal of conviction, 9 A.L.R.2d 661.

Failure to swear or irregularity in swearing witnesses appearing before grand jury as ground for dismissal of indictment, 23 A.L.R.4th 154.

Presence of unauthorized persons during state grand jury proceedings as affecting indictment, 23 A.L.R.4th 397.

Age group underrepresentation in grand jury or petit jury venire, 62 A.L.R.4th 859.

Exclusion of women from grand or trial jury or jury panel in criminal case as violation of constitutional rights of accused or as ground for reversal of conviction - state cases, 70 A.L.R.5th 587.

Standing of criminal defendant to challenge, on constitutional grounds, discriminatory composition of federal grand jury where defendant is not member of class allegedly excluded, 68 A.L.R. Fed. 175.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 27, 59 et seq.

### **31-6-4. Time and place for hearing; privacy of hearings; witnesses permitted to have attorney present.**

A. A grand jury shall conduct its hearing during the usual business hours of the court which convened it. Hearings and deliberations may be conducted at any place ordered by the convening judge and provided by the court. Inspections or grand jury views of places under inquiry may be made when directed by the foreman wherever deemed necessary within the county, but no oral testimony or other evidence may be received except during formal private sessions.

B. All deliberations shall be conducted in a private room outside the hearing or presence of any person other than the grand jury members. All taking of testimony shall be in private with no persons present other than the grand jury, the persons required or entitled to assist the grand jury and the attorney, if any, of the target.

C. Persons required or entitled to be present at the taking of testimony before the grand jury include the district attorney and the attorney general and their staffs, interpreters, court reporters, security officers, the witness and an attorney for the target. Security personnel may be present only with special leave of the district court and are neither potential witnesses nor otherwise interested parties in the matter being presented to the grand jury.

D. If a target has his attorney present, the attorney may be present only while the target witness is testifying and may advise the witness but may not speak so that he can be heard by the grand jurors or otherwise participate in the proceedings. At least twenty-four hours before grand jury proceedings begin, the target's attorney may submit proposed questions and exhibits to the district attorney or the attorney general.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-4, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 4; 1979, ch. 337, § 2; 1981, ch. 262, § 2; 2003, ch. 363, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-4, 1953 Comp., relating to trial of challenges to the grand jury.

**The 2003 amendment**, effective July 1, 2003, deleted "witness" following "target" in Subsection B and present Subsection D; rewrote Subsection C; and added Subsection D.

**Purpose of section is to maintain utmost secrecy;** therefore, it has been the practice for more than 200 years for the investigations of the grand jury to be in private, except that the district attorney and his assistant are present, since secrecy is the vital requisite of grand jury procedure. *State v. Hill*, 1975-NMCA-093, 88 N.M. 216, 539 P.2d 236.

**"Unusual business hours".** — Although the language of this section requires the grand jury to conduct its hearing during the usual business hours of the court, a distinction must be made between the business hours of the judge who convenes the grand jury and the business hours of the court. Because a particular judge is unavailable after 5:00 p.m. does not make access to the court impossible. *State v. Weiss*, 1986-NMCA-128, 105 N.M. 283, 731 P.2d 979, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 290, 731 P.2d 1334.

**Usual business hours.** — Where the grand jury was convened at 8:30 a.m. and returned a true bill at 2:12 a.m. on the following morning, this unusually extended session of the grand jury was not a substantial violation of defendants' rights, though it constituted a technical violation of this section. *State v. Weiss*, 1986-NMCA-128, 105 N.M. 283, 731 P.2d 979, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 290, 731 P.2d 1334.

**"Prejudice" is appropriate constitutional standard.** — Inasmuch as "prejudice" is an appropriate standard in considering the exercise of constitutional rights before a trial jury which determines guilt, there is no reason to apply a stricter standard in considering the exercise of constitutional rights before a grand jury which determines probable cause to accuse. *State v. Martinez*, 1982-NMCA-002, 97 N.M. 585, 642 P.2d 188, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 51, 644 P.2d 1040.

**No opportunity for improper influence on grand jury allowed.** — The law protects the fairness and impartiality of the grand jury hearing. Not only must there be no improper influence exercised, there must be no opportunity for improper influence on the grand jury. *State v. Hill*, 1975-NMCA-093, 88 N.M. 216, 539 P.2d 236.

**Presence of unauthorized persons in a grand jury proceeding** jeopardizes the basic purpose of the proceeding and opens the door to a number of potential abuses. *State v. Bigler*, 1982-NMCA-136, 98 N.M. 732, 652 P.2d 754, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 762, 652 P.2d 1213.

**Type of evidence presented not included within meaning of section.** — This section does not deal with the type of evidence which may be presented to a grand jury. *State v. Evans*, 1976-NMCA-113, 89 N.M. 765, 557 P.2d 1114, cert. denied, 90 N.M. 7, 558 P.2d 619.



**Unauthorized person's presence requires dismissal of indictment.** — The presence of an unauthorized person before the grand jury requires dismissal of the indictment without the necessity of showing prejudice. *Davis v. Traub*, 1977-NMSC-049, 90 N.M. 498, 565 P.2d 1015.

**Issuance of writ of prohibition.** — Writ of prohibition is properly issued when the indictment is dismissed because of the presence of an unauthorized person before the grand jury. *Davis v. Traub*, 1977-NMSC-049, 90 N.M. 498, 565 P.2d 1015.

**District attorney's presence during deliberations prohibited.** — The presence of the district attorney during deliberations of the grand jury is specifically and unequivocally prohibited by this section, which is clear and is not subject to construction. No one other than the grand jury members may be present during the time the grand jury is deliberating. Like other statutes governing grand jury proceedings, it is to be rigorously observed and strictly enforced. *Baird v. State*, 1977-NMSC-067, 90 N.M. 667, 568 P.2d 193.

**Impropriety of district attorney's presence may be waived.** — Notwithstanding the fact that district attorney violated this section by his presence during grand jury deliberations, defendant charged with murder waived her objections based upon such improprieties by entering into a plea and disposition agreement which was approved and accepted by the trial court through a plea of no contest to the charge of involuntary manslaughter. The defects of the grand jury proceedings were not so fundamental that they could not be waived. *Baird v. State*, 1977-NMSC-067, 90 N.M. 667, 568 P.2d 193.

**Actions of state or defense attorneys insufficient to invalidate indictment.** — The mere fact that assistant attorneys general disagree in the grand jury's presence, or that defense attorneys would have presented different legal advice to the grand jury, does not invalidate the indictment. *State v. Carr*, 1981-NMCA-029, 95 N.M. 755, 626 P.2d 292, cert. denied, 95 N.M. 669, 625 P.2d 1186, and cert. denied, 454 U.S. 853, 102 S. Ct. 298, 70 L. Ed. 2d 145 (1981), *overruled on other grounds by State v. Olguin*, 1994-NMCA-050, 118 N.M. 91, 879 P.2d 92. Sct. Olguin affirms app Olguin.

**Attorney not "present" merely because he took deposition testimony.** — Because the grand jury has the power to subpoena "records or other evidence relevant to its inquiry," the grand jury could properly consider deposition testimony, and the fact that the deposition was taken by attorney did not make attorney present, within the meaning of this section, when the deposition was read to the grand jury. *State v. Evans*, 1976-NMCA-113, 89 N.M. 765, 557 P.2d 1114, cert. denied, 90 N.M. 7, 558 P.2d 619.

**No statutory right to counsel.** — Neither the Grand Jury Act nor the Public Defender Act provides a target witness testifying before a grand jury with a right to counsel such that an indictment must be dismissed if counsel is not present and there is no express voluntary, knowing, and intelligent waiver of counsel's presence. *State v. Tisthammer*, 1998-NMCA-115, 126 N.M. 52, 966 P.2d 760, cert. denied, 126 N.M. 107, 967 P.2d 447.

**Postponement to obtain counsel.** — A target witness has no statutory right to counsel; therefore, the state was not required to postpone the grand jury proceedings to allow the witness time to obtain counsel. *State v. Tisthammer*, 1998-NMCA-115, 126 N.M. 52, 966 P.2d 760, cert. denied, 126 N.M. 107, 967 P.2d 447.

**When district attorney's assistant not permitted in grand jury room.** — It is highly improper for counsel employed to prosecute a case to be permitted to go into the grand jury room where the defendant cannot be heard and has no one to represent him. This duty should be performed alone by the proper officer of the law and assistant to the district attorney may not be present or participate in the grand jury hearing room. *State v. Hill*, 1975-NMCA-093, 88 N.M. 216, 539 P.2d 236.

**Prosecuting attorney assists grand jury, but not as partisan.** — While this statute contemplates that the prosecuting attorney will assist the grand jury, nevertheless the prosecuting attorney does not appear before the grand jury as a partisan, bent upon obtaining an indictment; the presence and participation of an attorney ordered by the trial judge to assist in the prosecution of a case, who was employed by the father-in-law of the deceased, in the grand jury hearing was unlawful and in violation of this section and invalidated the indictment. *State v. Hill*, 1975-NMCA-093, 88 N.M. 216, 539 P.2d 236.

**Conflict of interest precludes prosecutor's appearance.** — The prosecutor himself is unauthorized to appear before the grand jury if there is a conflict of interest (1) in which his own property is damaged by criminal mischief, or (2) arising from prior employment with the defendant; since the prosecutor is a public officer with duties quasi-judicial in nature, with an obligation to protect not only the public interest but also the rights of the accused, in the performance of his duties he must not only be disinterested and impartial but must also appear to be so, scrupulously refraining from words or conduct that may influence the decision of the grand jury and observing limits of essential fairness. *State v. Hill*, 1975-NMCA-093, 88 N.M. 216, 539 P.2d 236.

**Attorney general's investigator not "authorized person" to assist in hearing.** — Claim that an investigator for the attorney general was an "authorized person" and his presence in the grand jury room was not improper inasmuch as he had been appointed a grand jury aide pursuant to Section 31-6-7 NMSA 1978, had no merit because grand jury aides are not authorized by statute to be present in the grand jury room unless they fall within the categories specified in this section. *Davis v. Traub*, 1977-NMSC-049, 90 N.M. 498, 565 P.2d 1015.

**"Staff" construed.** — Attorney general's assertion that any member of his staff could properly be present during the grand jury hearings was an erroneous interpretation of this section and ignored the meaning of the words "persons required or entitled to assist the grand jury." Such persons are enumerated in the statute. Staff in this context refers to the legal staff of the district attorney or the attorney general's office, e.g. assistant district attorneys or assistant attorneys general. *Davis v. Traub*, 1977-NMSC-049, 90 N.M. 498, 565 P.2d 1015.

**Presence of person not officially listed as court reporter upheld.** — Person who was present during grand jury deliberations for purpose of monitoring an electronic device that recorded the grand jury testimony was within the definition of court reporter for purposes of this section. Defendant's claim that such person was not authorized to be present because he was not listed as official court reporter was frivolous, there being no contention that the operator's presence was not for the purpose of operating the recording device. *State v. Baird*, 1977-NMCA-041, 90 N.M. 678, 568 P.2d 204, *aff'd*, 1977-NMSC-067, 90 N.M. 667, 568 P.2d 193.

**"Target witness"**, referred to in Subsections B and C, is anyone who is the focus of a grand jury's investigation. *State v. Hall*, 1985-NMCA-075, 103 N.M. 207, 704 P.2d 461.

**Failure to notify of target status.** — Defendant was not entitled to notice that he was a target of the grand jury investigation when at the time the offense (perjury before the grand jury) had not yet been committed. *State v. Albin*, 1986-NMCA-046, 104 N.M. 315, 720 P.2d 1256, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 246, 719 P.2d 1267, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Benavidez*, 1999-NMCA-53, 127 N.M. 189, 979 P.2d 234.

**Simultaneous appearance of two witnesses violates statute.** — Since this section refers to "the witness" in the singular, incident which occurred during grand jury investigation wherein two witnesses appeared before the grand jury simultaneously clearly violated the terms of the statute. *Davis v. Traub*, 1977-NMSC-049, 90 N.M. 498, 565 P.2d 1015.

**Presumption of prejudice when indictment quashed.** — A showing of prejudice is not required when an unauthorized person is present at grand jury proceedings in order to have the indictment quashed. Prejudice is presumed. *State v. Hill*, 1975-NMCA-093, 88 N.M. 216, 539 P.2d 236.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 30 et seq.

Communicating with grand jury as contempt, 29 A.L.R. 489.

Communicating with grand jury or member thereof as criminal offense, 112 A.L.R. 319.

Duty of secrecy on part of members of, or witnesses or other persons present before, grand jury, 127 A.L.R. 272.

Absence of grand jurors during hearing as affecting indictment, 156 A.L.R. 248.

Validity and construction of statutes permitting grand jury witnesses to be accompanied by counsel, 90 A.L.R.3d 1333.

Presence of unauthorized persons during state grand jury proceedings as affecting indictment, 23 A.L.R.4th 397.

Presence of persons not authorized by Rule 6(d) of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure during session of grand jury as warranting dismissal of indictment, 68 A.L.R. Fed. 798.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 68, 69, 70, 71, 73.

### **31-6-5. Return of indictments.**

Indictments shall be returned by the grand jury within twenty-four hours following the day when the indictment is voted. Indictments shall not name persons as unindicted coconspirators. Indictments may be filed and prosecution and trial had thereon without regard to court terms. No-bills shall be sealed and filed with the district court clerk. Upon application to the court by the state for good cause shown, or upon request by the target, the court may release a sealed no-bill.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-5, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 5; 1979, ch. 337, § 3; 2003, ch. 363, § 3.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-5, 1953 Comp., relating to the court's decision on the grand jury challenge and the duty of the clerk to record it.

**The 2003 amendment,** effective July 1, 2003, deleted "or the person named in the proposed indictment, the court may release a sealed no-bill" and inserted "or upon request by the target, the court may release a sealed no-bill" in the last sentence.

**"Returned by the grand jury" defined.** — "Returned by the grand jury" in this section means an indictment voted by the grand jury, signed by the foreman and filed either with the court clerk or the judge. Where these requirements were met, the fact that the entire grand jury was not present at the time of the "return" did not invalidate the indictment. *State v. Blakley*, 1977-NMCA-088, 90 N.M. 744, 568 P.2d 270.

**Filing regardless of whether court in session.** — This provision implies that an indictment may be filed without regard to whether court was in session when it was filed. *State v. Ellis*, 1976-NMCA-036, 89 N.M. 194, 548 P.2d 1212, cert. denied, 89 N.M. 206, 549 P.2d 284.

**Period could include weekends.** — The 24-hour period of this section does not include Saturdays and Sundays if the court which convened the grand jury was not in session on those days. Where the grand jury voted the indictment on Friday night, return of the indictment on the following Monday complied with this section. *State v. Blakley*, 1977-NMCA-088, 90 N.M. 744, 568 P.2d 270.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 41 Am. Jur. 2d Indictments and Informations § 31.

Power of grand jury to withdraw or alter indictment, or return of "not a true bill," 82 A.L.R. 1057.

42 C.J.S. Indictments and Informations § 23.

### **31-6-6. Oaths; grand jurors; witnesses; officers; penalty.**

A. The following oaths shall be administered by the district judge to jurors, officers of the court or others assigned to assist the grand jury, and by the foreman to witnesses:

(1) JUROR OATH: "You, as members of this grand jury, do swear (or affirm) that you will diligently inquire and true indictment make, of all public offenses against the people of this state, committed or triable within this county, of which you shall receive legal evidence; that you shall indict no person through malice, hatred or ill will; nor have any not indicted through fear, favor or affection, or for any reward or the hope or promise thereof; but in all your indictments, reports or undertakings, you shall present the truth, according to the best of your skill and understanding, and further that you will forever keep secret whatever you or any other juror may have said or in what manner you or any other juror may have voted on any matter before you; and that you will keep secret the testimony of any witness heard by you unless ordered by the court to disclose the same in the trial or prosecution of the witness for perjury before the grand jury, so help you God.";

(2) OATH FOR OFFICER OR OTHER PERSON: "You do swear (or affirm) that you will keep secret all proceedings occurring in your presence or of which you may learn as a result of your service in aid of the grand jury, so help you God."; and

(3) OATH FOR WITNESS: "You do swear (or affirm) that the testimony which you are about to give will be the truth, so help you God."

B. Any person found to have violated the oath under Paragraph (1) or (2) of Subsection A of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. This subsection shall not apply to communications by the prosecuting attorney to his staff or grand jury aides and in obtaining and presenting evidence, preparing indictments, reports and other undertakings of the grand jury and in preparation for trial.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-6, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 6; 1979, ch. 337, § 4.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-6, 1953 Comp., relating to the effect of the challenge to the grand jury panel.

**Registration of oath not required.** — All that this section requires is that an oath be taken and while it is desirable that a signed oath be registered, registration is not an absolute requirement. *State v. Gilbert*, 1982-NMSC-095, 98 N.M. 530, 650 P.2d 814.

**Duty of juror was that of secrecy** forever concerning matters coming before him except as otherwise provided by statute. *In re Hittson*, 1915-NMSC-040, 20 N.M. 319, 150 P. 733.

**Impeachment of indictment by grand jury.** — Members of grand jury were not permitted to impeach an indictment duly found, returned in open court and filed as such, by testifying as to what was said by the prosecution officer while advising with them in his official capacity. *U.S. v. Tallmadge*, 1907-NMSC-032, 14 N.M. 293, 91 P. 729.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 17.

Officer, member of grand jury as, within constitutional or statutory provision in relation to oath or affirmation, 118 A.L.R. 1098.

Duty of secrecy on part of members of, or witnesses or other persons present before, grand jury, 127 A.L.R. 272.

Accused's right to, and prosecution's privilege against, disclosure of identity of informer, 76 A.L.R.2d 262.

Failure to swear or irregularity in swearing witnesses appearing before grand jury as ground for dismissal of indictment, 23 A.L.R.4th 154.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries § 56.

### **31-6-7. Assistance for grand jury; report.**

A. The district court shall assign necessary personnel to aid the grand jury in carrying out its duties. The district attorney or his assistants shall attend the grand jury, examine witnesses and prepare indictments, reports and other undertakings of the grand jury.

B. When engaged in the investigation of an offense over which he has jurisdiction, the attorney general or his assistants may attend a grand jury, examine witnesses and prepare indictments, reports and other undertakings of the grand jury.

C. When a grand jury is convened in response to a citizens' grand jury petition pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the constitution of New Mexico, the district attorney or his assistants, unless otherwise disqualified, shall attend and conduct the grand jury.

D. A prosecuting attorney attending a grand jury and all grand jurors shall conduct themselves in a fair and impartial manner at all times during grand jury proceedings.

E. A grand jury, in its discretion, may make a formal, written report as to the condition and operation of any public office or institution it has investigated. The report shall not charge any public officer or other person with willful misconduct, corruption or malfeasance unless an indictment or accusation for removal from public office is also returned by the grand jury. The right of every person to be properly charged, face his accusers and be heard in his defense in open court shall not be circumvented by the report.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-7, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 7; 1979, ch. 337, § 5; 2001, ch. 98, § 1; 2003, ch. 363, § 4.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-7, 1953 Comp., relating to the effect of a challenge to an individual grand juror.

**The 2003 amendment,** effective July 1, 2003, inserted "and all grand jurors" following "grand jury" and substituted "during grand jury proceedings" for "when assisting the grand jury" in Subsection D.

**The 2001 amendment,** effective July 1, 2001, added the Subsection A designation; in present Subsection A, substituted "necessary personnel" for "court reporters, bailiffs, interpreters, clerks or other persons as required", deleted the former second sentence, which read "The attorney general, when requested by the district court, shall assist the grand jury", inserted "or his assistants" following "district attorney," deleted the former last sentence which read "The prosecuting attorney shall conduct himself in a fair and impartial manner at all times when assisting the grand jury"; and added Subsections B to E.

**Duty of district court.** — It is for the district court, and the district court alone, to decide who shall serve as grand jurors. Section 31-6-7 NMSA 1978 does not allow the district court to delegate its supervisory role over the selection of the grand jury to the district attorney's office. *De Leon v. Hartley*, 2014-NMSC-005.

**Selection of a grand jury must be under the control of the district court.** — Where, after the orientation and swearing of the grand jurors, the district court transferred the process of selecting and excusing jurors to the district attorney's office without further apparent involvement by the district court; the list of grand jurors used by the district attorney's office contained notations that suggested that someone in the district attorney's office excused several grand jurors; and the district court found that there was no fraud or prejudice to defendant in the conduct of the grand jury proceeding and denied defendant's pretrial motion to quash the indictment, the district court should have quashed the indictment irrespective of whether any actual fraud or prejudice was established when the improper involvement of the district attorney in the excusal of grand jurors was brought to the attention of the district court. *De Leon v. Hartley*, 2014-NMSC-005.

**"Prejudice" is appropriate constitutional standard.** — Inasmuch as "prejudice" is an appropriate standard in considering the exercise of constitutional rights before a trial jury which determines guilt, there is no reason to apply a stricter standard in considering the exercise of constitutional rights before a grand jury which determines probable cause to accuse. *State v. Martinez*, 1982-NMCA-002, 97 N.M. 585, 642 P.2d 188, cert. quashed, 98 N.M. 51, 644 P.2d 1040.

**Burden of showing prejudice.** — When prosecutorial misconduct during the presentment of the case is claimed, the defendant has a burden to show demonstrable prejudice. *State v. Velasquez*, 1982-NMCA-154, 99 N.M. 109, 654 P.2d 562, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 148, 655 P.2d 160.

**Prejudice need not be shown where unauthorized person present.** — A defendant need not show prejudice where an unauthorized person is present during the proceedings, or where the district attorney is present during grand jury deliberations. *State v. Velasquez*, 1982-NMCA-154, 99 N.M. 109, 654 P.2d 562, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 148, 655 P.2d 160.

**Prosecutor to protect public interest and rights of accused.** — In dealing with the grand jury, the prosecutor's duty is to protect both the public's interest and the rights of the accused. *State v. Cruz*, 1983-NMSC-045, 99 N.M. 690, 662 P.2d 1357.

**Prosecutor conduct.** — Prosecutor must scrupulously refrain from words or conduct that may influence the decision of the grand jury. *State v. Augustin M.*, 2003-NMCA-065, 133 N.M. 636, 68 P.3d 182, cert. quashed, 2004-NMCERT-002, 135 N.M. 170, 86 P.3d 48.

**Where prosecutor's conduct violative of section.** — Prosecutor's conduct of grand jury, where the total case was presented to the grand jury in less than nine minutes and all questioning was by leading questions, clearly violates this section. *State v. Sanchez*, 1980-NMCA-137, 95 N.M. 27, 618 P.2d 371, *overruled on other grounds by Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244.

**Prosecutor's jury instructions violated this section.** — Where petitioner was charged with second degree murder for the killing of petitioner's spouse; petitioner testified that the victim had physically abused petitioner and that petitioner had reported the abuse; and after giving the grand jury final jury instructions, the prosecutor told the grand jury that petitioner "was directly appealing to you to consider the consequences of your verdict. That is absolutely inappropriate", and that petitioner "was improperly seeking your sympathy", the prosecutor failed to act in a fair and impartial manner. *Herrera v. Sanchez*, 2014-NMSC-018.

**Statements explaining law or procedure.** — Prosecutor's statements explaining the law or procedure are proper so long as the statements are not in conflict with the charge given to the grand jury by the court and are not otherwise incorrect statements of the



law or improper. *State v. Hewitt*, 1988-NMCA-053, 108 N.M. 179, 769 P.2d 92, cert. quashed, 107 N.M. 785, 765 P.2d 758.

**Prosecutorial comments found not to violate this section.** — Prosecutor's comments explaining grand jury procedures concerning a target witness and the witness' attorney and the privilege against self-incrimination were not improper. *State v. Martinez*, 1982-NMCA-002, 97 N.M. 585, 642 P.2d 188, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 51, 644 P.2d 1040.

**Duty to advise grand jury of the elements of offense.** — The state's obligation to advise the grand jury of the elements of the offenses it presents to the grand jury is satisfied if the prosecutor specifically directs the grand jurors, on the record, to the portions of the grand jury manual containing the elements of common offenses where the appropriate elements of the offenses under consideration may be found, a copy of the elements of each offense considered is also made a part of the record, and the prosecutor is available to answer grand juror questions about the manual on the record. *State v. Ulibarri*, 1999-NMCA-142, 128 N.M. 546, 994 P.2d 1164, *aff'd*, 2000-NMSC-007, 128 N.M. 686, 997 P.2d 818.

**Failure to present evidence not directly negating guilt.** — The failure of the prosecutor to present evidence that did not directly negate guilt did not breach his duty to assist the grand jury fairly and impartially. *State v. Juarez*, 1990-NMCA-021, 109 N.M. 764, 790 P.2d 1045, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 751, 790 P.2d 1032.

**Section does not provide for judicial review** as to whether exculpatory evidence was withheld from the grand jury. *State v. McGill*, 1976-NMCA-100, 89 N.M. 631, 556 P.2d 39.

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "The Use of an Information Following the Return of a Grand Jury No Bill: *State v. Joe Nestor Chavez*," see 10 N.M.L. Rev. 217 (1979-80).

For annual survey of New Mexico Criminal Procedure, see 20 N.M.L. Rev. 285 (1990).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 33 et seq.

Presence of unauthorized persons during state grand jury proceedings as affecting indictment, 23 A.L.R.4th 397.

Duty of prosecutor to present exculpatory evidence to state grand jury, 49 A.L.R.5th 639.

Presence of persons not authorized by Rule 6(d) of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure during session of grand jury as warranting dismissal of indictment, 68 A.L.R. Fed. 798.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 74, 94 et seq., 102 et seq.

### 31-6-8. Record of testimony.

All proceedings in the grand jury room, with the exception of the deliberations of the grand jury, shall be reported verbatim and the notes or transcriptions thereof certified by the court reporter or stenographer making them, with the notes or transcriptions then deposited with the clerk or other officer of the district court as directed by the district judge. Upon order of the district court in cases where an indictment is returned, the notes may be caused to be transcribed and certified by the stenographer or court reporter who made them, if available, or by another person qualified and competent to transcribe them accurately. Copies of documentary evidence or a summary thereof if directed by the district court exhibited to the grand jury shall be made a part of the record. In cases where an indictment is not returned, the notes or transcriptions shall be destroyed unless ordered by the district judge to be preserved for good cause shown, including but not limited to the prosecution of a witness for perjury.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-8, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 8; 1979, ch. 337, § 6; 1983, ch. 62, § 2.

#### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-8, 1953 Comp., relating to the court's appointment of the foreman of the grand jury.

**The 1983 amendment** inserted "good cause shown, including but not limited to" in the last sentence.

**Purpose of recording requirement.** — The recording requirement of this section serves a number of purposes. The defendant has an opportunity to impeach the witness at trial if there is any inconsistency between grand jury testimony and trial testimony. Prosecutorial abuses of the grand jury system are restrained, and the prosecution can support its case at trial. *State v. Velasquez*, 1982-NMCA-154, 99 N.M. 109, 654 P.2d 562, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 148, 655 P.2d 160.

**Absent prejudice, failure to record not grounds for dismissal.** — In the absence of actual prejudice, there is no statutory nor constitutional ground for a dismissal of the indictment by virtue of a failure to record the grand jury proceeding. *State v. Bigler*, 1982-NMCA-136, 98 N.M. 732, 652 P.2d 754, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 762, 652 P.2d 1213.

**Advisement of elements of crime charged.** — The practice of simply providing the grand jury with a written manual containing uniform jury instructions, and not indicating on the record that the jury has been at least referred to the appropriate sections of the manual for each crime listed on the indictments, does not comply with Section 31-6-10 NMSA 1978, Rule 5-506B NMRA, or UJI 14-8001 NMRA. *State v. Ulibarri*, 1999-NMCA-142, 128 N.M. 546, 994 P.2d 1164, *aff'd*, 2000-NMSC-007, 128 N.M. 686, 997 P.2d 818.

**Defendant entitled to inspect record at time of trial.** — A defendant, at the trial of a criminal action, was entitled to inspect the grand jury testimony of the state's witness. *State v. Morgan*, 1960-NMSC-087, 67 N.M. 287, 354 P.2d 1002.

**Examine portion of testimony after trial.** — Once the witness has testified at the criminal trial about that which he testified before the grand jury, the accused is entitled to an order permitting examination of that portion of the witness's grand jury testimony relating to the crime for which defendant is charged. The witness may be cross-examined concerning that testimony. If otherwise, an accused is denied the right to confront the witnesses against him. *State v. Sparks*, 1973-NMCA-108, 85 N.M. 429, 512 P.2d 1265.

**Not entitled to testimony in advance of trial.** — Accused was not entitled to transcript of testimony of all witnesses who testified before grand jury with respect to criminal charge out of which indictments against him arose, in advance of trial, in the absence of showing of any particularized need. *State v. Tackett*, 1967-NMSC-207, 78 N.M. 450, 432 P.2d 415, cert. denied, 390 U.S. 1026, 88 S. Ct. 1414, 20 L. Ed. 2d 283 (1968).

**Review of minutes by trial court harmless error.** — Reading and review of grand jury minutes by trial court, although improper, was harmless error since such review was not the basis for allegedly erroneous ruling. *State v. Elam*, 1974-NMCA-075, 86 N.M. 595, 526 P.2d 189, cert. denied, 86 N.M. 593, 526 P.2d 187.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 35.

Libel and slander: proceedings, presentments, investigations, and reports of grand jury as privileged, 48 A.L.R.2d 716.

Accused's right to inspection of minutes of state grand jury, 20 A.L.R.3d 7.

Discovery, in civil proceeding, of records of criminal investigation by state grand jury, 69 A.L.R.4th 298.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 111, 171 et seq.

### **31-6-9. Charge to grand jury.**

The district judge convening a grand jury shall charge it with its duties and direct it as to any special inquiry into violations of law that he wishes it to make.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-9, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 9; 1993, ch. 71, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-9, 1953 Comp., relating to the oath administered to the foreman of the grand jury.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, rewrote this section to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable.

**Limiting grand jury investigation.** — The district court does not possess discretion to limit the investigative prerogative of the grand jury. Once convened for a specific inquiry, a grand jury should be obliged likewise to inquire into other offenses of which it may have knowledge. *State ex rel. Deschamps v. Kase*, 1992-NMSC-040, 114 N.M. 38, 834 P.2d 415.

District courts may limit grand jury investigations to specific incidents identified in the petition. Therefore petition to convene a grand jury must contain sufficient information to enable the court to determine whether the petitioners seek a legitimate inquiry into alleged criminal conduct or malfeasance of a public official or whether petitioners seek nothing more than a witch hunt. *District Court v. McKenna*, 1994-NMSC-102, 118 N.M. 402, 881 P.2d 1387, cert. denied, 514 U.S. 1018, 115 S. Ct. 1361, 131 L. Ed. 2d 218.

**Indictment for perjury committed before grand jury.** — A grand jury may properly indict a defendant for perjury on the basis of defendant's false testimony before the grand jury since such an indictment is consistent with the juror's duty to inquire into public offenses. *State v. Watkins*, 1979-NMCA-003, 92 N.M. 470, 590 P.2d 169.

**Distinction between grand and petit juries.** — There was a wide distinction between a grand and a petit jury as to their functions and methods of procedure. The action of the former was simply preliminary; it was an inquiry by the grand inquest as to whether there was such probability for the statements made before them, which were usually *ex parte*, of the guilt of a certain person, that he ought to be placed on trial. *Territory v. Young*, 1881-NMSC-007, 2 N.M. 93.

**Duty to share knowledge of offenses committed with fellow jurors.** — It was not expected that in every instance each grand juror be free from all previous knowledge of the cases, or even of the precise circumstances of the cases coming before them for official action; on the contrary, it was stated in the statute as to their powers and duties, which was to be read to every grand jury as a part of the charge, that if a member knew of an offense committed, he was to declare the same to his fellow jurors. *Territory v. Young*, 1881-NMSC-007, 2 N.M. 93.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Prisoners Are People," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 869 (1970).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 18.

Matters within investigating powers of grand jury, 22 A.L.R. 1356, 106 A.L.R. 1383, 120 A.L.R. 437.

Erroneous instructions by court to grand jury as grounds for quashing indictment, 105 A.L.R. 575.

Contemporaneous existence or functioning of two or more grand juries, 121 A.L.R. 814.

Individual's right to present complaint or evidence of criminal offense, 24 A.L.R.4th 316.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 74, 75.

### **31-6-9.1. Abuse of grand jury procedures.**

The prosecuting attorney shall not use the grand jury solely for the purpose of obtaining additional evidence against an already indicted person on the charge or accusation for which the person was indicted.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 337, § 12.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Misuse of protected information.** — A grand jury indictment will be dismissed only if the defendant can affirmatively demonstrate how he was prejudiced by the prosecutor's alleged misuse of the protected grand jury information. *State v. Benavidez*, 1999-NMCA-053, 127 N.M. 189, 979 P.2d 234, *rev'd on other grounds*, 1999-NMSC-041, 128 N.M. 261, 992 P.2d 274.

**Use of defendant's testimony at second grand jury hearing** for impeachment at trial did not affect the validity of the second indictment since the grand jury was ordered in response to the defendant's own motion. *State v. Martinez*, 1996-NMCA-109, 122 N.M. 476, 927 P.2d 31, cert. denied, 122 N.M. 578, 929 P.2d 269.

### **31-6-10. Requirement for indictment; number of jurors concurring.**

Before the grand jury may vote an indictment charging an offense against the laws of the state, it must be satisfied from the lawful evidence before it that an offense against the laws has been committed and that there is probable cause to accuse by indictment the person named, of the commission of the offense so that he may be brought to trial therefor. In the absence of an indictment against a person holding public office or a presentment for the removal of a local elected officer, the grand jury shall not denigrate that person's moral fitness to hold public office. Eight jurors must concur to return an indictment.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-10, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 10; 1979, ch. 337, § 7.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-10, 1953 Comp., relating to the oath administered to grand jurors.

**Cross references.** — For number of jurors necessary to concur in finding indictment, see N.M. Const., art. II, § 14.

**Withdrawal of charges from the grand jury.** — Where, during a grand jury proceeding, the prosecutor initially withdrew three charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor against the defendant and later gave the grand jurors the option to consider any of those charges which resulted in the grand jury finding probable cause for all three charges, the inclusion of the three withdrawn charges in the indictment was proper. *State v. Dietrich*, 2009-NMCA-031, 145 N.M. 733, 204 P.3d 748, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-002, 145 N.M. 704, 204 P.3d 29, *overruled in part by State v. Marquez*, 2021-NMCA-046.

**Advisement of elements of crime charged.** — The practice of simply providing the grand jury with a written manual containing uniform jury instructions, and not indicating on the record that the jury has been at least referred to the appropriate sections of the manual for each crime listed on the indictments, does not comply with Section 31-6-8 NMSA 1978, Rule 5-506(B) NMRA, or UJI 14-8001 NMRA. *State v. Ulibarri*, 1999-NMCA-142, 128 N.M. 546, 994 P.2d 1164, *aff'd*, 2000-NMSC-007, 128 N.M. 686, 997 P.2d 818.

**But rule does not apply to defenses.** — The rule requiring instruction to the grand jury on the essential elements of the crime charged does not apply to defenses. *State v. Augustin M.*, 2003-NMCA-065, 133 N.M. 636, 68 P.3d 182, cert. quashed, 2004-NMCERT-002, 135 N.M. 170, 86 P.3d 48.

**Sufficiency of evidence not subject to judicial review.** — The statutes concerning the evidence adduced before grand juries do not provide for judicial review of the sufficiency of the evidence considered by the grand jury. *State v. Paul*, 1971-NMCA-040, 82 N.M. 619, 485 P.2d 375, cert. denied, 82 N.M. 601, 485 P.2d 357.

**Evidence establishing probable cause not subject to review.** — The sufficiency of the evidence presented to a grand jury to establish probable cause for an indictment is not subject to judicial review. *State v. Elam*, 1974-NMCA-075, 86 N.M. 595, 526 P.2d 189, cert. denied, 86 N.M. 593, 526 P.2d 187.

**Massive amount of evidence found to support grand jury's finding of probable cause to accuse.** *State v. Ballinger*, 1983-NMCA-034, 99 N.M. 707, 663 P.2d 366, *rev'd on other grounds*, 1984-NMSC-003, 100 N.M. 583, 673 P.2d 1316.

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "The Use of an Information Following the Return of a Grand Jury No Bill: *State v. Joe Nestor Chavez*," see 10 N.M.L. Rev. 217 (1979-80).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 41 Am. Jur. 2d Indictments and Informations § 26 et seq.

What is "infamous" offense within constitutional or statutory provision in relation to presentment or indictment by grand jury, 24 A.L.R. 1002.

Quashing indictment for lack or insufficiency of evidence before grand jury, 59 A.L.R. 567.

Grand jury's failure or refusal to find indictment upon investigation as affecting right to file information, 120 A.L.R. 713.

Absence of grand jurors during hearing as affecting indictment, 156 A.L.R. 248.

Waiver: right to waive indictment, information, or other formal accusation, 56 A.L.R.2d 837.

Hearsay: admission of hearsay evidence incompetent at trial as affecting, in absence of statutory regulation, validity of indictment or conviction, 37 A.L.R.3d 612.

Incompetent witness, validity of indictment where grand jury heard, 39 A.L.R.3d 1064.

42 C.J.S. Indictments and Informations § 13 et seq.

### **31-6-11. Evidence before grand jury.**

A. Evidence before the grand jury upon which it may find an indictment is that which is lawful, competent and relevant, including the oral testimony of witnesses under oath and any documentary or other physical evidence exhibited to the jurors. The Rules of Evidence shall not apply to a grand jury proceeding. The sufficiency of the evidence upon which an indictment is returned shall not be subject to review absent a showing of bad faith on the part of the prosecuting attorney assisting the grand jury.

B. It is the duty of the grand jury to weigh all the evidence submitted to it, and when it has reason to believe that other lawful, competent and relevant evidence is available that would disprove or reduce a charge or accusation or that would make an indictment unjustified, then it shall order the evidence produced. At least twenty-four hours before grand jury proceedings begin, the target or his counsel may alert the grand jury to the existence of evidence that would disprove or reduce an accusation or that would make an indictment unjustified, by notifying the prosecuting attorney who is assisting the grand jury in writing regarding the existence of that evidence.

C. A district attorney shall use reasonable diligence to notify a person in writing that the person is the target of a grand jury investigation. Unless the district judge presiding over the grand jury determines by clear and convincing evidence that providing notification may result in flight by the target, result in obstruction of justice or pose a danger to another person, the target of a grand jury investigation shall be notified in writing of the following information:

- (1) that he is the target of an investigation;
- (2) the nature of the alleged crime being investigated and the date of the alleged crime and any applicable statutory citations;
- (3) the target's right to testify no earlier than four days after receiving the target notice if he is in custody, unless for good cause the presiding judge orders a different time period or the target agrees to testify sooner;
- (4) the target's right to testify no earlier than ten days after receiving the target notice if he is not in custody, unless for good cause the presiding judge orders a different time period or the target agrees to testify sooner;
- (5) the target's right to choose to remain silent; and
- (6) the target's right to assistance of counsel during the grand jury investigation.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-11, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 11; 1979, ch. 337, § 8; 1981, ch. 238, § 1; 2003, ch. 363, § 5.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-11, 1953 Comp., relating to the oath given to jurors subsequently admitted.

**The 2003 amendment**, effective July 1, 2003, inserted "that which is lawful, competent and relevant, including" in the first sentence, added the second sentence, and deleted "or competency" following "sufficiency" in Subsection A; inserted "lawful" following "other", "and relevant" following "competent" and "or reduce" following "disprove" in the first sentence and deleted the last three sentences, which read "The target shall be notified of his target status and be given an opportunity to testify, if he desires to do so, unless the prosecutor determines that notification may result in flight, endanger other persons, obstruct justice, or the prosecutor is unable with reasonable diligence to notify said person. A showing of reasonable diligence in notifying the target by the prosecutor is not required unless and until the target establishes actual and substantial prejudice as a result of an alleged failure by the prosecutor to exercise reasonable diligence in notifying the target of his target status before the grand jury. The prosecuting attorney assisting the grand jury shall present evidence that directly negates the guilt of the target where he is aware of such evidence" and added the present second sentence in Subsection B; and added Subsection C.

### **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION**

**Courts are without power to review the sufficiency of the evidence upon which an indictment is returned absent a showing of bad faith.** — Where a grand jury indicted



defendants for armed robbery based on information developed as a result of subpoenas that represented on their face that they were issued in the name of the eighth judicial district court, but were actually prepared by a deputy district attorney in the eighth judicial district at a time where there was no pending prosecution, court action, or grand jury proceeding, and where defendants moved to quash the indictments or alternatively to suppress all evidence obtained through the use of the contested subpoenas, the district court erred in granting the motion and quashing the indictments based on the unlawful subpoenas, because the sufficiency of the evidence upon which an indictment is returned is not subject to review absent a showing of bad faith on the part of the prosecuting attorney assisting the grand jury. *State v. Martinez*, 2018-NMSC-031.

**First-degree kidnapping.** — A prosecutor seeking to indict an accused for first-degree kidnapping must present to the grand jury both the primary elements found in UJI 14-403 NMRA and the special verdicts form found in UJI 14-6018 NMRA and establish probable cause for the same elements at the grand jury stage. *State v. Gallegos*, 2009-NMSC-017, 146 N.M. 88, 206 P.3d 993.

**"Prejudice" is appropriate constitutional standard.** — Inasmuch as "prejudice" is an appropriate standard in considering the exercise of constitutional rights before a trial jury which determines guilt, there is no reason to apply a stricter standard in considering the exercise of constitutional rights before a grand jury which determines probable cause to accuse. *State v. Martinez*, 1982-NMCA-002, 97 N.M. 585, 642 P.2d 188, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 51, 644 P.2d 1040.

**Subsection B "prejudice".** — The prejudice with which former Subsection B is concerned is prejudice in charging criminal conduct on the basis of probable cause. *State v. Penner*, 1983-NMCA-116, 100 N.M. 377, 671 P.2d 38 (decided under prior law).

**Prosecutor to impartially assist grand jury.** — Although, following the 1981 amendment of this section, a prosecutor is not limited to presenting evidence admissible at trial to the grand jury, he is still constrained by his duty to assist the grand jury in a fair and impartial manner. *Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244.

**Statements explaining law or procedure.** — Statements by a prosecutor to the grand jury explaining the law or procedure are proper so long as the statements are not in conflict with the charge given to the grand jury by the court or are not otherwise incorrect statements of the law or improper. *State v. Hewitt*, 1988-NMCA-053, 108 N.M. 179, 769 P.2d 92, cert. quashed, 107 N.M. 785, 765 P.2d 758.

**No requirement to instruct on defenses.** — The rule requiring instruction to the grand jury on the essential elements of the crime charged does not apply to defenses. *State v. Augustin M.*, 2003-NMCA-065, 133 N.M. 636, 68 P.3d 182, cert. quashed, 2004-NMCCRT-002, 135 N.M. 170, 86 P.3d 48.

In a prosecution for possession of marijuana in which the defendant argued that his possession and use of marijuana was a religious belief and sacrament, the prosecutor had no duty to instruct the grand jury on the defendant's "religious-use defense". *State v. Augustin M.*, 2003-NMCA-065, 133 N.M. 636, 68 P.3d 182, cert. quashed, 2004-NMCERT-002, 135 N.M. 170, 86 P.3d 48.

**Causation in vehicular homicide case.** — Even though causation is an essential element of the charge of vehicular homicide, the prosecutor is not required to instruct the grand jury on causation, including the definitions of proximate cause. *State v. Augustin M.*, 2003-NMCA-065, 133 N.M. 636, 68 P.3d 182, cert. quashed, 2004-NMCERT-002, 135 N.M. 170, 86 P.3d 48.

**Trial court abused its discretion in quashing an indictment,** where there was no indication that prosecutor's answers to jurors' questions improperly influenced the independent judgment of the jury so as to exclude or disregard the evidence urged to be considered by defendant. *State v. Hewitt*, 1988-NMCA-053, 108 N.M. 179, 769 P.2d 92, cert. quashed, 107 N.M. 785, 765 P.2d 758.

**Challenge to a grand jury indictment should be raised prior to trial.** — Where defendant was charged with first-degree murder, and where, prior to trial, defendant moved to dismiss the indictment arguing that he did not receive timely notice of the grand jury proceedings as required by 31-6-11 NMSA 1978, and where the district court found that defendant received timely notice and denied his motion, and where defendant was found guilty by a jury of willful, deliberate and premeditated murder, defendant's argument on appeal that the prosecution's failure to provide timely notice of the grand jury proceedings resulted in the violation of his right to testify before the grand jury was moot, because a challenge to a grand jury indictment should be raised before trial, because a jury's finding at trial of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt typically will moot any post-conviction challenges to the grand jury's determination of probable cause. *State v. Gutierrez*, 2021-NMSC-008.

## II. EVIDENCE

**Admissible evidence.** — Section 31-6-11A NMSA 1978 provides that all evidence presented to a grand jury must be such as would be "legally admissible" upon trial. Prosecuting attorneys must abide by the letter and spirit of the law, and this precludes their use of inadmissible evidence when obtaining indictments. *Maldonado v. State*, 1979-NMSC-102, 93 N.M. 670, 604 P.2d 363.

**Court prohibited from evaluating sufficiency of evidence behind an indictment.** — Where defendants were indicted for intentional or negligent child abuse resulting in great bodily harm with alternative theories that either or both inflicted the abuse or knew, or should have known, that such abuse was being inflicted; defendants were the parents of children who were determined to have been physically abused; defendants and their children lived with one of the defendants' parents; defendants each filed pretrial motions to dismiss the indictment alleging that the facts of the case were

undisputed and that as a purely legal issue, there was a lack of substantial evidence that could prove the identity of the perpetrator who caused the injuries to the children; the district court held a hearing on the motions and after reviewing transcripts of witness interviews, granted the motions to dismiss; and there was no claim that the state acted improperly in any way, the district court violated Section 31-6-11 NMSA 1978. *State v. LaPietra*, 2010-NMCA-009, 147 N.M. 569, 226 P.3d 668, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-012, 147 N.M. 600, 227 P.3d 90.

**Hearsay evidence.** — In the absence of prosecutorial bad faith, there is not clear statutory authority for judicial review of the grand jury's determination of probable cause. *State v. Gallegos*, 2009-NMSC-017, 146 N.M. 88, 206 P.3d 993.

**Procedure to resolve pre-indictment evidentiary disputes.** — A letter from a target to the grand jury generally should focus on providing the grand jury with a factual and non-argumentative description of the nature of any tangible evidence and the substance of the potential testimony of any suggested witnesses, along with the names and contact information of the necessary witnesses who could provide the exculpatory information. The letter to the grand jury should be accompanied by a separate cover letter or memorandum to the prosecutor, which will not go to the grand jury, expressing any necessary contextual information, arguments as to the propriety or significance of the requested evidence, the proposed questions, and any other matters that may be helpful to communicate to the prosecutor or the grand jury judge. If the prosecutor does not want to alert the grand jury to the existence of the witnesses suggested by the target or does not want to elicit the information from the witnesses that the target deems worthy of submission to the grand jury, the prosecutor must file a motion with the grand jury judge, with notice to the target, seeking confirmation of the prosecutor's decision not to call the witnesses or not to inquire into the subject matter proposed by the target. In the motion, the prosecutor should provide the grand jury judge with the target's letter submitting the proposed evidence, and the prosecutor's motion should state why the prosecutor believes the grand jury should not be alerted to the existence of the target-offered evidence. The grand jury judge can then decide whether to ask for a written response from the target and whether to hold a hearing to allow the parties to argue the matter. The grand jury judge should resolve the matter quickly, by written order in the judge's discretion if needed to preserve the record, giving the parties clear direction on how to proceed before the grand jury. *Jones v. Murdoch*, 2009-NMSC-002, 145 N.M. 473, 200 P.3d 523.

**No post-indictment review.** — There is no statutory right to post-indictment review for compliance with the pre-indictment procedures for enforcing Subsection B of Section 31-6-11 NMSA 1978 absent a showing of prosecutorial bad faith. *State v. Yaw*, 2011-NMCA-023, 150 N.M. 279, 258 P.3d 1071, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-001.

Where defendant, who was arrested for child abuse, sent a letter to the prosecutor serving as grand jury aide requesting the prosecutor to allow the grand jury to hear testimony from the children; the prosecutor did not comply with the request; defendant moved the grand jury judge to order the prosecutor to present the evidence to the grand

jury; the grand jury judge held a hearing and ruled that the prosecutor did not have to present the evidence to the grand jury; and defendant did not claim that there was prosecutorial misconduct, defendant did not have a right to post-indictment review of the evidence presented to the grand jury. *State v. Yaw*, 2011-NMCA-023, 150 N.M. 279, 258 P.3d 1071, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-001.

**Failure to disclose polygraph score.** — Where the prosecution specifically told grand jury that defendant passed polygraph test, but failed to tell the grand jury his actual score on the test, the trial court properly refused defendant's motion to dismiss. The defendant failed to show that he was prejudiced, that the evidence directly negated his guilt, or that the allegedly exculpatory evidence would have been admissible at trial. *State v. Blue*, 1998-NMCA-135, 125 N.M. 826, 965 P.2d 945, cert. quashed, 127 N.M. 392, 981 P.2d 1210.

**Evidence directly negating guilt does not require special instruction** to the grand jury to weigh and consider the impact of the potentially exculpatory evidence in making a probable cause determination. *State v. Augustin M.*, 2003-NMCA-065, 133 N.M. 636, 68 P.3d 182, cert. quashed, 2004-NMCERT-002, 135 N.M. 170, 86 P.3d 48.

**Grand jury findings conclusive.** — The findings of a grand jury, when made by and through an indictment, duly returned into court, and regular upon its face, are conclusive, and the courts are without power or jurisdiction to inquire into the subject and review the testimony submitted to the grand jury to determine whether or not the required kind or degree of evidence was submitted. *State v. Stevens*, 1979-NMCA-058, 93 N.M. 434, 601 P.2d 67, cert. denied, 93 N.M. 683, 604 P.2d 821.

**Statutes governing evidence directory.** — The statutes governing the kind, character and degree of evidence which should be produced before a grand jury in order to warrant the returning of an indictment are directory and are for the guidance of the grand jury. *State v. McGill*, 1976-NMCA-100, 89 N.M. 631, 556 P.2d 39.

**Sufficiency of evidence not subject to judicial review.** — The statutes concerning the evidence adduced before grand juries do not provide for judicial review of the sufficiency of the evidence considered by the grand jury. *State v. Paul*, 1971-NMCA-040, 82 N.M. 619, 485 P.2d 375, cert. denied, 82 N.M. 601, 485 P.2d 357.

**Courts powerless to review action of grand jury on indictments.** — Unless there is some clear statutory authority to do so, the courts are without power to review the action of the grand jury to determine whether or not it had sufficient or insufficient, legal or illegal, competent or incompetent evidence upon which to return an indictment. *State v. McGill*, 1976-NMCA-100, 89 N.M. 631, 556 P.2d 39; *Maldonado v. State*, 1979-NMSC-102, 93 N.M. 670, 604 P.2d 363.

**Courts powerless to review action of grand jury on indictments; exception.** — On a pretrial motion to dismiss charges alleging the sexual exploitation of children, the district court may dismiss the charges where, on the undisputed face of the materials

before the court, a jury could not find beyond a reasonable doubt that the material meets the elements of the offense as defined by the Sexual Exploitation of Children Act, Section 30-6A-1 NMSA 1978, et seq. *State v. Rendleman*, 2003-NMCA-150, 134 N.M. 744, 82 P.3d 554, cert. denied, 2003-NMCERT-003, 135 N.M. 51, 84 P.3d 668, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Myers*, 2009-NMSC-016, 146 N.M. 128, 207 P.3d 1105.

**Sufficiency of evidence supporting indictment.** — Sufficiency of evidence to support grand jury indictment is not subject to judicial review. *State v. Chance*, 1923-NMSC-042, 29 N.M. 34, 221 P. 183; *State v. Paul*, 1971-NMCA-040, 82 N.M. 619, 485 P.2d 375, cert. denied, 82 N.M. 601, 485 P.2d 357; *State v. Harge*, 1979-NMCA-120, 94 N.M. 11, 606 P.2d 1105, *overruled on other grounds by Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244.

An indictment duly returned into court and regular on its face cannot be challenged with respect to the kind and degree of evidence, *Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244.

**Review of whether exculpatory evidence withheld.** — Subsection B and Section 31-6-7 NMSA 1978 do not provide for judicial review as to whether exculpatory evidence was withheld from the grand jury. *State v. McGill*, 1976-NMCA-100, 89 N.M. 631, 556 P.2d 39.

**Withholding of exculpatory evidence may cause denial of due process.** — A defendant could be denied due process by a prosecutor withholding exculpatory evidence from the jury, since the grand jury has a duty to protect a citizen against unfounded accusation, and only specified persons are authorized by statute to present matters to the grand jury. *State v. McGill*, 1976-NMCA-100, 89 N.M. 631, 556 P.2d 39.

The withholding of exculpatory evidence from a grand jury by a prosecutor violates an accused's due process rights only when the withholding affects the outcome of the proceeding and prejudices the accused. *Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244.

**Exculpatory circumstantial evidence.** — There is no requirement that potentially exculpatory circumstantial evidence be considered by the grand jury in making a probable cause determination. *State v. Augustin M.*, 2003-NMCA-065, 133 N.M. 636, 68 P.3d 182, cert. quashed, 2004-NMCERT-002, 135 N.M. 170, 86 P.3d 48.

**Prosecutor's broad discretion to present exculpatory evidence.** — Although a prosecutor is required to present direct exculpatory evidence to the grand jury, he is invested with wide discretion as to the selection and presentation of evidence. Mandamus will not lie where the effect of its issuance would be to improperly limit the scope of the state's prosecutorial discretion. *Kerpan v. Sandoval Cnty. Dist. Att'ys Office*, 1988-NMCA-007, 106 N.M. 764, 750 P.2d 464.

**Prosecutor cannot prevent grand jury from investigating the facts.** — Where petitioner was charged with second degree murder for the killing of petitioner's spouse; petitioner sent the prosecutor a letter requesting that the prosecutor alert the grand jury to evidence that petitioner had told a friend that the victim had physically abused petitioner; the letter also stated that the evidence would support a finding of self-defense; the grand jury judge ruled that the prosecutor did not have to alert the grand jury to petitioner's evidence because the letter contained legal arguments; during petitioner's testimony before the grand jury, one grand juror asked petitioner whether petitioner had ever told anyone that the victim had physically abused petitioner; and the prosecutor prevented petitioner from answering the question, the grand jury judge's ruling concerning the letter did not limit petitioner's testimony before the grand jury, the prosecutor lacked authority to preclude petitioner from answering direct questions from the grand jury, and the prosecutor interfered with the grand jury's independent duty to investigate the facts bearing on the issue of probable cause. *Herrera v. Sanchez*, 2014-NMSC-018.

**Leading questions by prosecutor did not amount to bad faith.** — Where the prosecutor submitted to the grand jury a proposed indictment charging defendant with numerous counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor, and where, during the grand jury proceedings, the prosecutor asked leading questions that merely summarized what was already testified to by the witness, the prosecutor's conduct did not amount to bad faith or structural error that would require dismissal of the indictment, because the prosecuting attorney merely restated certain aspects of the witness's testimony and suggested that this testimony established elements of the offenses charged in the indictment. *State v. Deignan*, 2016-NMCA-065.

**Erroneous instructions to the grand jury constitute structural error.** — Where the prosecutor submitted to the grand jury a proposed indictment charging defendant with numerous counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor (CSCM), attempted CSCM, and bribery of a witness, the prosecutor's erroneous instructions to the jury, including incorrectly telling the grand jury that the third-degree CSCM count had the same elements as the second-degree CSCM charge, failing to tell the grand jury what the underlying felony defendant was being charged with attempting to commit, and failing to instruct the grand jury as to the felony that the witness knew about when defendant intimidated her, constituted structural error and required dismissal of the charges. *State v. Deignan*, 2016-NMCA-065.

**Duty of prosecutor.** — This section is not violated simply because the prosecutor fails to produce evidence that is exculpatory, or through negligence fails to pursue an investigative lead that would produce directly exculpatory evidence. The prosecutor must know of the existence of the evidence and that it is exculpatory before the duty to produce it arises. *State v. Armijo*, 1994-NMCA-136, 118 N.M. 802, 887 P.2d 1269, cert. denied, 119 N.M. 20, 888 P.2d 466.

**Due process afforded where inadmissible evidence not admitted at trial.** — Where inadmissible evidence which has been presented to the grand jury is not admitted at

trial, the indictment is not void and the defendant is afforded due process. *Maldonado v. State*, 1979-NMSC-102, 93 N.M. 670, 604 P.2d 363.

**Use of direct evidence negating accused's guilt.** — By the words "that directly negates the guilt," in the last sentence in Subsection B, the legislature intended to permit the use of direct evidence negating guilt of the accused and to prohibit the use of indirect, or circumstantial, evidence negating guilt. *Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244 (decided under prior law).

Subsection B requires a prosecutor to present to a grand jury only directly exculpatory evidence; he is not required to present evidence that does not directly negate guilt. *State v. Juarez*, 1990-NMCA-021, 109 N.M. 764, 790 P.2d 1045 (decided under prior law).

**Exclusion of testimony not negating defendant's guilt.** — Where testimony does not tend to negate defendant's guilt, its exclusion from the grand jury proceedings is no ground for dismissing the indictment. *State v. Gonzales*, 1981-NMCA-023, 95 N.M. 636, 624 P.2d 1033, *overruled on other grounds by Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244; *State v. Lara*, 1990-NMCA-075, 110 N.M. 507, 797 P.2d 296 (decided under prior law).

### III. TARGET OF INVESTIGATION

**Constitution does not give defendant right to cross-examine witnesses** appearing before the grand jury. *State v. Salazar*, 1970-NMCA-056, 81 N.M. 512, 469 P.2d 157.

**Application of target notification requirement.** — The target notification requirement under Subsection B (now Subsection C) applies to persons whom a grand jury investigates on its own initiative. *State v. Gonzales*, 1981-NMCA-079, 96 N.M. 513, 632 P.2d 748, cert. denied, 96 N.M. 543, 632 P.2d 1181.

**Whether statutory notice requirement has been met is question of fact.** *Rogers v. State*, 1980-NMCA-034, 94 N.M. 218, 608 P.2d 530.

**Four-days' notice to defendant of target status deemed sufficient.** — Four-days' notice of a grand jury investigation and of target status is certainly sufficient time for the defendant to exercise his right to testify. *State v. Cruz*, 1983-NMSC-045, 99 N.M. 690, 662 P.2d 1357.

**Any effective form of notice deemed sufficient.** — This section does not specify the method of giving notice; any method, written or oral, suffices so long as the method employed complies with the statutory intent that the target be given an opportunity to testify. *Rogers v. State*, 1980-NMCA-034, 94 N.M. 218, 608 P.2d 530.

**Notice to target's attorney may amount to compliance** with the notice requirement, depending on the facts of the case. *Rogers v. State*, 1980-NMCA-034, 94 N.M. 218, 608 P.2d 530.

**Failure to notify of target status.** — Defendant was not entitled to notice that he was a target of the grand jury investigation when at the time the offense (perjury before the grand jury) had not yet been committed. *State v. Albin*, 1986-NMCA-046, 104 N.M. 315, 720 P.2d 1256, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 246, 719 P.2d 1267, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Benavidez*, 1999-NMCA-53, 127 N.M. 189, 979 P.2d 234.

**Defect in required notice must be raised before trial.** — The issue of whether notice has been given to the target of a grand jury investigation as required by this section is a claimed defect in the initiation of the prosecution; it must be raised prior to trial and, when raised, is to be decided by the trial court inasmuch as it does not involve a trial on the merits. *Rogers v. State*, 1980-NMCA-034, 94 N.M. 218, 608 P.2d 530.

**Untimely motion to dismiss.** — Because defendant did not file his motion to dismiss for failure to provide target notice until eight months after his arraignment, and he did not show any cause below or on appeal to waive the time limit, the trial court correctly found the motion to be untimely. *State v. Vallejos*, 1998-NMCA-151, 126 N.M. 161, 967 P.2d 836, cert. denied, 126 N.M. 107, 967 P.2d 447.

**When notice requirement is issue, prosecutor has burden** of establishing either that the target was notified or that notification was excused under the "unless" clause, because the prosecutor is the party affirming that the grand jury indictment is proper. *Rogers v. State*, 1980-NMCA-034, 94 N.M. 218, 608 P.2d 530.

**Defendant assumed to have actual notice.** — When the prosecutor advised the trial court in the presence of the defendant and his counsel that the parties had stipulated that letters advising the defendant of grand jury proceedings against him had not been returned as undelivered, it may be assumed that the defendant had received actual notice. *State v. Garcia*, 1982-NMCA-086, 98 N.M. 186, 646 P.2d 1250, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 336, 648 P.2d 794.

**Grand jury target has a statutory right to testify before a grand jury.** — Where defendants were indicted on multiple counts of fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud, forgery, racketeering, and conspiracy to commit racketeering, and where, prior to the grand jury proceeding, defendants informed the prosecutor assisting the grand jury of their desire to testify and appeared for the grand jury investigation prepared to testify, and where the prosecutor informed the grand jury of defendants' presence and desire to testify, but failed to tell the grand jury that defendants had a right to testify, resulting in the grand jury informing the prosecutor that it did not wish to hear defendants' testimony and that it was ready to begin its deliberations, the district court did not err in quashing the indictment, because the prosecutor's failure to provide correct and complete advice to the grand jury resulted in defendants being deprived of their right to testify. *State v. Pareo*, 2018-NMCA-040.



**Failure to allow grand jury target to testify is a structural error in the grand jury process.** — Where defendants were indicted on multiple counts of fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud, forgery, racketeering, and conspiracy to commit racketeering, but were not permitted to exercise their right to testify, the district court did not err in quashing the indictment without requiring defendants to demonstrate prosecutorial bad faith or prejudice, because the failure to allow defendants to testify before the grand jury was a structural defect in the grand jury process that required no showing of prejudice or of prosecutorial bad faith. *State v. Pareo*, 2018-NMCA-040.

**Hearing on contention of juror bias.** — Petitioner deserved a full review on interlocutory appeal from an order denying his motion to dismiss the indictments against him, where his contentions that several grand jurors were biased against him and other targeted witnesses before presentation of any evidence, and that he was led to believe that he could not present his own statement or explanation of the allegations against him, raised, at the very least, the issue of demonstrable prejudice to him. *Anaya v. State*, 1986-NMSC-027, 104 N.M. 150, 717 P.2d 1119.

**Burden of showing prejudice.** — Because the prejudice involved in former Subsection B is prejudice to the defendant in the bringing of a criminal charge, defendant's burden is to establish that his missing testimony would have changed the vote of the grand jury on the issue of probable cause. *State v. Penner*, 1983-NMCA-116, 100 N.M. 377, 671 P.2d 38.

Trial court did not err by denying defendant's motion to dismiss an indictment for failure of the state to present certain statements where he did not establish demonstrable prejudice by showing a substantial probability of a different outcome. *State v. Lucero*, 1998-NMSC-044, 126 N.M. 552, 972 P.2d 1143.

Prejudice to a defendant will not be presented from a lack of target notice and a lack of a chance to testify during a grand jury hearing. The defendant still must demonstrate the vote of the grand jury on the issue of probable cause. *State v. Haynes*, 2000-NMCA-060, 129 N.M. 304, 6 P.3d 1026.

The trial court did not err in denying the defendant's motion to dismiss the indictment based on his inability to testify before the grand jury because he was incarcerated at the time. The defendant did not demonstrate that his missing testimony would have changed the vote of the grand jury on the issue of probable cause. *State v. Dominguez*, 1993-NMCA-042, 115 N.M. 445, 853 P.2d 147, cert. denied, 115 N.M. 409, 852 P.2d 682.

**Constitutional claim not supported.** — Allegation of due process claim that, while detained, appellant was denied his right to testify at a grand jury hearing, as required by Subsection C of this section, does not and cannot support a constitutional claim. *Hoffman v. Martinez*, 92 Fed.Appx. 628 (10th Cir. 2004).

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

For note, "Criminal Procedure - Grand Jury - Inadmissible Evidence, Due Process," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 451 (1981).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 271 (1982).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico Criminal Procedure, see 20 N.M.L. Rev. 285 (1990).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38 Am. Jur. 2d Grand Jury § 37.

Indictment based on evidence illegally procured, 24 A.L.R. 1432.

Quashing indictment for lack or insufficiency of evidence before grand jury, 59 A.L.R. 567.

Admission of hearsay evidence incompetent at trial as affecting, in absence of statutory regulation, validity of indictment or conviction, 37 A.L.R.3d 612.

Incompetent witness, validity of indictment where grand jury heard, 39 A.L.R.3d 1064.

Individual's right to present complaint or evidence of criminal offense to grand jury, 24 A.L.R.4th 316.

Duty of prosecutor to present exculpatory evidence to state grand jury, 49 A.L.R.5th 639.

38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 98, 101, 112 et seq., 171 et seq.

### **31-6-11.1. Renewed presentation of evidence forbidden.**

After a grand jury acts on the merits of evidence presented to it and returns a no-bill, the same matter shall not be presented again to that jury or another grand jury on the same evidence.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 337, § 11.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Subsequent indictment for more serious crime permitted.** — Where a defendant is originally indicted for second-degree murder, but later the district attorney reviews the

case and decides the evidence supports first-degree murder, he may seek and obtain a second indictment, this time for first-degree murder. *State v. Sena*, 1983-NMSC-005, 99 N.M. 272, 657 P.2d 128.

**Subsequent information permitted after a no-bill.** — Neither the N.M. Const., art. II, § 14 nor this section limits the state's ability to proceed by information after a grand jury has returned a no-bill. *State v. Isaac M.*, 2001-NMCA-088, 131 N.M. 235, 34 P.3d 624, cert. denied, 131 N.M. 221, 34 P.3d 610 (2002).

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "The Use of an Information Following the Return of a Grand Jury No Bill: *State v. Joe Nestor Chavez*," see 10 N.M.L. Rev. 217 (1979-80).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

## **31-6-12. Subpoena powers; notice to witnesses.**

A. The grand jury has power to order the attendance of witnesses before it, to cause the production of all public and private records or other evidence relevant to its inquiry and to enforce such power by subpoena issued on its own authority through the district court convening the grand jury and executed by any public officer charged with the execution of legal process of the district court; provided that all subpoenaed witnesses shall be given a minimum of thirty-six hours' notice unless a shorter period is specifically approved for each witness by a judge of the district court.

B. The target of the investigation shall not be subpoenaed except where it is found by the prosecuting attorney to be essential to the investigation. If the target and his attorney, if he has one, sign a document stating that the target will assert the fifth amendment, he shall be excused from testifying on those matters as to which the district judge determines he has a valid fifth-amendment privilege.

C. Subpoenas directed to witnesses shall be returnable only when the grand jury is sitting.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-12, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 12; 1975, ch. 15, § 1; 1979, ch. 337, § 9.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-12, 1953 Comp., relating to the charge and instructions given to the grand jury by the court.

**Grand jury can issue subpoena, despite court's lack of jurisdiction.** — Where no statute confers jurisdiction upon the district court to order the production of handwriting exemplars, a grand jury could issue a subpoena for the exemplars and the district court

could enforce the subpoena. *Sanchez v. Attorney Gen.*, 1979-NMCA-081, 93 N.M. 210, 598 P.2d 1170.

**Grand jury investigation satisfies the "pending judicial action" requirement.** — Where defendant was charged with traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a person under eighteen years of age, among other offenses, and where defendant filed a motion to suppress evidence, arguing that a grand jury subpoena duces tecum, issued to defendant's cell phone carrier requesting all known information relating to defendant's cell phone number, was unlawful under New Mexico law, it was held that although judicial subpoenas issued unilaterally by the deputy district attorney in the absence of a pending judicial action are unlawful, the subpoena in this case was issued by the grand jury after the presentment of evidence. A pending court case or grand jury investigation satisfies the "pending judicial action" requirement, and pre-indictment subpoenas are routinely issued in connection with grand jury proceedings under this section. *United States v. Streett*, 363 F. Supp.3d 1212 (D. N.M. 2018).

**Subdivision [Subparagraph] A applies to target.** — The provision of Subdivision [Subparagraph] A of this section, "that all subpoenaed witnesses shall be given a minimum of 36 hours' notice unless a shorter period is specifically approved for each witness by a judge of the district court," applies to a target, whether or not the target has been subpoenaed. *Rogers v. State*, 1980-NMCA-034, 94 N.M. 218, 608 P.2d 530.

**Target defendant.** — Defendant could not have been designated as a target defendant for a crime which had not yet been committed. *State v. Albin*, 1986-NMCA-046, 104 N.M. 315, 720 P.2d 1256, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 246, 719 P.2d 1267, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Benavidez*, 1999 NMCA 53, 127 N.M. 189, 979 P.2d 234.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 271 (1982).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38A C.J.S. Grand Juries §§ 98, 101, 112 et seq.

### **31-6-13. Compensation of jurors and witnesses.**

Grand jurors shall be paid by the district court a per diem allowance and mileage for their necessary travel for their attendance and service in the amounts provided by law for trial or petit jurors. Witnesses attending the grand jury under subpoena shall be paid by the district court a per diem allowance and mileage for their necessary travel in the amounts provided by law for witnesses attending trials.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-5-13, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 13.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1969, ch. 276, § 14, repealed former 41-5-13, 1953 Comp., relating to the retirement of the grand jury for their inquiry into the offenses.

**Cross references.** — For mileage and compensation for jurors and jury commissioners, see 38-5-15 NMSA 1978.

For per diem and mileage for witnesses, see 38-6-4 NMSA 1978.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 38A C.J.S. Grand Juries § 12.

### **31-6-14. Multiple representation.**

A lawyer or lawyers who are associated in practice shall not continue multiple representation of clients in a grand jury proceeding if the exercise of the lawyer's independent professional judgment on behalf of one of the clients will be or is likely to be adversely affected by his representation of another client. If the court determines that this principle is violated, it may order separate representation of witnesses, giving appropriate weight to an individual's right to counsel of his own choosing.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 337, § 13.

### **31-6-15. Witness immunity; protection from harrassment [harassment] and unreasonable inconvenience.**

A. If a witness is granted immunity in return for evidence, none of his testimony or any evidence obtained as a fruit of his testimony shall be used against him in any criminal prosecution except that such person may be prosecuted for any perjury committed in such testimony or in producing such evidence, or for contempt for failing to give an answer or produce evidence.

B. Witnesses shall not be harrassed [harassed] nor subjected to unreasonable repeated appearances by the grand jury or the prosecuting attorney assisting the grand jury.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 337, § 10; 1978 Comp., § 31-3A-1, recompiled as 1978 Comp., § 31-6-15.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Bracketed material.** — The bracketed material in the catchline and in Subsection B was inserted by the compiler and it is not part of the law.

**Cross references.** — For witness immunity, see Rule 5-116.

**Applicability.** — Section 31-6-15 NMSA 1978 applies only to grand jury proceedings and not to court proceedings. *State v. Brown*, 1998-NMSC-037, 126 N.M. 338, 969 P.2d 313.

**Section applies only to immunity for testimony before grand juries** and not to immunity for testimony at trial. *State v. Summerall*, 1986-NMSC-080, 105 N.M. 82, 728 P.2d 833, *rev'g* 1986-NMCA-032, 105 N.M. 84, 728 P.2d 835.

**The very purpose of granting immunity is to reach the truth.** *State v. Boeglin*, 1983-NMSC-088, 100 N.M. 470, 672 P.2d 643.

**Witness must testify truthfully.** — Implicit in Subsection A is the fact that a witness must testify truthfully or be subject to being prosecuted: (1) for perjury committed in such testimony or in producing such evidence; or (2) for contempt for failure to give an answer or produce evidence. To hold otherwise would make this statute meaningless. *State v. Boeglin*, 1983-NMSC-088, 100 N.M. 470, 672 P.2d 643.

**Prosecutor applies for, court grants, use immunity.** — Taken together, Rule 5-116, Rule 11-412, and this section give the trial court the authority to grant use immunity when it is applied for by the prosecutor. *State v. Summerall*, 1986-NMCA-032, 105 N.M. 84, 728 P.2d 835, *rev'd*, 1986-NMSC-080, 105 N.M. 82, 728 P.2d 833.

**Limitations to derivative use immunity.** — This statute and its implementing rules, Rule 5-116 and Rule 11-412 NMRA, allow the government to compel a witness to testify and then prosecute the witness for the crimes mentioned in the compelled testimony, as long as neither the testimony itself nor any information directly or indirectly derived from the testimony is used in the prosecution. However, it is not enough for the prosecutor to simply assert that all evidence to be used at trial was obtained prior to the defendant's immunized testimony; instead, the state should have included testimony from key witnesses, along with testimony from the prosecutor and the investigators, that the witnesses had not had access or otherwise been exposed to the defendant's immunized testimony. *State v. Vallejos*, 1994-NMSC-107, 118 N.M. 572, 883 P.2d 1269.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Criminal Procedure - The Fifth Amendment Privilege Against Self-Incrimination Applies to Juveniles in Court-Ordered Psychological Evaluations: *State v. Christopher P.*," see 23 N.M.L. Rev. 305 (1993).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Propriety of blanket or per se rule prohibiting federal grand jury from indicting witness who has previously testified before same grand jury under grant of use immunity, 139 A.L.R. Fed. 489.

## ARTICLE 7

### Indictments and Proof of Ownership for Offenses Concerning Domestic Animals

### **31-7-1. [Description of bovine animals; proof of brand; prima facie evidence of ownership.]**

In the prosecution of any offense arising under the laws of this state in regard to the unlawful taking, handling, killing, driving or other unlawful disposition of animals of the bovine kind, the description "neat cattle" in any indictment shall be deemed sufficient, and the proof of the brand by a certified copy of the registration thereof in the brand book, under the seal of the cattle sanitary board [livestock board], certified to by the secretary of said board, shall be sufficient to identify all horses, mules, asses or neat cattle, and shall be prima facie proof that the person owning the recorded brand is the owner of the animal branded with such brand.

**History:** Laws 1895, ch. 6, § 6; C.L. 1897, § 67; Code 1915, § 122; C.S. 1929, § 4-1408; 1941 Comp., § 42-704; 1953 Comp., § 41-7-4.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For certified copy of brand fee, see 77-2-7.4 NMSA 1978.

For recording of brands, see 77-9-5 NMSA 1978.

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 1967, ch. 213, § 2, created the livestock board and transferred all the powers held by the cattle sanitary board to the livestock board, and Laws 1971, ch. 50, § 2 made the livestock board the sole board for the registration of brands and marks on horses, mules, asses, cattle and sheep. See 77-2-7.2 NMSA 1978.

**Purpose of section.** — This section merely sets up a procedure that may be followed by state in prosecution involving the unlawful disposition of bovines and was not intended to be available to defendant. *State v. Reed*, 1951-NMSC-021, 55 N.M. 231, 230 P.2d 966, cert. denied, 342 U.S. 932, 72 S. Ct. 374, 96 L. Ed. 694 (1952).

**Use of statutory description "one neat cattle" is sufficient description** as commonly applied in the United States to describe a beast of the bovine genus. *Territory v. Christman*, 1899-NMSC-009, 9 N.M. 582, 58 P. 343.

**Description "cow" sufficient.** — Description in indictment of stolen animal as a cow was sufficient to support conviction under section making it an offense to steal any neat cattle. *Wilburn v. Territory*, 1900-NMSC-028, 10 N.M. 402, 62 P. 968.

**Certificate of record sufficient proof.** — Proof of brand by certificate of record, signed by secretary of cattle sanitary board, (now livestock board), is sufficient. *Territory v. Caldwell*, 1908-NMSC-027, 14 N.M. 535, 98 P. 167.

**Recorded brand under this section is sufficient to identify animals** classed therein. *Barnett v. Wedgewood*, 1922-NMSC-068, 28 N.M. 312, 211 P. 601.

**Title established by certificate of recorded brand.** — Where title to animals, the subject of larceny, is sought to be established by brand, a certificate of the recorded brand must be shown. *Territory v. Smith*, 1904-NMSC-017, 12 N.M. 229, 78 P. 42; *Hancock v. Beasley*, 1907-NMSC-026, 14 N.M. 239, 91 P. 735.

**Introduction of certified copy of brand in evidence.** — It is only necessary to introduce a certified copy of recorded brand in evidence, where evidence of ownership depends upon brand on animal. *State v. Analla*, 1913-NMSC-073, 18 N.M. 294, 136 P. 600.

**Brand alone not sufficient evidence of ownership.** — Proof that calf bore defendant's brand in prosecution for stealing and branding the animal did not constitute prima facie evidence that defendants owned the animal, under provisions of this section. *State v. Reed*, 1951-NMSC-021, 55 N.M. 231, 230 P.2d 966, cert. denied, 342 U.S. 932, 72 S. Ct. 374, 96 L. Ed. 694 (1952).

**Prima facie proof of ownership.** — Recorded brand is prima facie proof that person owning recorded brand is owner of animal bearing such brand. *Barnett v. Wedgewood*, 1922-NMSC-068, 28 N.M. 312, 211 P. 601.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 4 Am. Jur. 2d Animals § 9; 41 Am. Jur. 2d Indictments and Informations § 149.

Stealing carcass as within statute making it larceny to steal cattle or livestock, 78 A.L.R.2d 1100.

3A C.J.S. Animals § 26; 42 C.J.S. Indictments and Informations § 108.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Out-of-State Witnesses**

#### **31-8-1. [Attendance of witnesses from without a state; definitions.]**

"Witness," as used in this act [31-8-1 to 31-8-6 NMSA 1978], shall include a person whose testimony is desired in any proceeding or investigation by a grand jury or in a criminal action, prosecution or proceeding.

The word "state" shall include any territory of the United States and District of Columbia.

The word "summons" shall include a subpoena, order or other notice requiring the appearance of a witness.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 66, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 42-1213; 1953 Comp., § 41-12-13.



## ANNOTATIONS

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 81 Am. Jur. 2d Witnesses §§ 34, 35, 39.

Admissions to prevent continuance sought to secure testimony of absent witness in criminal case, 9 A.L.R.3d 1180.

Availability under Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance of Witnesses from Without a State in Criminal Proceedings of subpoena duces tecum, 7 A.L.R.4th 836.

Sufficiency of evidence to support or require finding that out-of-state witness in criminal case is "material witness" justifying certificate to secure attendances under Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance of Witnesses from Without a State in Criminal Proceedings, 12 A.L.R.4th 742.

Sufficiency of evidence to support or require finding that in-state witness in criminal case is "material and necessary" justifying issuance of summons directing attendance of witness under Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance of Witnesses from Without a State in Criminal Proceedings, 12 A.L.R.4th 771.

97 C.J.S. Witnesses § 17.

### **31-8-2. Summoning witness in this state to testify in another state.**

If a judge of a court of record in any state which by its laws has made provision for commanding persons within that state to attend and testify in this state certifies under the seal of such court that there is a criminal prosecution pending in such court, or that a grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence, that a person being within this state is a material witness in such prosecution, or grand jury investigation and that his presence will be required for a specified number of days, upon presentation of such certificate to any judge of a court of record in the county in which such person is, such judge shall fix a time and place for a hearing, and shall make an order directing the witness to appear at a time and place certain for the hearing.

If at a hearing the judge determines that the witness is material and necessary, that it will not cause undue hardship to the witness to be compelled to attend and testify in the prosecution or a grand jury investigation in the other state and that the laws of the state in which the prosecution is pending, or grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence (and of any other state through which the witness may be required to pass by ordinary course of travel), will give to him protection from arrest and the service of civil and criminal process in connection with any matters which arose before his entrance into this state under the summons, he shall issue a summons, with a copy of the certificate attached, directing the witness to attend and testify in the court where the prosecution is pending, or where a grand jury investigation has commenced or is about to commence at a time and place specified in the summons. In any such hearing the certificate shall be prima facie evidence of all the facts stated therein.

If said certificate recommends that the witness be taken into immediate custody and delivered to an officer of the requesting state to assure his attendance in the requesting state, such judge may, in lieu of notification of the hearing, direct that such witness be forthwith brought before him for said hearing; and the judge at the hearing being satisfied of the desirability of such custody and delivery, for which determination the certificate shall be prima facie proof of such desirability may, in lieu of issuing subpoena or summons, order that said witness be forthwith taken into custody and delivered to an officer of the requesting state.

If the witness, who is summoned as above provided, after being paid or tendered by some properly authorized person the sum of six cents [ (\$.06)] a mile for each mile by the ordinary traveled route to and from the court where the prosecution is pending and three dollars [ (\$3.00)] for each day, that he is required to travel and attend as a witness, fails without good cause to attend and testify as directed in the summons, he shall be punished in the manner provided for the punishment of any witness who disobeys a summons issued from a court of record in this state.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 66, § 2; 1941 Comp., § 42-1214; 1953 Comp., § 41-12-14.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Applicability to witnesses from another state.** — The complex procedural requirements of this section apply to summoning witnesses from this state to appear in another state but do not apply to the converse situation. *State v. Hall*, 1987-NMCA-145, 107 N.M. 17, 751 P.2d 701, cert. denied, 107 N.M. 16, 751 P.2d 700.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 81 Am. Jur. 2d Witnesses §§ 34, 35, 39, 68 to 74.

Right of witness detained in custody for future appearance to fees for such detention, 50 A.L.R.2d 1439.

Allowance of mileage on witness fees with respect to witnesses who were not called to testify or not permitted to do so when called, 22 A.L.R.3d 675.

Sufficiency of evidence to support or require finding that in-state witness in criminal case is "material and necessary" justifying issuance of summons directly attendance of witness under Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance of Witnesses from Without a State in Criminal Proceedings, 12 A.L.R.4th 771.

97 C.J.S. Witnesses §§ 17, 35 to 48.

**31-8-3. Witness from another state summoned to testify in this state.**

If a person in any state, which by its laws has made provision for commanding persons within its borders to attend and testify in criminal prosecutions, or grand jury investigations commenced or about to commence, in this state, is a material witness in a prosecution pending in a court of record in this state, or in a grand jury investigation which has commenced or is about to commence, a judge of such court may issue a certificate under the seal of the court stating these facts and specifying the number of days the witness will be required. Said certificate may include a recommendation that the witness be taken into immediate custody and delivered to an officer of this state to assure his attendance in this state. This certificate shall be presented to a judge of a court of record in the county in which the witness is found.

If the witness is summoned to attend and testify in this state he shall be tendered the sum of five cents [ (\$.05)] a mile for each mile by the ordinary traveled route to and from the court where the prosecution is pending, and two dollars [ (\$2.00)] for each day that he is required to travel and attend as a witness. A witness who has appeared in accordance with the provisions of the summons shall not be required to remain within this state a longer period of time than the period mentioned in the certificate, unless otherwise ordered by the court. If such witness, after coming into this state, fails without good cause to attend and testify as directed in the summons, he shall be punished in the manner provided for the punishment of any witness who disobeys a summons issued from a court of record in this state. Expenses as herein provided shall be paid from the fund from which all other witnesses are usually paid.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 66, § 3; 1941 Comp., § 42-1215; 1953 Comp., § 41-12-15.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Preliminary hearing testimony may be used after diligent attempt to obtain witness.** — Trial court did not abuse its discretion in admitting preliminary hearing testimony of absent state witness based on unavailability after prosecutor had exercised due diligence in obtaining the witness, even though prosecutor did not use a subpoena pursuant to this article to secure attendance of the witness from out of state until the witness had already become a fugitive, where the witness had made three previous voluntary appearances. *State v. Martinez*, 1984-NMCA-106, 102 N.M. 94, 691 P.2d 887, cert. denied, 102 N.M. 88, 691 P.2d 881.

**Party summoning witness must act diligently.** — Where no action was taken to require presence of out-of-state witness until some ten days before trial, no subpoena was issued for the witness and his presence at some future time appeared extremely doubtful, defendant had failed to show that diligence which the discretion of the court would be entitled to require. *State v. Fernandez*, 1952-NMSC-087, 56 N.M. 689, 248 P.2d 679.

In seeking a continuance to secure the appearance of an absent witness, a party must show that it has used due diligence to obtain the witness' testimony. *State v. Hall*, 1987-NMCA-145, 107 N.M. 17, 751 P.2d 701, cert. denied, 107 N.M. 16, 751 P.2d 700.

**Compliance with section deemed due diligence.** — If the state wanted to guarantee the witness' attendance once it had located him in Kentucky but was unable to contact him directly, it should have used the procedures outlined in this section. These steps would not have guaranteed the witness' attendance at the trial; however, on the day trial was to commence, if the state had been able to show that it had used this section, it could have made a stronger argument to the court to grant a continuance based on its due diligence and good faith efforts. Because the state could rely only on efforts that had no legal effect and did not constitute due diligence, resulting in its crucial witness being absent, the court did not err in denying the state's motion for continuance and in dismissing the action. *State v. Graham*, 1993-NMCA-054, 115 N.M. 745, 858 P.2d 412.

**Due diligence found.** — Where the court admitted the preliminary hearing testimony of a state witness at defendant's murder trial on that ground that the witness was unavailable; the New Mexico prosecution served the witness with a subpoena through the witness' Oklahoma parole officer; the witness had twice responded to similar subpoenas; the New Mexico prosecution purchased an airplane ticket to New Mexico and mailed the ticket to the witness; the New Mexico prosecution telephoned the witness twice and the witness confirmed that the witness would appear at defendant's trial; unknown to the New Mexico prosecution, the witness' criminal trial began in Oklahoma on the day the witness was scheduled to appear at defendant's trial; and when the New Mexico prosecution learned that the witness had disappeared during the witness' trial in Oklahoma, the New Mexico prosecution obtained a subpoena pursuant to Section 31-8-3 NMSA 1978 and sent the subpoena to Oklahoma, the New Mexico prosecution acted with due diligence in seeking to bring the witness to New Mexico and the trial court's admission of the witness' preliminary testimony did not violate defendant's sixth amendment rights. *Martinez v. Sullivan*, 881 F.2d 921 (10th Cir. 1989).

**Inability of witness to attend trial.** — Where what out-of-state witness would testify to was pure speculation but witness was offered money for transportation and expenses, his inability to attend on day of trial did not make denial of defendant's motion for continuance until such time as witness could be produced erroneous, since required statement of facts it was believed witness would prove, as is necessary to support motion for continuance made on first day of trial, was not produced. *State v. Fernandez*, 1952-NMSC-087, 56 N.M. 689, 248 P.2d 679.

**Refusal of appellate court to hold witness unavailable.** — The district attorney's statements that the state attempted to subpoena a material witness and that he was out-of-state were no more than bare recitals unsupported by factual elaboration. Since the record contained no evidence as to the circumstances of the state's alleged attempt and inability to subpoena the witness, the court of appeals refused to hold that the witness was unavailable for trial, and under Rule 11-804 NMRA his preliminary hearing testimony was not admissible in evidence. *State v. Mann*, 1975-NMCA-045, 87 N.M. 427, 535 P.2d 70.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 81 Am. Jur. 2d Witnesses §§ 34, 35, 39, 68 to 74.

Right of witness detained in custody for future appearance to fees for such detention, 50 A.L.R.2d 1439.

Allowance of mileage or witness fees with respect to witnesses who were not called to testify or not permitted to do so when called, 22 A.L.R.3d 675.

Sufficiency of evidence to support or require finding that out-of-state witness in criminal case is "material witness" justifying certificate to secure attendance under Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance of Witnesses from Without a State in Criminal Proceedings, 12 A.L.R.4th 742.

97 C.J.S. Witnesses §§ 2 to 48.

### **31-8-4. Exemption from arrest and service of process.**

If a person comes into this state in obedience to a summons directing him to attend and testify in this state he shall not while in this state pursuant to such summons be subject to arrest or the service of process, civil or criminal, in connection with matters which arose before his entrance into this state under the summons.

If a person passes through this state while going to another state in obedience to a summons to attend and testify in that state or while returning therefrom, he shall not while so passing through this state be subject to arrest or the service of process, civil or criminal, in connection with matters which arose before his entrance into this state under the summons.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 66, § 4; 1941 Comp., § 42-1216; 1953 Comp., § 41-12-16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 5 Am. Jur. 2d Arrest § 128 et seq.; 62B Am. Jur. 2d Process §§ 39-43.

Power of legislature to grant or authorize committee to grant immunity from criminal prosecution to witnesses summoned before legislative committee, 87 A.L.R. 435.

6A C.J.S. Arrest §§ 6, 80 to 85; 72 C.J.S. Process §§ 27, 28.

### **31-8-5. Uniformity of interpretation.**

This act [31-8-1 to 31-8-6 NMSA 1978] shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of the states which enact it.

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 66, § 5; 1941 Comp., § 42-1217; 1953 Comp., § 41-12-17.

### **31-8-6. Short title.**

This act [31-8-1 to 31-8-6 NMSA 1978] may be cited as "Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance of Witnesses From Without a State in Criminal Proceedings".

**History:** Laws 1937, ch. 66, § 6; 1941 Comp., § 42-1218; 1953 Comp., § 41-12-18.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Permissibility of testimony by telephone in state trial, 85 A.L.R.4th 476.

## ARTICLE 9

### Mental Illness and Competency

#### 31-9-1. Determination of competency; raising the issue.

A. When a party or the court raises a question as to a defendant's competency to stand trial in a criminal case, the proceeding shall be suspended until the issue is determined.

B. Unless the case is dismissed upon motion of a party or through diversion, if the question of a defendant's competency is raised in a court other than a district court, the case shall be transferred to the district court.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-9-1, enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 107, § 1 and by 1988, ch. 108, § 1; 1989, ch. 94, § 1; 1993, ch. 240, § 1; 1993, ch. 249, § 1; 2025, ch. 4, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1988, ch. 108, § 1 and Laws 1988, ch. 107, § 1, both approved March 8, 1988, repealed former 31-9-1 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1987, ch. 353, § 1, and enacted identical new sections designated 31-9-1 NMSA 1978, effective May 18, 1988.

**Cross references.** — For the interstate compact on mentally disordered offenders, see 31-5-10, 31-5-11 NMSA 1978.

For commitment of the mentally ill, see 43-1-2 to 43-1-23 NMSA 1978.

For rule of criminal procedure governing defenses of insanity, incompetency, and lack of capacity, see Rule 5-602 NMRA.

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, clarified language related to raising the issue of a defendant's competency to stand trial; after the section heading, deleted "Whenever it appears that there is a question as to the defendant's competency to proceed in a criminal case, any further proceeding in the cause" added new subsection

designation "A"; in Subsection A, after the subsection designation, added "When a party or the court raises a question as to a defendant's competency to stand trial in a criminal case, the proceeding", and after "until the issue is determined", deleted the remainder of the paragraph; and added Subsection B.

**1993 amendments.** — Identical amendments to this section were enacted by Laws 1993, ch. 240, § 1 and Laws 1993, ch. 249 § 1, both approved on April 6, 1993, and both effective June 18, 1993, which inserted "to proceed in a criminal case" in the first sentence, substituted "Unless the case is dismissed upon motion of a party, when" for "If" at the beginning of the second sentence and added the third sentence. The section is set out above as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 249, § 1. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

**The 1989 amendment,** effective July 1, 1989, inserted "or a metropolitan court" in the second sentence.

**Incompetency is distinct from insanity.** — A claim of incompetency to stand trial is distinct from the defense of insanity. The competency issue is whether a defendant understands the nature and significance of the proceedings, has a factual understanding of the charges, and is able to assist defense counsel in defendant's defense. The insanity defense concerns a defendant's mental state at the time the offense was committed. *State v. Najar*, 1986-NMCA-068, 104 N.M. 540, 724 P.2d 249, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 460, 722 P.2d 1182.

**Failure to determine competency.** — Where defense counsel raised the issue of defendant's competency at defendant's preliminary hearing in magistrate court; the case was then transferred to district court; the district court ordered a competency evaluation of defendant; based on the results of the evaluation, defense counsel was satisfied that defendant was competent to stand trial, and the court entered an order finding defendant competent to stand trial; defense counsel again raised the issue of defendant's competency on the day of trial, prior to the start of trial; the court took no action and proceeded to trial; during the trial, defendant made noises, talking to someone who was not present in the courtroom; the court admonished defendant not to disrupt the trial; defense counsel attempted, but the court refused, to allow defense counsel to raise the issue of defendant's competency; the jury returned a verdict of guilty; defense counsel again raised the issue of defendant's competency; the court then permitted defense counsel to fully raise the issue and instructed defense counsel to request a competency evaluation; based on the evaluation, the court found defendant to be incompetent, but declined to dismiss the charges and proceeded to sentence defendant, defendant was denied due process of law because the court erred when it refused to permit defense counsel to raise the issue of defendant's competency prior to and during trial, when it failed to stay the proceedings pending a determination of whether a reasonable doubt existed as to defendant's competency to stand trial, and after finding defendant incompetent. *State v. Montoya*, 2010-NMCA-067, 148 N.M. 495, 238 P.3d 369, cert. denied, 2010-NMCERT-006, 148 N.M. 582, 241 P.3d 180.

**Requirements on court.** — Whenever a legitimate concern about the present ability of a defendant to consult and understand is brought to the court's attention, the court is required to consider whatever competency-related evidence is before the court and to determine whether there exists a reasonable doubt as to the defendant's competency to stand trial. If the court determines that there is reasonable doubt as to defendant's competency, the court must have defendant's competency professionally evaluated by a qualified professional who must submit a report to the court. *State v. Flores*, 2005-NMCA-135, 138 N.M. 636, 124 P.3d 1175, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-011, 138 N.M. 586, 124 P.3d 564.

**In considering whether reasonable doubt exists,** the court must keep in mind the requirement that defendant must have sufficient present ability to consult and understand as required under due process of law. *State v. Flores*, 2005-NMCA-135, 138 N.M. 636, 124 P.3d 1175, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-011, 138 N.M. 586, 124 P.3d 564.

**Constitutionality.** — This article did not deprive an incompetent criminal defendant of equal protection under the law, or of substantive or procedural due process. *State v. Rotherham*, 1996-NMSC-048, 122 N.M. 246, 923 P.2d 1131.

**Multi-step competency proceeding.** — The New Mexico statutory scheme provides for a multi-step competency proceeding when it appears that there is a question as to a defendant's competency. *State v. Webb*, 1990-NMCA-077, 111 N.M. 78, 801 P.2d 660, cert. quashed, 111 N.M. 164, 803 P.2d 253.

**Due process requires incompetent defendants to be treated differently.** The conviction of an accused person while that person is legally incompetent violates due process, and thus incompetent defendants cannot be brought to trial in the same manner as competent defendants. *State v. Gallegos*, 1990-NMCA-104, 111 N.M. 110, 802 P.2d 15, cert denied, 111 N.M. 77, 801 P.2d 659.

**Defendant cannot be validly tried while mentally incompetent** to stand trial. *State v. Tartaglia*, 1969-NMCA-110, 80 N.M. 788, 461 P.2d 921.

**Effect of false claim of lack of competency.** — Where the file and records conclusively establish that his claim of lack of competency to stand trial was false, defendant was not entitled to a hearing on the claim. *State v. Kenney*, 1970-NMCA-038, 81 N.M. 368, 467 P.2d 34.

**Section provides for questioning of competency prior to suspension.** — This section provides that there must be a "question" as to the mental competency of a defendant to stand trial, before the court is required to suspend proceedings in the cause until the issue as to defendant's competency is determined. *State v. Smith*, 1969-NMCA-101, 80 N.M. 742, 461 P.2d 157.



**Question of competency requires more than mere assertion.** — This section requires there to be a "question" as to the accused's capacity to stand trial. The "question" is not raised by an assertion of that issue, even though the assertion is in good faith. As in the similar federal statute, there must be a showing of reasonable cause for the belief that an accused is not competent to stand trial. *State v. Hollowell*, 1969-NMCA-105, 80 N.M. 756, 461 P.2d 238.

**Counsel's impressions of defendant's mental state insufficient.** — "Wondering" about defendant's mental capacity which is based solely on counsel's impression is not reasonable cause for a belief that defendant is incompetent to stand trial. *State v. Hovey*, 1969-NMCA-049, 80 N.M. 373, 456 P.2d 206.

**When court justified in proceeding without competency hearing.** — Defense counsel's representations to the trial court that the defendant was competent to plead guilty and responsible for his actions effectively removed any question of competency from the case and justified court in proceeding without competency hearing, despite previously ordered psychiatric examination of defendant. *State v. Bius*, 1973-NMCA-057, 85 N.M. 98, 509 P.2d 573.

**Motion must include grounds for belief of lack of capacity.** — A motion on behalf of an accused for a judicial determination of mental competency to stand trial shall set forth the ground for belief that such mental capacity is lacking. When the motion does not set forth grounds for reasonable cause to believe the defendant may be insane or mentally incompetent, the motion can be denied. "The statute requires such an examination only when it is shown that there is reasonable cause to believe that an accused may be presently insane or otherwise mentally incompetent." *State v. Hovey*, 1969-NMCA-049, 80 N.M. 373, 456 P.2d 206.

**Court not required to grant motion for examination.** — An examination is not necessary, nor is the court required to grant a motion seeking such examination unless there is a question as to the mental capacity of defendant. *State v. Morales*, 1970-NMCA-036, 81 N.M. 333, 466 P.2d 899, cert. denied, 81 N.M. 305, 466 P.2d 871, cert. denied, 400 U.S. 842, 91 S. Ct. 84, 27 L. Ed. 2d 77.

**Possible prejudicial statement of expert not grounds for error.** — Statement of medical expert that defendant had no mental disease either at the time of the commission of the criminal act or at the time of trial when the reason for testimony concerning defendant's mental condition at the time of trial was because the medical expert's examination had been primarily to determine defendant's present competency to stand trial found not to be error although possibly prejudicial. *State v. Lopez*, 1969-NMCA-057, 80 N.M. 599, 458 P.2d 851, cert. denied, 80 N.M. 607, 458 P.2d 859, cert. denied, 398 U.S. 942, 90 S. Ct. 1860, 26 L. Ed. 2d 279 (1970).

**Trial court's failure to determine competency not error.** — Where defendant's claim is that the trial court erred in failing to judicially determine his mental competency and the context of this contention is that the motion was never called to the court's attention

and no ruling was invoked; although, prior opinions indicate that an issue as to defendant's mental competency may still be litigated, still they do not support the view that a trial court errs in failing to decide an issue on which a ruling has not been invoked. *State v. Madrigal*, 1973-NMCA-116, 85 N.M. 496, 513 P.2d 1278, cert. denied, 85 N.M. 483, 513 P.2d 1265.

**Initial orders were not final orders subject to appellate review.** — Where the trial court had made only the initial orders in a multi-part proceeding to determine defendant's competency to stand trial for murder, the orders finding defendant dangerous and incompetent to stand trial from which he appealed were not final orders subject to appellate review. *State v. Webb*, 1990-NMCA-077, 111 N.M. 78, 801 P.2d 660, cert. quashed, 111 N.M. 164, 803 P.2d 253.

**Competency of defendants in courts of limited jurisdiction.** — Except for metropolitan courts, courts of limited jurisdiction have no authority to hold competency hearings. 2003 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 03-04.

Courts of limited jurisdiction have no authority to commit defendants to a mental health facility. 2003 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 03-04.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 79 et seq.

Presumption of continuing insanity as applied to accused in criminal case, 27 A.L.R.2d 121.

Constitutional right to jury trial in proceeding for adjudication of incompetency or insanity, 33 A.L.R.2d 1145.

Unanimity of verdict in proceedings to determine sanity of one accused of crime, 42 A.L.R.2d 1468.

Right to counsel in insanity or incompetency adjudication proceedings, 87 A.L.R.2d 950.

Appealability of orders or rulings, prior to final judgment in criminal case, as to accused's mental competency, 16 A.L.R.3d 714.

Modern status of rules as to burden and sufficiency of proof of mental irresponsibility in criminal case, 17 A.L.R.3d 146.

Admissibility on issue of sanity of expert opinion based partly on a medical, psychological or hospital report, 55 A.L.R.3d 551.

Adequacy of defense counsel's representation of criminal client regarding incompetency, insanity, and related issues, 17 A.L.R.4th 575.

Competency to stand trial of criminal defendant diagnosed as "mentally retarded" - modern cases, 23 A.L.R.4th 493.

Malpractice liability based on prior treatment of mental disorder alleged to relate to patient's conviction of crime, 28 A.L.R.4th 712.

Competency to stand trial of criminal defendant diagnosed as "schizophrenic" - modern state cases, 33 A.L.R.4th 1062.

Admissibility of results of computer analysis of defendant's mental state, 37 A.L.R.4th 510.

Pyromania and the criminal law, 51 A.L.R.4th 1243.

Probation revocation: insanity as defense, 56 A.L.R.4th 1178.

Adequacy of defense counsel's representation of criminal client - issues of incompetency, 70 A.L.R.5th 1.

Adequacy of defense counsel's representation of criminal client - pretrial conduct or conduct at unspecified time regarding issues of insanity, 72 A.L.R.5th 109.

Incompetency at time of offense or trial as ground for vacating or setting aside sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, 7 A.L.R. Fed. 565.

Notice to government of defense based upon defendant's mental condition at time of alleged crime, and court-ordered psychiatric examination thereon, under Rule 12.2, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, 63 A.L.R. Fed. 552.

Competency to stand trial of criminal defendant diagnosed as "schizophrenic" - modern federal cases, 63 A.L.R. Fed. 696.

Pathological gambling as basis of defense of insanity in federal criminal case, 76 A.L.R. Fed. 749.

### **31-9-1.1. Determination of competency; evaluation and determination.**

A. A defendant's competency shall be evaluated by a psychologist or psychiatrist or other qualified professional recognized by the district court as an expert. The qualified professional who evaluates a defendant's competency shall prepare an evaluation report and submit the report as ordered by the court.

B. An evaluation report shall include a qualified professional's opinion as to whether a defendant is competent to stand trial and has:

(1) a sufficient, present ability to consult with the defendant's lawyer with a reasonable degree of rational understanding;

(2) a rational and factual understanding of the proceedings against the defendant; and

(3) the capacity to assist in the defendant's own defense and to comprehend the reasons for punishment.

C. If, in the opinion of the qualified professional, a defendant is not competent to stand trial, an evaluation report shall include the qualified professional's opinion as to whether the defendant:

(1) satisfies the criteria for involuntary commitment in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code [Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978] and whether:

(a) as a result of a mental disorder, the defendant presents a likelihood of serious harm to the defendant's self or others;

(b) the defendant needs and is likely to benefit from involuntary commitment and treatment; and

(c) the proposed commitment is consistent with the treatment needs of the defendant and with the least drastic means principle; or

(2) satisfies the criteria for involuntary treatment in accordance with the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act [43-1B-1 to 43-1B-14 NMSA 1978] and whether the defendant:

(a) has a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder;

(b) has demonstrated a history of lack of compliance with treatment for a mental disorder;

(c) is unwilling or unlikely, as a result of a mental disorder, to voluntarily participate in outpatient treatment that would enable the person to live safely in the community without court supervision;

(d) is in need of assisted outpatient treatment as the least restrictive appropriate alternative to prevent a relapse or deterioration likely to result in serious harm to the defendant's self or others; and

(e) will likely benefit from assisted outpatient treatment and have the defendant's best interests served.

D. A competency hearing shall be held:

- (1) within thirty days from the date an evaluation report is submitted to the court for an incarcerated defendant charged with a felony;
- (2) within ten days from the date an evaluation report is submitted to the court for an incarcerated defendant not charged with a felony; and
- (3) within ninety days after an evaluation report is submitted to the court for a defendant who is not incarcerated.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-9-1.1, enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 107, § 2 and by Laws 1988, ch. 108, § 2; 1993, ch. 240, § 2; 1993, ch. 249, § 2; 2025, ch. 4, § 2.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For rule of criminal procedure governing defenses of insanity, incompetency, and lack of capacity, see Rule 5-602 NMRA.

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, required competency evaluation reports to include a qualified professional's opinion as to whether the defendant is competent to stand trial and, if it is the qualified professional's opinion that the defendant is not competent to stand trial, required the evaluation report to include the qualified professional's opinion as to whether the defendant satisfies the criteria for involuntary commitment under the Mental Health and Development Disabilities Code or for involuntary treatment in accordance with the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act, and set time limits for holding competency hearings; added new subsection designation "A"; in Subsection A, after "shall be", deleted "professionally", after "as an expert", deleted "and a report shall be submitted" and added "The qualified professional who evaluates a defendant's competency shall prepare an evaluation report and submit the report"; added Subsections B and C; added subsection designation "D"; and in Subsection D, in the introductory clause, added "competency" preceding "hearing", after "hearing", deleted "on the issue of the competency of" and added "shall be held", added paragraph designations "(1)" and "(2)", in Paragraph D(1), after the paragraph designation, added "within thirty days from the date an evaluation report is submitted to the court for", and after "charged with a felony", deleted "shall be held by the district court within a reasonable time, but in no event later than thirty days after notification to the court of completion of the diagnostic evaluation. In the case of", in Paragraph D(2), after the paragraph designation, added "within ten days from the date an evaluation report is submitted to the court for", after "charged with a felony", deleted "the court shall hold a hearing and determine his competency within ten days of notification to the court of completion of the diagnostic evaluation"; and added Paragraph D(3).

**The 1993 amendment**, rewrote the section to the extent that a detailed comparison was impracticable. The section was also amended by Laws 1993, ch. 240, § 2, effective

June 18, 1993. The section was set out as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 249, § 2. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

**Standard for competency.** — The standard for competency is met if "defendant understands the nature and significance of the proceedings, has a factual understanding of the charges, and is able to assist his attorney in his defense". *State v. Najar*, 1986-NMCA-068, 104 N.M. 540, 724 P.2d 249, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 460, 722 P.2d 1182; *State v. Duarte*, 1996-NMCA-038, 121 N.M. 553, 915 P.2d 309, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 444, 913 P.2d 251.

**Five year delay between arraignment and competency hearing.** — The defendant was not denied due process when there was a five year delay between his arraignment and his competency hearing where much of the delay occurred awaiting a determination of the defendant's competency by a qualified professional; the district court ordered the defendant's attorney to request a competency hearing when the attorney received the report of the mental evaluation; no mental evaluation was submitted to the district court despite repeated court-ordered evaluations; and the defendant did not oppose his continued commitment. *State v. Demongey*, 2008-NMCA-066, 144 N.M. 333, 187 P.3d 679, cert. quashed, 2011-NMCERT-001, 150 N.M. 560, 263 P.3d 902.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Right of indigent defendant in state criminal case to assistance of psychiatrist or psychologist, 85 A.L.R.4th 19.

Qualification of nonmedical psychologist to testify as to mental condition or competency, 72 A.L.R.5th 529.

### **31-9-1.2. Determination of competency; commitment; report.**

A. If, after a competency hearing, a court determines that a defendant is not competent to stand trial, the court shall determine if the defendant is dangerous. A defendant who is not competent is dangerous if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant presents a serious threat of:

(1) committing murder in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

(2) inflicting great bodily harm, as defined in Section 30-1-12 NMSA 1978, on another person;

(3) committing criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;

(4) committing criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;

(5) committing abuse of a child, as provided in Subsection D of Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

(6) violating a provision of the Sexual Exploitation of Children Act [Chapter 30, Article 6A NMSA 1978];

(7) committing human trafficking, as provided in Section 30-52-1 NMSA 1978;

(8) committing aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978;  
or

(9) committing any "serious violent offense" enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection L of Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978 with the use of a firearm.

B. If the court determines that a defendant is not dangerous, the court may order the defendant to participate in a community-based competency restoration program or dismiss the criminal case without prejudice in the interests of justice; provided that if the court dismisses the case, the court may:

(1) advise the district attorney to consider the initiation of involuntary civil commitment proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code [Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978] and may detain the defendant for a maximum of seven days to facilitate initiation of those proceedings; or

(2) advise the district attorney to consider initiation of proceedings in accordance with the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act [43-1B-1 to 43-1B-14 NMSA 1978] but may not detain the defendant for that purpose.

C. A community-based competency restoration program is a court-approved program that is designed to restore a defendant to competency and provided in an outpatient setting in the community where the defendant resides. A court may order a defendant to participate in a community-based competency restoration program for no longer than ninety days, and:

(1) within thirty days of the date that the defendant was ordered to participate in a community-based competency restoration program, the person supervising the defendant's competency restoration program shall submit a progress report to the court and both parties that includes:

(a) an initial assessment of the defendant and a description of the competency restoration programming that will be provided to the defendant;

(b) a report on the defendant's amenability to competency restoration;

(c) an assessment of the program's capacity to provide appropriate programming for the defendant; and

(d) an opinion as to the probability of the defendant being restored to competency within ninety days from the date that the court ordered the defendant's participation in the community-based competency restoration program;

(2) no later than ninety days from the date that the court ordered the defendant to participate in a community-based competency restoration program, the court shall hold a review hearing and determine if the defendant has been restored to competency and at least seven days prior to the review hearing, the person supervising the defendant's competency restoration program shall submit a written report that includes:

(a) an opinion as to whether the defendant has been restored to competency;

(b) if the defendant is receiving medication, information from the prescribing physician about the type, dosage and effect of the medication on the defendant's appearance, actions and demeanor;

(c) if the defendant remains not competent, an opinion as to whether the defendant satisfies the criteria for involuntary commitment in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code and whether: 1) as a result of mental disorder, the defendant presents a likelihood of serious harm to the defendant's self or others; 2) the defendant needs and is likely to benefit from involuntary commitment and treatment; and 3) the proposed commitment is consistent with the treatment needs of the defendant and with the least drastic means principle; and

(d) if the defendant remains not competent, an opinion as to whether the defendant satisfies the criteria for involuntary treatment in accordance with the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act and whether the defendant: 1) has a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder; 2) has demonstrated a history of lack of compliance with treatment for a mental disorder; 3) is unwilling or unlikely, as a result of a mental disorder, to voluntarily participate in outpatient treatment that would enable the defendant to live safely in the community without court supervision; 4) is in need of assisted outpatient treatment as the least restrictive appropriate alternative to prevent a relapse or deterioration likely to result in serious harm to the defendant's self or others; and 5) will likely benefit from assisted outpatient treatment and have the defendant's best interests served; and

(3) if, after a review hearing, the court finds that the defendant is competent, the case shall proceed to trial, but if the court finds that the defendant remains not competent, the case shall be dismissed without prejudice and the court may advise the district attorney to consider initiating proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code or the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act.



D. If the court determines that a defendant who is not competent is dangerous, the district court may commit the defendant as provided in this section for competency restoration. If the court orders commitment, the court shall enter a transport order that provides for the defendant's return to the local jail within seventy-two hours upon the defendant being restored to competency, completion of the competency restoration program or as otherwise required by the court. A defendant committed for competency restoration shall be provided with treatment available to persons subject to civil commitment, and:

(1) shall be detained by the department of health in a secure, locked facility; and

(2) shall not be released from that facility except pursuant to an order of the court that committed the defendant.

E. The department of health shall admit a defendant for competency restoration within fifteen days of receipt of the court's order of commitment of an incompetent defendant and of the necessary and available documents reasonably required for admission pursuant to written policies adopted by the secretary of health or the secretary's designee. If the secretary of health or the secretary's designee determines that the department of health does not have the ability to meet the needs of the defendant, the secretary or the secretary's designee may refuse admission by providing written certification to the committing court and the parties of the department's inability to meet the needs of the defendant. The certification shall be made within seven days of the receipt of the court's order of commitment and necessary and available documents reasonably required for admission pursuant to written policies adopted by the secretary or the secretary's designee. Within ten days of filing of the certification, the court shall conduct a hearing for further disposition of the criminal case.

F. Within thirty days of a defendant's admission to a department of health facility or an inpatient psychiatric hospital for competency restoration, the department shall file with the court, the state and the defense:

(1) an initial assessment of the defendant and treatment plan;

(2) a report on the defendant's amenability to competency restoration;

(3) an assessment of the department's capacity to provide appropriate treatment for the defendant; and

(4) an opinion as to the probability of the defendant being restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-9-1.2, enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 107, § 3 and by Laws 1988, ch. 108, § 3; 1993, ch. 240, § 3; 1993, ch. 249, § 3; 1999, ch. 149, § 1; 2025, ch. 4, § 3.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For rule of criminal procedure governing defenses of insanity, incompetency, and lack of capacity, see Rule 5-602 NMRA.

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, made changes to the dangerousness standards to refine and expand how the legal system evaluates and addresses defendants deemed incompetent to stand trial, broadened the definition of dangerousness by expanding the list of crimes that trigger mandatory criminal commitment hearings and eligibility for involuntary commitment under the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code or the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act, and clarified language for courts to assess dangerousness standards by specifying that these evaluations must align with stricter timelines and more defined reporting criteria; in Subsection A, after the subsection designation, deleted "When" and added "If", added "a competency" preceding "hearing", after "competent to", deleted "proceed in a criminal case and the court does not find that" and added "stand trial, the court shall determine if", and after "is dangerous", added "A defendant who is not competent is dangerous if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant presents a serious threat of", and added Paragraphs A(1) through A(9); added new subsection designation "B" and redesignated former Subsections B and C as Subsections D and E, respectively, in Subsection B, after the subsection designation, added "If the court determines that a defendant is not dangerous", after "the court may", added "order the defendant to participate in a community-based competency restoration program or", and after "in the interests of justice", deleted "Upon dismissal the court may advise the district attorney to consider initiation of proceedings under the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code and order the defendant confined for a maximum of seven days to facilitate preparation and initiation of a petition pursuant to that code" and added "provided that if the court dismisses the case, the court may:", and added new Paragraphs B(1) and B(2); added a new Subsection C; in Subsection D, in the introductory paragraph, after "If the court determines that a", deleted "defendant charged with a felony is incompetent to proceed in the criminal case, but does not dismiss the criminal case, and the district court at that time makes a specific finding that the", after "defendant", added "who is not competent", after "as provided in this section for", deleted "treatment to attain competency to proceed in a criminal case. The court shall enter an appropriate transport order that also provides for return of the defendant to the local facilities of the court upon completion of the treatment. The defendant so committed" and added "competency restoration. If the court orders commitment, the court shall enter a transport order that provides for the defendant's return to the local jail within seventy-two hours upon the defendant being restored to competency, completion of the competency restoration program or as otherwise required by the court. A defendant committed for competency restoration", after "available to", deleted "involuntarily committed", and after "persons", added "subject to civil commitment"; in

Subsection E, after the subsection designation, added "the department of health shall admit a defendant for competency restoration", after "within", deleted "thirty" and added "fifteen", after "secretary of health or", deleted "his designee, the defendant shall be admitted to a facility designated for the treatment of defendants who are incompetent to stand trial and dangerous. If after conducting an investigation", and added "the secretary's designee", after the next occurrence of "secretary", added "of health or the secretary's designee", and after "The certification shall be made within", deleted "fourteen" and added "seven"; deleted former Subsection D and redesignated former Subsection E as Subsection F; and in Subsection F, in the introductory clause, after "admission to a", added "department of health", after "facility", deleted "to undergo treatment to attain competency to proceed in a criminal case, the person supervising the defendant's treatment" and added "or an inpatient psychiatric hospital for competency restoration, the department", and added new paragraph designations "(1)" through "(4)".

**The 1999 amendment**, effective June 18, 1999, added "and order the defendant confined for a maximum of seven days to facilitate preparation and initiation of a petition pursuant to that code" at the end of Subsection A; in Subsection B, inserted "charged with a felony" following "a defendant", substituted "proceed in the criminal case" for "stand trial", substituted "commit the defendant as provided in this section for" for "order", and deleted "for a period not to exceed one year" following "in a criminal case" in the first sentence; added Subsection C and redesignated the remaining subsections accordingly; and substituted "nine months" for "one year" in Subsection E.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, rewrote the section to the extent that a detailed comparison was impracticable. This section was also amended by Laws 1993, ch. 240, § 3, effective June 18, 1993. The section was set out as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 249, § 3. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

**Rules of evidence apply to dangerousness hearings.** — Where defendant was charged by criminal information with battery upon a peace officer and assault upon a peace officer, and where, while released from jail on the condition that she report to pretrial services, defendant was re-arrested and charged with another count of battery upon a peace officer, and where the state moved to revoke defendant's conditions of release based on the new charge and the failure to comply with conditions of release, and where the district court amended the conditions of release but denied the motion to revoke, and where, pending trial, defendant moved for, and was granted, a competency evaluation to determine if she was competent to stand trial, and where, upon completion and receipt of defendant's competency evaluation, the district court found defendant incompetent to proceed to trial, and where the state filed a notice of intent to raise dangerousness, and where, prior to the dangerousness hearing, defendant was charged in a third case with two counts of indecent exposure, and where, at the dangerousness hearing, the state attempted to introduce into evidence copies of defendant's three criminal complaints and a printout of defendant's criminal history, and where defendant objected to the use of the state's exhibits, claiming that the criminal complaints constituted hearsay with no foundation in sworn testimony and that their

introduction would violate the New Mexico Rules of Evidence, and where the state argued that the Rules of Evidence did not apply to competency or dangerousness hearings, the district court did not err excluding the state's proposed evidence and finding that the New Mexico Rules of Evidence apply to all criminal proceedings under Rule 11-1101(B) NMRA, because under the plain language of Rule 11-1101(B), the Rules of Evidence apply unless a dangerousness hearing falls into one of the listed exceptions, and the plain language of the exceptions listed in Rule 11-1101(D) do not include a dangerousness hearing under NMSA 1978, § 31-9-1.2 or Rule 5-602.2 NMRA. *State v. Archuleta*, 2023-NMCA-077, cert. denied.

**In considering whether reasonable doubt exists**, the court must keep in mind the requirement that a defendant must have sufficient present ability to consult and understand as required under due process of law. *State v. Flores*, 2005-NMCA-135, 138 N.M. 636, 124 P.3d 1175, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-011, 138 N.M. 586, 124 P.3d 564.

**Defense counsel's observations and opinions.** — A court may consider defense counsel's observations and opinions, but those observations and opinions alone cannot trigger reasonable doubts about defendant's competency. *State v. Flores*, 2005-NMCA-135, 138 N.M. 636, 124 P.3d 1175, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-011, 138 N.M. 586, 124 P.3d 564.

**Finding of dangerousness as prerequisite to detention.** — In the context of the competency statutes, the finding of dangerousness is a prerequisite to the applicability of the portions of the statute allowing defendant to be detained for a longer period of time. Thus, the court must make a finding of dangerousness prior to the detention authorized by Section 31-9-1.5 NMSA 1978, but it need not have made such a finding at a prior hearing. *State v. Gallegos*, 1990-NMCA-104, 111 N.M. 110, 802 P.2d 15, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 77, 801 P.2d 659.

**Sufficient evidence supported the district court's conclusion that the state did not meet its burden to establish dangerousness.** — Where defendant's competency became an issue after she was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, and use of a telephone to harass, threaten, annoy, or offend, and where the state filed a motion for a hearing to determine dangerousness, setting forth facts supporting the current charges and listing five other unrelated charges that had been dismissed for various reasons, substantial evidence supported the district court's decision that the state did not meet its burden to prove by clear and convincing evidence that defendant was currently dangerous where the evidence established that defendant fired a rifle but did not intend to shoot the alleged victims, the state never established, or even suggested, in its motion for a dangerousness determination that the prior dismissed charges were relevant or supported a conclusion that defendant was currently dangerous, the state did not present any evidence concerning defendant's current mental state, and medical testimony established that defendant's behavior was amenable to treatment by prescriptions and by other counseling and therapy. *State v. Holbert*, 2024-NMCA-069.

**The district court erred in dismissing the case with prejudice.** — Where defendant's competency became an issue after she was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, and use of a telephone to harass, threaten, annoy, or offend, and where, after a forensic evaluation, the district court dismissed the criminal information with prejudice after a finding that defendant was incompetent to stand trial but was not dangerous, it was error for the court to dismiss the case with prejudice, because dismissal under 31-9-1.2(A) NMSA 1978 is permitted only if it is without prejudice. *State v. Holbert*, 2024-NMCA-069.

### **31-9-1.3. Determination of competency; ninety-day review; reports; continuing treatment.**

A. Within ninety days after a court issues an order committing a defendant for competency restoration, the court, sitting without a jury, shall conduct a review hearing, unless waived by the defense, and shall determine:

- (1) whether the defendant has been restored to competency or remains not competent to stand trial;
- (2) if the defendant remains not competent, whether the defendant is making progress toward being restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial; and
- (3) whether the defendant remains dangerous as determined by the court in accordance with Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978.

B. At least seven days prior to the review hearing, the treatment supervisor shall submit a written progress report to the court, the state and the defense that includes:

- (1) the clinical findings regarding the defendant's progress toward competency restoration and the facts upon which the findings are based;
- (2) an opinion as to whether the defendant has been restored to competency or as to whether the defendant is making progress toward being restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial and whether there is a substantial probability that the defendant will be restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial;
- (3) an opinion as to whether the defendant remains dangerous as determined by the court in accordance with Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978; and
- (4) if the defendant is receiving medication, information from the prescribing physician indicating the type, the dosage and the effect of the medication on the defendant's appearance, actions and demeanor.

C. If the district court finds that the defendant is restored to competency, the district court shall set the matter for trial; provided that if the defendant is in need of continued care or treatment and the department of health agrees to continue to provide it, the district court may order continued care or treatment of the defendant until the conclusion of the criminal proceedings.

D. If the district court finds that the defendant remains not competent but that the defendant is making progress toward being restored to competency, the district court may continue or modify its original commitment order entered pursuant to Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978; provided that:

(1) the question of the defendant's competency shall be reviewed again not later than nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial; and

(2) the treatment supervisor shall submit a written progress report as specified in Subsection B of this section at least seven days prior to such hearing.

E. If the district court finds that the defendant remains not competent, that the defendant is not making progress toward being restored to competency and that there is not a substantial probability that the defendant will be restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial, the court shall proceed pursuant to Section 31-9-1.4 NMSA 1978. However, if the defendant is in need of continued care and treatment and the department of health agrees to continue to provide it, the district court may order continued care or treatment of the defendant by the department until the conclusion of the criminal proceedings.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-9-1.3, enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 107, § 4 and by Laws 1988, ch. 108, § 4; 1993, ch. 240, § 4; 1993, ch. 249, § 4; 1999, ch. 149, § 2; 2025, ch. 4, § 4.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For rule of criminal procedure governing defenses of insanity, incompetency, and lack of capacity, see Rule 5-602 NMRA.

**The 2025 amendment,** effective June 20, 2025, clarified certain language related to the determination of competency, and clarified the procedures related to the treatment of defendants who have been determined not to be competent to stand trial; in Subsection A, in the introductory clause, after "Within ninety days", deleted "of the entry of the order committing an incompetent defendant to undergo treatment, the district court" and added "after a court issues an order committing a defendant for competency restoration , the court", in Paragraph A(1), after "whether the defendant", deleted "is competent to proceed in the criminal case; and, if not" and added "has been restored to competency or remains not competent to stand trial", and in Paragraph A(2), after the paragraph designation, added "if the defendant remains not competent", and after "within nine

months from the date", deleted "of the original finding of incompetency" and added "the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial"; in Subsection B, Paragraph B(1), after "the clinical findings", deleted "of the treatment supervisor" and added "regarding the defendant's progress toward competency restoration", in Paragraph B(2), after "opinion", deleted "of the treatment supervisor", after both occurrences of "within nine months from the date", deleted "of the original finding of incompetency" and added "the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial", and in Paragraph B(3), after the paragraph designation, added "an opinion as to", and after "Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978", deleted "or whether the defendant satisfies the criteria for involuntary commitment contained in the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code"; in Subsection C, after "continued care or treatment and the", deleted "supervisor of the defendant's treatment" and added "department of health"; in Subsection D, Paragraph D(1), after "no later than nine months from the", deleted "original determination of incompetency to proceed in a criminal case" and added "date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial"; and in Subsection E, after "within nine months from the date", deleted "of the original finding of incompetency the district court" and added "the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial, the court", and after "continued care and treatment and the", deleted "supervisor of the defendant's treatment" and added "department of health", and after "continued care or treatment of the defendant by the", deleted "facility or program pending" and added "department until".

**The 1999 amendment**, effective June 18, 1999, substituted "nine months" for "one year" throughout the section; substituted "proceed in the criminal case" for "stand trial or to plead" in Subsection A(1); added Subsection A(3); added "whether there is a substantial probability that the defendant will attain competency within nine months from the date of the original finding of incompetency" in Subsection B(2); and added Subsection B(3), redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, inserted "district" preceding "court" throughout the section; inserted "to proceed in a criminal case" in the introductory paragraph of Subsection D, and substituted "original determination of incompetency to proceed in a criminal case" for "first review hearing" in Subsection D(1). This section was also amended by Laws 1993, ch. 240, § 4, effective June 18, 1993. The section was set out as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 249, § 4. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

#### **31-9-1.4. Determination of competency; incompetent defendants.**

If at any time the district court determines that there is not a substantial probability that the defendant will be restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial, the district court may:

A. hold a criminal commitment hearing in accordance with Section 31-9-1.5 NMSA 1978 within three months if the defendant is charged with:

(1) murder in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

(2) a felony involving infliction of great bodily harm, as defined in Section 30-1-12 NMSA 1978, on another person;

(3) criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;

(4) criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;

(5) abuse of a child, as provided in Subsection D of Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

(6) a crime provided for in the Sexual Exploitation of Children Act [Chapter 30, Article 6A NMSA 1978];

(7) human trafficking, as provided in Section 30-52-1 NMSA 1978;

(8) aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; or

(9) any "serious violent offense" enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection L of Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978 with the use of a firearm;

B. release the defendant from custody and dismiss the criminal case with prejudice; or

C. dismiss the criminal case without prejudice in the interest of justice; provided that if the treatment supervisor reports to the court that the defendant satisfies the criteria for involuntary commitment in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code [Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978], the department of health shall initiate those proceedings, and the court may order the defendant confined for a maximum of seven days to facilitate the initiation of those proceedings; and provided further that the district attorney may initiate involuntary commitment proceedings in the department's stead.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-9-1.4, enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 107, § 5 and by Laws 1988, ch. 108, § 5; 1993, ch. 240, § 5; 1993, ch. 249, § 5; 1999, ch. 149, § 3; 2025, ch. 4, § 5.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For rule of criminal procedure governing defenses of insanity, incompetency, and lack of capacity, see Rule 5-602 NMRA.



**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, clarified certain language related to competency proceedings for defendants who have been found not competent to stand trial, and revised the list of crimes for which the district court may hold criminal commitment hearings for defendants who have been found not competent to stand trial; in the introductory clause, after "defendant will", deleted "become competent to proceed in a criminal case within a reasonable period of time not to exceed nine months from the date of the original finding of incompetency" and added "be restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial", in Subsection A, after the subsection designation, deleted "hear the matter pursuant to" and added "hold a criminal commitment hearing in accordance with", after "the defendant is charged with", deleted the remainder of the subsection, and added Paragraphs B(1) through B(9); and in Subsection C, after "to facilitate the initiation of", deleted "a petition pursuant to the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities code. The district court may refer the defendant to the district attorney for possible initiation of proceedings under the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code" and added "those proceedings; and provided further that the district attorney may initiate involuntary commitment proceedings in the department's stead."

**The 1999 amendment**, effective June 18, 1999, substituted "nine months" for "one year" in the introductory paragraph, rewrote Subsection A which read: "set the matter for hearing pursuant to Section 31-9-1.5 NMSA 1978", and added the second sentence in Subsection C.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, rewrote the section to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable. This section was also amended by Laws 1993, ch. 240, § 5, effective June 18, 1993. The section was set out as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 249, § 5. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

### **31-9-1.5. Determination of competency; criminal commitment; evidentiary hearing.**

A. If the court determines that there is not a substantial probability that a defendant who is not competent to stand trial will be restored to competency, a commitment hearing to determine the sufficiency of the evidence of the defendant's guilt shall be held if the defendant is charged with:

(1) murder in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

(2) a felony involving infliction of great bodily harm, as defined in Section 30-1-12 NMSA 1978, on another person;

(3) criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;

(4) criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;

(5) abuse of a child, as provided in Subsection D of Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

(6) a crime provided for in the Sexual Exploitation of Children Act [Chapter 30, Article 6A NMSA 1978];

(7) human trafficking, as provided in Section 30-52-1 NMSA 1978;

(8) aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; or

(9) any "serious violent offense" enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection L of Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978 with the use of a firearm.

B. A criminal commitment hearing shall be conducted by the district court without a jury. The state and the defendant may introduce evidence relevant to the question of the defendant's guilt of the crime charged. The district court may admit hearsay or affidavit evidence on secondary matters such as testimony to establish the chain of possession of physical evidence, laboratory reports, authentication of transcripts taken by official reporters, district court and business records and public documents.

C. If the evidence does not establish by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant committed the crime charged, the district court shall dismiss the criminal case with prejudice.

D. If the district court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant committed the crime charged and has not made a finding of dangerousness in accordance with Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978, the district court shall dismiss the criminal case without prejudice.

E. If the district court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant committed the crime charged and enters a finding that the defendant remains not competent to stand trial and remains dangerous as determined by the court in accordance with Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978:

(1) the defendant shall be detained by the department of health in a secure, locked facility;

(2) the defendant shall not be released from that secure facility except pursuant to an order of the court that committed the defendant or upon expiration of the period of time equal to the maximum sentence to which the defendant would have been subject had the defendant been convicted in a criminal proceeding;

(3) significant changes in the defendant's condition, including trial competency and dangerousness, shall be reported in writing to the district court, state and defense; and

(4) at least every two years, the district court shall conduct a hearing upon notice to the parties and the department of health charged with detaining the defendant. At the hearing, the court shall enter findings on the issues of trial competency and dangerousness:

(a) upon a finding that the defendant is competent to proceed in a criminal case, the court shall continue with the criminal proceeding;

(b) if the defendant continues to remain not competent to stand trial and dangerous in accordance with Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978, the court shall review the defendant's competency and dangerousness every two years until expiration of the period of commitment equal to the maximum sentence to which the defendant would have been subject had the defendant been convicted in a criminal proceeding; and

(c) if the court finds upon its two-year review hearing that the defendant is no longer dangerous, the defendant shall be released.

F. At any time, including after a court dismisses a case against a defendant, the department of health or the district attorney may initiate involuntary commitment proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code [Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978] or proceedings in accordance with the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act [43-1B-1 to 43-1B-14 NMSA 1978]. If the district attorney indicates an intent to initiate involuntary commitment proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, the court may detain the defendant for a maximum of seven days only to facilitate the initiation of those proceedings at any licensed psychiatric hospital.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-9-1.5, enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 107, § 6 and by 1988, ch. 108, § 6; 1993, ch. 240, § 6; 1993, ch. 249, § 6; 1999, ch. 149, § 4; 2025, ch. 4, § 6.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For rule of criminal procedure governing defenses of insanity, incompetency, and lack of capacity, see Rule 5-602 NMRA.

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, modified the list of offenses for criminal commitment proceedings, and allowed the department of health or district attorneys to initiate involuntary commitment proceedings under the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code or the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act, with detention limited to seven days to facilitate such proceedings; in the section heading, after "competency", added "criminal commitment"; in Subsection A, in the introductory clause, after the subsection designation, deleted "As provided for in Subsection A of Section 31-9-1.4 NMSA 1978, A" and added "If the court determines that there is not a substantial probability that a defendant who is not competent to stand trial will be restored to competency, a commitment", after "sufficiency of the evidence", added "of the defendant's guilt", after "shall be held if", deleted "the case is not dismissed and if",

and after "defendant is charged with", deleted the remainder of the paragraph, and added Paragraphs A(1) through A(9); added new subsection designation "B" and redesignated formers Subsections B through D as Subsections C through E, respectively; in Subsection B, after the subsection designation, added "A criminal commitment"; in Subsection C, after "the defendant committed", deleted "a felony that involves the infliction of great bodily harm on another person; a felony that involves the use of a firearm; aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978; or criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978" and added "the crime charged", after "dismiss the case with prejudice", deleted the remainder of the paragraph; in Subsection D, deleted the last sentence of the paragraph; in Subsection E, in the introductory paragraph, after "the defendant committed", deleted "a felony that involves the infliction of great bodily harm on another person; a felony that involves the use of a firearm; aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978; or criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978" and added "the crime charged", in Paragraph E(4), Subparagraph E(4)(b), after "convicted in a criminal proceeding", deleted "provided that if the treatment supervisor recommends that the defendant be committed pursuant to the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, the court may at any time proceed pursuant to Subsection C of Section 31-9-1.4 NMSA 1978", and in Subparagraph E(4)(c), after the subparagraph designation, deleted "if the defendant is not committed pursuant to Sections 31-9-1 through 31-9-1.5 NMSA 1978 or"; and added a new Subsection F.

**The 1999 amendment**, effective June 18, 1999, inserted "if the case is not dismissed and if the defendant is charged with a felony that involves the infliction of great bodily harm on another person; a felony that involves the use of a firearm; aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-19-11 NMSA 1978; or criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978" in Subsection A; in Subsections B and D substituted "a felony that involves the infliction of great bodily harm on another person; a felony that involves the use of a firearm; aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-19-11 NMSA 1978; or criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978" for "a crime"; inserted "and the court may order the defendant confined for a maximum of seven days to facilitate preparation and initiation of a petition pursuant to that code" in Subsections C and D; substituted "Section 31-9-1.2" for "Subsections B and C of Section 39-1-1.2" in Subsection C; substituted "enters" for "has previously made" and "remains incompetent to proceed and remains" for "is"; and deleted "Subsections B and C of" following "pursuant to" in Subsection D; inserted "and dangerous pursuant to Section 31-9-1.2 NMSA 1978", deleted "subject" following "convicted" and added the proviso in Subsection D(4)(b), and deleted "Subsection G of" following "defined in" in Subsection D(4)(c).

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, rewrote the section to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable. This section was also amended by Laws 1993, ch.

240, § 6, effective June 18, 1993. The section was set out as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 249, § 6. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

**Felonies involving great bodily harm.** — Subsection D of Section 31-9-1.5 NMSA 1978 allows the criminal commitment of a defendant who commits a felony in a manner that results in great bodily harm to another person and is not limited only to felonies that contain the infliction of great bodily harm as an element necessary for conviction. *State v. Lopez*, 2011-NMCA-071, 150 N.M. 14, 256 P.3d 977, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-005, 150 N.M. 666, 265 P.3d 717.

**Robbery.** — Where, at a commitment hearing, the parties stipulated that defendant approached an employee of a hotel in the hotel laundry room, struck the employee in the face with a closed fist, beat the employee over the head with a hard plastic tube, took the keys to the hotel office, and took money from the hotel cash drawer; and the court found that defendant had committed armed robbery that resulted in great bodily harm to the victim, the court did not err in ordering defendant's commitment. *State v. Lopez*, 2011-NMCA-071, 150 N.M. 14, 256 P.3d 977, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-005, 150 N.M. 666, 265 P.3d 717.

**Standard of proof.** — The appropriate standards of proof for the initial determination as well as the redetermination of competency is a preponderance of the evidence. *State v. Chavez*, 2008-NMSC-001, 143 N.M. 205, 174 P.3d 988.

**Credit for presentence confinement.** — Presentence confinement credit should be credited to criminal commitment under Subsection D of Section 31-9-1.5 NMSA 1978 to the same extent the confinement would have been credited against a sentence for a criminal conviction. *State v. Lopez*, 2011-NMCA-071, 150 N.M. 14, 256 P.3d 977, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-005, 150 N.M. 666, 265 P.3d 717.

Where, before trial, the court found that defendant was incompetent to proceed to trial and that defendant had committed robbery that resulted in great bodily harm to another person and the court committed defendant to twelve years, defendant was entitled to presentence confinement credit toward the commitment period. *State v. Lopez*, 2011-NMCA-071, 150 N.M. 14, 256 P.3d 977, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-005, 150 N.M. 666, 265 P.3d 717.

**Credit for pre-conviction confinement.** — To the extent that defendant's pre-conviction confinement would have been credited against defendant's sentence had defendant been convicted of a crime, defendant's pre-conviction confinement must be credited against the term of defendant's criminal commitment. *State v. Lopez*, 2009-NMCA-112, 147 N.M. 279, 219 P.3d 1288, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-009, 147 N.M. 421, 224 P.3d 648.

Where defendant was committed for treatment to attain competency to stand trial for a period of two years and two months before defendant was committed for a third-degree felony offense of aggravated battery against a household member, the period of

defendant's pre-conviction confinement should have been credited to the term of defendant's criminal commitment. *State v. Lopez*, 2009-NMCA-112, 147 N.M. 279, 219 P.3d 1288, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-009, 147 N.M. 421, 224 P.3d 648.

**This section does not violate any constitutional guarantee.** *State v. Adonis*, 2008-NMSC-059, 145 N.M. 102, 194 P.3d 717.

**Jurisdiction of an appeal of a lifetime criminal commitment lies with the supreme court.** — Where defendant was charged with an open count of murder, and where the district court found by clear and convincing evidence that defendant committed first-degree murder, determined that defendant was dangerous and not competent to stand trial, and ordered that defendant be detained for life by the New Mexico department of health pursuant to 31-9-1.5(D) NMSA 1978, jurisdiction of defendant's appeal properly lied in the New Mexico supreme court, because commitment pursuant to 31-9-1.5 NMSA 1978 results in a loss of liberty, and the deprivation of liberty resulting from a lifetime criminal commitment is equivalent to the deprivation of liberty under a lifetime criminal sentence, and N.M. Const. Art. VI, § 2 confers jurisdiction on the New Mexico supreme court for cases imposing a sentence of life imprisonment. *State v. Baca*, 2019-NMSC-014.

**Sufficient evidence of willful and deliberate murder.** — Where defendant was charged with an open count of murder for killing his father with a pickaxe, and where the district court found by clear and convincing evidence that defendant committed first-degree murder, determined that defendant was dangerous and not competent to stand trial, and ordered that defendant be detained for life by the New Mexico department of health pursuant to 31-9-1.5(D) NMSA 1978, and where defendant conceded that he killed his father, evidence that the killing involved a prolonged, sustained attack and defendant's statements and actions before, during, and after the killing, including arming himself with the pickaxe, was sufficient to establish that the murder was willful, deliberate, and premeditated. *State v. Baca*, 2019-NMSC-014.

**The basic sentences for misdemeanor crimes** cannot be used to calculate the term of commitment under Subsection D of this section. *State v. Demongey*, 2008-NMCA-066, 144 N.M. 333, 187 P.3d 679, cert. quashed, 2011-NMCERT-001, 150 N.M. 560, 263 P.3d 902.

**Redetermination of competency.** — The proper standard of proof for a redetermination of the competency of a defendant to stand trial, following a prior determination that the defendant is incompetent to stand trial, is a preponderance of the evidence. *State v. Chavez*, 2008-NMSC-001, 143 N.M. 205, 174 P.3d 988.

**Generally.** — Commitment pursuant to this section is not punishment. *State v. Spriggs-Gore*, 2003-NMCA-046, 133 N.M. 479, 64 P.3d 506, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 539, 65 P.3d 1094.

**Constitutionality.** — This section does not unconstitutionally deprive defendants of due process. *State v. Spriggs-Gore*, 2003-NMCA-046, 133 N.M. 479, 64 P.3d 506, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 539, 65 P.3d 1094.

This section does not abrogate a defendant's constitutional rights. *State v. Spriggs-Gore*, 2003-NMCA-046, 133 N.M. 479, 64 P.3d 506, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 539, 65 P.3d 1094.

**Competency determinations implicate due process.** — Competency determinations implicate due process rights. A court violates a defendant's due process rights when it fails to inquire into competency after the defendant presents enough evidence to entitle him to a hearing on the issue. A hearing on the defendant's competency requires adequate notice, an adversarial hearing before an independent decision-maker, and a written statement from the fact finder clarifying the evidence relied upon and reasons for the decision. *State v. Gutierrez*, 2015-NMCA-082, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-008.

Where defendant was charged with numerous counts of attempted first-degree murder and other serious charges related to an incident where he trapped four adults and two children in a trailer and threatened them with firearms over several hours, the initial district judge, following a competency hearing, found that defendant was not competent to stand trial, that he was dangerous, and that he was not likely to become competent; defendant was then provided a hearing before a different district court judge for the sole purpose of determining whether defendant had mental retardation; the second district court judge found, on her own motion, without notice, and without any argument from the state, that defendant had been proved competent beyond a reasonable doubt; defendant was denied his procedural right to effective and timely notice and the opportunity to present arguments and evidence before having a decision rendered against him as to competency; moreover the district judge, in failing to examine the factors for determining competency, never provided defendant with any justification for the decision and subsequent actions. *State v. Gutierrez*, 2015-NMCA-082, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-008.

**The prosecution of a defendant who is incompetent to stand trial violates due process.** — Where defendant was tried and convicted of numerous counts of attempted first-degree murder and other serious charges related to an incident where he trapped four adults and two children in a trailer and threatened them with firearms over several hours, the initial district judge found, following a competency hearing prior to trial, that defendant was not competent to stand trial, that he was dangerous, and that he was not likely to become competent; defendant was later provided a hearing before a different district judge for the sole purpose of determining whether defendant had mental retardation; the second district court judge found that defendant had been proved competent beyond a reasonable doubt without making any findings as to whether defendant understood the nature and significance of the proceedings, whether defendant had a factual understanding of the charges or whether defendant was able to assist in his own defense, and, without any evidence presented regarding whether defendant had made or could make progress toward competency, disregarded the prior

ruling made by the initial district judge that it was unlikely defendant would attain competency in the future; the evidence presented at the mental retardation hearing was insufficient to rebut the existing presumption that defendant was incompetent to stand trial. Defendant's trial violated due process. *State v. Gutierrez*, 2015-NMCA-082, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-008.

**Suppression.** — Suppression hearing is not a legal impossibility at a hearing pursuant to this section; the statute does not preclude a defendant's attorney from putting on a complete defense at such a hearing. *State v. Spriggs-Gore*, 2003-NMCA-046, 133 N.M. 479, 64 P.3d 506, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 539, 65 P.3d 1094.

Defendant, who was found incompetent to stand trial for first degree murder, was incompetent to knowingly and intelligently waive her constitutional rights; thus all of defendant's statements made after the first administration of her Miranda rights had to be suppressed. *State v. Spriggs-Gore*, 2003-NMCA-046, 133 N.M. 479, 64 P.3d 506, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 539, 65 P.3d 1094.

**Proof of state of mind required.** — In a case of first degree murder, the state has to prove a deliberate intention to kill, which "may be inferred from all of the facts and circumstances of the killing." At a hearing under this section, the defendant is equally entitled to marshal a factual case that disproves either direct or inferential evidence that he had formed, or had the opportunity to form, a deliberate intent to kill. *State v. Taylor*, 2000-NMCA-072, 129 N.M. 376, 8 P.3d 863, cert. quashed, 131 N.M. 64, 33 P.3d 284.

**Defenses not available at Subsection A hearing.** — The defenses of insanity and inability to form a specific intent are not available at a hearing conducted pursuant to Subsection A. *State v. Werner*, 1990-NMCA-019, 110 N.M. 389, 796 P.2d 610, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 704, 789 P.2d 1271.

**Trial court may draw inference as to dangerousness.** — When the trial court has found that a defendant has cruelly treated a two-year-old child by holding her foot in hot water for half a minute and has injured his brother with a knife in the course of a family argument, the trial court may properly draw an inference that defendant is dangerous. *State v. Gallegos*, 1990-NMCA-104, 111 N.M. 110, 802 P.2d 15, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 77, 801 P.2d 659.

**Finding of dangerousness as prerequisite to detention.** — In the context of the competency statutes, the finding of dangerousness is a prerequisite to the applicability of the portions of the statute allowing defendant to be detained for a longer period of time. Thus, the court must make a finding of dangerousness prior to the detention authorized by this section, but it need not have made such a finding at a prior hearing. *State v. Gallegos*, 1990-NMCA-104, 111 N.M. 110, 802 P.2d 15, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 77, 801 P.2d 659.

**Enhancement of commitment term must relate to dangerousness.** — A defendant cannot be criminally committed under a sentence enhancement unless the conduct



invoking the enhancement is a specific marker of dangerousness as defined by statute. *State v. Chorney*, 2001-NMCA-050, 130 N.M. 638, 29 P.3d 538.

**A term of criminal commitment may be increased due to aggravating circumstances that relate to a defendant's dangerousness.** — A term of commitment under this section may be increased under NMSA 1978, § 31-18-15.1 due to aggravating circumstances that bear a direct relation to a defendant's dangerousness and that are supported by clear and convincing evidence. *State v. Quintana*, 2021-NMSC-013, *aff'g* 2019-NMCA-030.

**District court did not err in enhancing defendant's term of criminal commitment.** — Where, following a criminal commitment hearing, the district court found that clear and convincing evidence existed to show that defendant committed the crime of second degree murder, and further found, following a subsequent evidentiary hearing, that the murder had been committed with extreme viciousness and brutality, including the near decapitation of the body, the removal of the genitals, the stabbing of the anus, as well as the numerous wounds to the decedent's head and torso, and that defendant represented a threat to community safety because if released without supervision, there was a danger that defendant would be medically non-compliant and that his psychosis would return, the district court did not err in enhancing defendant's sentence by five years for a total commitment of twenty years, representing the maximum time to which defendant would have been subject had defendant been convicted of the charged offense, because this section clearly indicates that determination of a term of criminal commitment should correspond to the maximum sentence that would have been reached under the Criminal Sentencing Act, including potential enhancement based on aggravating circumstances. *State v. Quintana*, 2021-NMSC-013, *aff'g* 2019-NMCA-030.

**Commitment period may be enhanced based on aggravating circumstances.** — Where defendant was charged with an open count of murder, and where after a hearing on defendant's competency to proceed to trial, the parties stipulated that the evidence was clear and convincing that defendant had committed the crime of second-degree murder, the district court did not err in ordering defendant to be committed to the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute for fifteen years plus five years for aggravating circumstances based in part on the extreme viciousness and brutality of defendant's conduct, because this section permits a commitment equal to the maximum sentence to which the defendant would have been subject had the defendant been convicted in a criminal proceeding, and the legislature has made clear that a sentence may consist of a basic sentence plus additional terms of imprisonment to be imposed after assessment of additional factors. *State v. Quintana*, 2019-NMCA-030, cert. granted.

**Habitual offender enhancement does not apply.** — The habitual offender enhancement (Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978) does not apply to extend a defendant's criminal incompetency commitment. *State v. Chorney*, 2001-NMCA-050, 130 N.M. 638, 29 P.3d 538.

**Defendant's attorney may act as advocate.** — There is nothing in the statute on its face that precludes defendant's attorney from acting as an advocate at a hearing under this section. *State v. Gallegos*, 1990-NMCA-104, 111 N.M. 110, 802 P.2d 15, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 77, 801 P.2d 659.

### **31-9-1.6. Hearing to determine developmental or intellectual disability.**

A. Upon motion of a party or the court, the court shall hold a hearing to determine whether the defendant is not competent due to a developmental or intellectual disability as defined in Subsection E of this section, and the evaluator shall be provided with the necessary and available documents reasonably required for admission pursuant to written policies adopted by the secretary of health or the secretary's designee.

B. If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is not competent to stand trial due to a developmental or intellectual disability and that there is not a substantial probability that the defendant will be restored to competency within nine months from the date the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial, the court shall notify the department of health of the court's finding. Within sixty days of receipt of the court's notification, the department of health shall determine whether the defendant presents a likelihood of serious harm to the defendant's self or others.

C. If the department of health determines that the defendant presents a likelihood of serious harm to self or others, the department shall initiate involuntary commitment proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code [Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978] if the defendant is charged with:

- (1) murder in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;
- (2) a felony involving infliction of great bodily harm, as defined in Section 30-1-12 NMSA 1978, on another person;
- (3) criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;
- (4) criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;
- (5) abuse of a child, as provided in Subsection D of Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;
- (6) a crime provided for in the Sexual Exploitation of Children Act [Chapter 30, Article 6A NMSA 1978];
- (7) human trafficking, as provided in Section 30-52-1 NMSA 1978;

(8) aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; or

(9) any "serious violent offense" enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection L of Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978 with the use of a firearm.

D. After the involuntary commitment hearing or upon expiration of fourteen months from the court's initial determination that the defendant is not competent to stand trial, the criminal case shall be dismissed without prejudice.

E. As used in this section, "developmental or intellectual disability" means significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior. An intelligence quotient of seventy or below on a reliably administered intelligence quotient test shall be presumptive evidence of developmental or intellectual disability.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-9-1.6, enacted by Laws 1997, ch. 153, § 1; 1999, ch. 149, § 5; 2023, ch. 113, § 10; 2025, ch. 4, § 7.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, allowed the department of health to initiate involuntary commitment proceedings under the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, and modified the list of offenses for involuntary commitment proceedings; in Subsection A, after "Upon motion of", deleted "the defense" and added "a party or the court", and after "Subsection E of this section", added "and the evaluator shall be provided with the necessary and available documents reasonably required for admission pursuant to written policies adopted by the secretary of health or the secretary's designee"; in Subsection B, after "nine months from the date", deleted "of the original finding of incompetency, then, no later than sixty days from notification to the secretary of health or the secretary's designee of the court's findings, the department of health shall perform an evaluation to" and added "the court determined the defendant is not competent to stand trial, the court shall notify the department of health of the court's findings. Within sixty days of receipt of the court's notification, the department of health shall"; and in Subsection C, after "the department shall", deleted "commence proceedings pursuant to Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978" and added "initiate involuntary commitment proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code", and after "is charged with", deleted "murder in the first degree, first degree criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual contact of a minor or arson in the initial proceedings, and the court presiding over the initial proceedings shall enter a finding that the respondent presents a likelihood of harm to others", and added Paragraphs C(1) through C(9).

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, updated terms relating to developmental and intellectual disabilities; in the section heading, deleted "mental retardation" and added "developmental or intellectual disability"; and deleted "mental

retardation" and added "a developmental or intellectual disability" throughout the Section.

**The 1999 amendment**, effective June 18, 1999, substituted "to determine whether the defendant has mental retardation as defined in Subsection E of this section" for "prior to one year after a defendant was determined to be incompetent to stand trial" in Subsection A; substituted "has mental retardation and that there is not a substantial probability that the defendant will become competent to proceed in a criminal case within a reasonable period of time not to exceed nine months from the date of the original finding of incompetency, then no later than sixty days from notification to the secretary of health or his designee of the court's findings" for "is mentally retarded, then no later than one year from the court's initial determination that the defendant is incompetent to stand trial" in Subsection B; in Subsection C, inserted "murder in the" following "charged with", and deleted "homicide" preceding "first degree", inserted "criminal" following "first degree", and deleted former Paragraph (2), which read, "may commence proceedings pursuant to Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978 if the defendant was charged with any crime other than first degree homicide, first degree sexual penetration, criminal sexual contact of a minor or arson in the initial proceeding from which he was referred pursuant to this section to the department"; substituted "proceed in a criminal case" for "stand trial" in Subsection D; and substituted "mental retardation" for "mentally retarded" in Subsection E.

**Age of onset is irrelevant.** — Where the defendant had an extreme mental condition resulting from self-inflicted carbon monoxide poisoning that occurred when the defendant was twenty-six years of age, the district court's determination that the defendant had mental retardation was proper. *State v. Trujillo*, 2009-NMSC-012, 146 N.M. 14, 206 P.3d 125, *aff'g*, 2007-NMCA-056, 141 N.M. 668, 160 P.3d 577.

**Commitment of defendants who are accused of lesser crimes.** — Defendants with mental retardation who are dangerous, incompetent and without substantial probability of gaining competence and who are not charged with first degree murder, first degree criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual contact of a minor or arson may not be criminally committed, though they may be civilly committed at the discretion of the district court and the district attorney. *State v. Trujillo*, 2009-NMSC-012, 146 N.M. 14, 206 P.3d 125, *aff'g*, 2007-NMCA-056, 141 N.M. 668, 160 P.3d 577.

Where the defendant was charged with attempted first degree murder, aggravated burglary, aggravated battery and tampering with evidence, and where the district court found that the defendant had mental retardation and was dangerous, incompetent, and without a substantial probability of gaining competence, the defendant may not be criminally committed, though the defendant may be civilly committed at the discretion of the district court and the district attorney. *State v. Trujillo*, 2009-NMSC-012, 146 N.M. 14, 206 P.3d 125, *aff'g*, 2007-NMCA-056, 141 N.M. 668, 160 P.3d 577.

**Age of the onset of mental retardation** is not an element of the definition of mental retardation and is irrelevant in a determination of mental retardation. *State v. Trujillo*,

2007-NMCA-056, 141 N.M. 668, 160 P.3d 577, *aff'd*, 2009-NMSC-012, 146 N.M. 14, 206 P.3d 125.

**Section 31-9-1.6 NMSA 1978 is the sole source of authority** to confine incompetent defendants with mental retardation who are dangerous. *State v. Trujillo*, 2007-NMCA-056, 141 N.M. 668, 160 P.3d 577, *aff'd*, 2009-NMSC-012, 146 N.M. 14, 206 P.3d 125.

**Statutory presumption of mental retardation.** — A reliably administered IQ test resulting in an IQ of seventy or below shall be presumptive evidence of mental retardation; therefore, an IQ test of seventy or below creates a statutory presumption that defendant possesses subaverage general intellectual functioning concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior. *State v. Gutierrez*, 2015-NMCA-082, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-008.

Where defendant was charged with numerous counts of attempted first-degree murder and other serious charges related to an incident where he trapped four adults and two children in a trailer and threatened them with firearms over several hours, and where defendant consistently scored below seventy on all his intelligence assessments over the course of a year and a half, and where one doctor found that defendant had a full-scale IQ of sixty-two, and two other doctors found defendant to be in the “mild mental retardation” range with scores in the lowest percentile on verbal comprehension, the evidence demonstrated that defendant had mental retardation as a matter of law. *State v. Gutierrez*, 2015-NMCA-082, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-008.

**Defendant met the statutory presumption of mental retardation.** — Where defendant was arrested for aggravated battery after allegedly attacking his mother with a pair of garden shears, and where defendant moved for a hearing pursuant to this section to determine whether he was mentally retarded and therefore subject only to civil commitment and not criminal prosecution, the district court abused its discretion in determining that defendant failed to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he was mentally retarded as defined by Subsection E of this section, because defendant met the statutory presumption of mental retardation by showing that he had an IQ of seventy or less and that the test used to determine that IQ was reliably administered. Once the presumption of mental retardation is established, the burden shifts to the state to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that defendant does not have mental retardation, either by establishing that defendant does not have significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning or that he does not have deficits in his adaptive behavior, or both. *State v. Jacob F.*, 2019-NMCA-042.

**Permitting court-appointed psychologist to attend independent evaluation of defendant was not an abuse of discretion.** — Where defendant was charged as a serious youthful offender with two alternative counts of first-degree felony murder, and where the state requested, and the district court allowed, an independent evaluation of defendant’s alleged mental retardation following a court-appointed psychologist’s recommendation that defendant be found incompetent to stand trial due to mental retardation, the district court did not abuse its discretion in granting a defense request

permitting the court-appointed psychologist to attend the state's independent evaluation, because the district court's decision to order a second evaluation was entirely discretionary and, due to the unnecessary delay that had already occurred in the case, the court-appointed psychologist's attendance would ensure that the proceedings were expedited. *State v. Linares*, 2017-NMSC-014.

**District court did not abuse its discretion in finding defendant incompetent. —**

Where defendant was charged as a serious youthful offender with two alternative counts of first-degree felony murder, the district court did not abuse its discretion in finding defendant incompetent to stand trial based on a court-appointed psychologist's testimony that defendant had an IQ of 68, that defendant had mental retardation, that the state failed to overcome the presumption that an accused with an IQ below 70 has mental retardation, and based on evidence adduced at the mental retardation hearing that defendant was incapable of consulting with her attorney with a reasonable degree of rational understanding, that she held a fundamentally incoherent view of the nature of the proceedings that were to be brought against her, and that she would not comprehend the reasons for punishment if she were convicted. *State v. Linares*, 2017-NMSC-014.

**Procedural requirements were met. —** Where defendant was charged as a serious youthful offender with two alternative counts of first-degree felony murder, the proceedings below complied with the mandates of this section where the district court found that defendant was incompetent to stand trial due to mental retardation, that there was not a substantial probability that defendant would become competent within a reasonable period of time not to exceed nine months, and that defendant was a danger to others, and where the district court directed the department of health (DOH) to commence civil commitment proceedings under 43-1-1 NMSA 1978, and where DOH filed a petition with the district court for the involuntary commitment of defendant prompting the district court to commit defendant to the DOH for a period of habilitation not to exceed six months. *State v. Linares*, 2017-NMSC-014.

### **31-9-2. Competency evaluation; mental or functional examination.**

A. Upon motion of a party or the court, the court shall order a mental examination of the defendant before making any determination of the defendant's competency. If the defendant is determined to be indigent, the court shall pay for the costs of the examination from funds available to the court.

B. A court may authorize a district attorney or the department of health to use a report of any examination ordered before a determination of a defendant's competency to stand trial for the purposes of initiating proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code [Chapter 43, Article 1 NMSA 1978] or the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act [Chapter 30, Article 6A NMSA 1978]; provided that the report remains valid pursuant to the time limits set forth in that code or act.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-13-3.2, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 231, § 3; 2025, ch. 4, § 8.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 18, repealed 41-13-3, 1953 Comp., referred to in this section.

**The 2025 amendment,** effective June 20, 2025, provided that a district court may authorize a district attorney or the department of health to use a report of any examination ordered before a determination of a defendant's competency to stand trial for purposes of initiating proceedings in accordance with the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code or the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act; added new subsection designation "A"; in Subsection A, after "Upon motion of", deleted "any defendant" and added "a party or the court"; and added Subsection B.

**Requirements on court.** — Whenever a legitimate concern about the present ability of a defendant to consult and understand is brought to the court's attention, the court is required to consider whatever competency-related evidence is before the court and to determine whether there exists a reasonable doubt as to the defendant's competency to stand trial. If the court determines that there is reasonable doubt as to defendant's competency, the court must have defendant's competency professionally evaluated by a qualified professional who must submit a report to the court. *State v. Flores*, 2005-NMCA-135, 138 N.M. 636, 124 P.3d 1175, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-011, 138 N.M. 586, 124 P.3d 564.

**In considering whether reasonable doubt exists,** the court must keep in mind the requirement that defendant must have sufficient present ability to consult and understand as required under due process of law. *State v. Flores*, 2005-NMCA-135, 138 N.M. 636, 124 P.3d 1175, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-011, 138 N.M. 586, 124 P.3d 564.

**Entire act (article 31-9) should be read and considered together** in arriving at a proper meaning or legislative intent. *State v. Morales*, 1970-NMCA-036, 81 N.M. 333, 466 P.2d 899, cert. denied, 81 N.M. 305, 466 P.2d 871, and cert. denied, 400 U.S. 842, 91 S. Ct. 84, 27 L. Ed. 2d 77.

**Examination depends upon raising of competency issue.** — The mental examination required by this section depends upon a "question" as to mental competency first being raised. A "question" on the issue of mental competency is raised only upon a showing of reasonable cause to believe that the defendant is not competent to stand trial. *State v. Smith*, 1969-NMCA-101, 80 N.M. 742, 461 P.2d 157.

**Defendant's motion makes examination mandatory.** — If a defendant moves for a mental examination, this section makes it mandatory for the trial court to order such an examination before determining defendant's competency and such an examination is

not necessary unless ". . . there is a question as to the mental capacity of a defendant to stand trial . . ." *State v. Hovey*, 1969-NMCA-049, 80 N.M. 373, 456 P.2d 206.

**Motion must include grounds for belief of lack of capacity.** — A motion on behalf of an accused for a judicial determination of mental competency to stand trial shall set forth the ground for belief that such mental capacity is lacking. When the motion does not set forth grounds for reasonable cause to believe the defendant may be insane or mentally incompetent, the motion can be denied. "The statute requires such an examination only when it is shown that there is reasonable cause to believe that an accused may be presently insane or otherwise mentally incompetent." *State v. Hovey*, 1969-NMCA-049, 80 N.M. 373, 456 P.2d 206.

**Otherwise, court not required to grant motion.** — An examination is not necessary, nor is the court required to grant a motion seeking such examination unless there is a question as to the mental capacity of defendant. *State v. Morales*, 1970-NMCA-036, 81 N.M. 333, 466 P.2d 899, cert. denied, 81 N.M. 305, 466 P.2d 871, and cert. denied, 400 U.S. 842, 91 S. Ct. 84, 27 L. Ed. 2d 77.

**Counsel's impressions of defendant's mental state insufficient.** — "Wondering" about defendant's mental capacity which is based solely on counsel's impression was not reasonable cause for a belief that defendant was incompetent to stand trial. *State v. Hovey*, 1969-NMCA-049, 80 N.M. 373, 456 P.2d 206.

**Medical records should be available to attorneys before trial.** — Where there was no showing from the record that the disclosure of a psychiatric report to the prosecuting attorney in any way constituted a violation of defendant's fifth amendment rights, the court will not assume facts not supported by the record. A commitment to a public institution by court order is for essentially a public purpose, no matter who commenced it, and the medical records thereof should be available in advance of trial to both prosecution and defense. *State v. Lopez*, 1969-NMCA-057, 80 N.M. 599, 458 P.2d 851, cert. denied, 80 N.M. 607, 458 P.2d 859, and cert. denied, 398 U.S. 942, 90 S. Ct. 1860, 26 L. Ed. 2d 279 (1970).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 109 et seq.

Validity and construction of statutes providing for psychiatric examination of accused to determine mental condition, 32 A.L.R.2d 434.

Power of court, in absence of statute, to order psychiatric examination of accused for purpose of determining mental condition at time of alleged offense, 17 A.L.R.4th 1274.

Admissibility of results of computer analysis of defendant's mental state, 37 A.L.R.4th 510.



Right of indigent defendant in state criminal case to assistance of psychiatrist or psychologist, 85 A.L.R.4th 19.

Qualification of nonmedical psychologist to testify as to mental condition or competency, 72 A.L.R.5th 529.

### **31-9-3. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1982, ch. 55, § 1; repealed by Laws 2010, ch. 97, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2010, ch. 97, § 1 repealed 31-9-3 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1982, ch. 55, § 1, relating to the plea and verdict of guilty but mentally ill in criminal trials, effective May 19, 2010. For provisions of former section, see the 2009 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-9-4. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1982, ch. 55, § 2; repealed by Laws 2010, ch. 97, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2010, ch. 97, § 1 repealed 31-9-4 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1982, ch. 55, § 2, relating to the sentence upon accepted plea or verdict of guilty but mentally ill, effective May 19, 2010. For provisions of former section, see the 2009 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **Commission of Crimes by Indians (Repealed.)**

#### **31-10-1 to 31-10-3. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1995, ch. 40, § 1 repealed 31-10-1 through 31-10-3 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1864-1865, ch. 21, §§ 1 and 2 and Laws 1889, ch. 140, § 1, relating to commission of crimes by Indians, effective April 5, 1995.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **Appeals and Post-Conviction Remedies**

#### **31-11-1. Stay of execution; release.**

A. All appeals and writs of error in criminal cases have the effect of a stay of execution of the sentence of the district court until the decision of the supreme court or court of appeals.

B. If a defendant is convicted of a capital or violent offense and is sentenced to death or a term of imprisonment not suspended in whole, he shall not be entitled to release pending appeal.

C. If a defendant is convicted of a noncapital offense other than a violent offense and is sentenced to a term of imprisonment not suspended in whole, he shall not be entitled to release pending appeal unless the court finds:

(1) by clear and convincing evidence that the person is not likely to flee or pose a danger to the safety of any other person or the community if released; and

(2) that the appeal is not for the purpose of delay and raises a substantial question of law or fact likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial.

D. As used in Subsections B and C of this section, "violent offense" means:

(1) kidnaping;

(2) criminal sexual penetration in the first or second degree;

(3) armed robbery;

(4) murder in the second degree;

(5) aggravated burglary;

(6) aggravated arson; or

(7) assault with intent to commit violent felony upon peace officer.

E. In all parole and probation revocation proceedings, where the alleged violation by the parolee or probationer of the conditions of release poses a threat to himself or others, the defendant shall not be entitled to be released on bail pending the decision on revocation. In those instances where the state has failed to conduct a preliminary parole revocation hearing on a parolee held for parole violations within sixty days of arrest, the parolee shall be eligible for bail. In all cases, the final parole revocation hearing shall be scheduled for hearing within sixty days of the parolee's return to the penitentiary. In the case of probation violation, if the final probation revocation hearing is not brought before the court within sixty days, then the probationer shall be eligible for bail.

**History:** Laws 1917, ch. 43, § 58; 1927, ch. 93, § 10; C.S. 1929, § 105-2532; 1941 Comp., § 42-1502; 1953 Comp., § 41-15-2; Laws 1966, ch. 28, § 59; 1981, ch. 232, § 1; 1988, ch. 3, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For rule of criminal procedure regarding release during trial, and release pending sentence, motion for new trial and appeal, see Rule 5-402 NMRA.

For similar appellate rule, see Rule 12-207 NMRA.

For writs of error, see Rule 12-503 NMRA.

**The 1988 amendment,** effective February 12, 1988, rewrote former Subsection B and redesignated it as Subsection E, and added present Subsections B, C and D.

**Applicability.** — Laws 1988, ch. 3, § 2, effective February 12, 1988, provides that the provisions of the act apply only to persons convicted for crimes committed on or after its effective date.

**Rule 5-805 NMRA does not violate separation of powers.** — Subsection H of Rule 5-805 NMRA, which requires dismissal of a probation violation proceeding if the time limits to hold an adjudicatory hearing are not met, does not infringe upon the substantive rights granted by the legislature in Sections 31-11-1 and 31-21-15 NMSA 1978 and does not violate the separation of powers doctrine. *State v. Montoya*, 2011-NMCA-009, 149 N.M. 242, 247 P.3d 1127, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-001, 150 N.M. 558, 263 P.3d 900.

**No federal constitutional violations by denial of waiver.** — Defendant's waiver of supersedeas was properly denied where he agreed to serve time on his sentence pending appeal because he was unable to make appeal bond, and denial was not a violation of defendant's constitutional rights under the due process and equal protection clauses of U.S. Const., amend. XIV. *State v. Ramirez*, 1966-NMSC-042, 76 N.M. 72, 412 P.2d 246.

**Effect of writs of error at common law.** — At common law, a writ of error was not a supersedeas so as to discharge custody, but in capital cases it operated to stay execution. *Borrego v. Territory*, 1896-NMSC-011, 8 N.M. 446, 46 P. 349.

**Defendant not obligated to make restitution during appeal.** — A defendant is under no legal duty, except moral, perhaps, to make any restitution during the pendency of his appeal. *State v. Cordova*, 1983-NMCA-144, 100 N.M. 643, 674 P.2d 533.

**Waiver of supersedeas.** — There is no provision under New Mexico law for a waiver of supersedeas. *State v. Ramirez*, 1966-NMSC-042, 76 N.M. 72, 412 P.2d 246.

**Pending appeal, safekeeping of prisoner sheriff's duty.** — Pending appeal, the judge has no power to order one under sentence to be committed to penitentiary for safekeeping. The power of removal is in the hands of the sheriff, who is charged with safekeeping the prisoner. *Parks v. Hughes*, 1918-NMSC-094, 24 N.M. 421, 174 P. 425.

**State solely responsible for cost of maintenance of convict.** — When convict under sentence of death is, under this statute, confined in state penitentiary, pending determination of his appeal, state has entire jurisdiction over such convict and cannot recover cost of his maintenance from county. *State v. Board of Comm'rs*, 1939-NMSC-059, 43 N.M. 521, 96 P.2d 290.

**District court abused its discretion in requiring corporate surety** to the exclusion of individual sureties on a property bond. *State v. Lucero*, 1970-NMCA-057, 81 N.M. 578, 469 P.2d 727.

**Filing notice of appeal does not divest district court of jurisdiction to hold probation revocation hearing or revoke probation.** *State v. Rivera*, 2004-NMSC-001, 134 N.M. 768, 82 P.3d 939.

**Probationer's sentence runs during pendency of appeal.** — Nowhere in this section has the legislature expressly prohibited a probationer's sentence from running during the pendency of his or her appeal; moreover, the primary goal of probation, defendant rehabilitation, could be defeated by delaying the commencement of a defendant's probationary sentence pending appeal. *State v. Rivera*, 2004-NMSC-001, 134 N.M. 768, 82 P.3d 939.

**Section intended to function as appellate bail bond statute.** — If the execution of a defendant's sentence was automatically stayed once he or she appealed, then the defendant would have had no need for a statutory right to post an appeal bond. *State v. Rivera*, 2004-NMSC-001, 134 N.M. 768, 82 P.3d 939.

If a defendant remains on probation during the pendency of his or her appeal, an appeal bond becomes unnecessary because the defendant is already submitting to the punishment that an appeal bond would be fashioned to prevent the defendant from attempting to evade; thus, one of the primary purposes of this section as a whole — preventing the defendant from avoiding the consequences of his or her conviction and sentence — is inapplicable once the defendant is placed on probation. *State v. Rivera*, 2004-NMSC-001, 134 N.M. 768, 82 P.3d 939.

**Subsection C(2) is constitutional.** — The appeal-bond statute does not unduly burden or interfere with the New Mexico's courts responsibilities, and thus, the statute is constitutional. *State v. House*, 1996-NMCA-052, 121 N.M. 784, 918 P.2d 370, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 676, 916 P.2d 1343.

**Release under this section is mandatory where defendants meet all of the requirements of Subsection C.** — When defendants satisfy the conditions of § 31-11-

1(C) NMSA 1978, the plain language of the statute entitles them to release subject to the conditions of release imposed by the trial court. *State v. Taylor*, 2021-NMSC-023.

**Defendants, having met all required conditions, were entitled to release pending appeal.** — Where defendants, operators of a day care center, were convicted of two counts of child abuse after they failed to remove two children from a hot vehicle, which resulted in the death of one child and serious neurological injuries to the other child, and where, following trial, defendants established that they were not dangerous or a flight risk and raised substantial questions as to whether there was substantial evidence establishing beyond a reasonable doubt that they recklessly disregarded the risk that the children would suffer great bodily harm or death when they failed to remove the children from the vehicle and as to whether the jury instruction properly reflected the legal theories presented to allow the jury to make an informed and unanimous decision, the district court erred in denying defendants' petition for release pending the resolution of their appeal, because defendants satisfied all the required conditions of § 31-11-1(C) NMSA 1978. Both issues raised by the defendants constitute substantial questions that if resolved in their favor would result in reversal or an order for a new trial. *State v. Taylor*, 2021-NMSC-023.

**Meaning of "substantial question".** — A "substantial question" under Subsection C(2) is a question that is more than not frivolous. *State v. House*, 1996-NMCA-052, 121 N.M. 784, 918 P.2d 370, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 676, 916 P.2d 1343.

**Test for post-conviction bail.** — Bail pending appeal is appropriate if, assuming that the "substantial question" is determined favorably to defendant on appeal, that "substantial question" decision is likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial on all counts on which imprisonment has been imposed. *State v. House*, 1996-NMCA-052, 121 N.M. 784, 918 P.2d 370.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 8 Am. Jur. 2d Bail and Recognizance § 15 et seq; 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 896 et seq.

Bail pending appeal from conviction, 19 A.L.R. 807, 45 A.L.R. 458, 77 A.L.R. 1235.

Supersedeas, stay on bail upon appeal in habeas corpus, 63 A.L.R. 1460, 143 A.L.R. 1354.

Mandamus to compel judge or other officer to grant accused bail or accept proffered sureties, 23 A.L.R.2d 803.

Effect of abolition of capital punishment on procedural rules governing crimes punishable by death-post-Furman decisions, 71 A.L.R.3d 453.

Right of defendant in state court to bail pending appeal from conviction - modern cases, 28 A.L.R.4th 227.

What is "a substantial question of law or fact likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial" pursuant to 18 USCS § 3143(b)(2) respecting bail pending appeal, 79 A.L.R. Fed. 673.

Abatement effects of accused's death before appellate review of federal criminal conviction, 80 A.L.R. Fed. 446.

8 C.J.S. Bail; Release and Detention Pending Proceedings §§ 9, 24 to 30, 33 to 38.

### **31-11-2. [Appeal granted; defendant to be committed or recognized.]**

If an appeal be granted, the district court shall order the defendant to be committed or recognized and the commitment or recognizance shall be to the same effect as when the defendant himself is appellant.

**History:** Laws 1917, ch. 43, § 51; C.S. 1929, § 105-2528; 1941 Comp., § 42-1504; 1953 Comp., § 41-15-4.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For rules for appeals, see Rules 12-201 to 12-2-203 NMRA.

For supersedeas and stay, see Rule 12-207 NMRA.

For writs of error, see Rule 12-503 NMRA.

**Compiler's notes.** — "Appeal", as used in this section, apparently refers to an appeal by the state.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 5 Am. Jur. 2d Appellate Review § 358 et seq.

### **31-11-3. Directions following review brought by defendant.**

In any criminal case, if the supreme court or court of appeals affirms the judgment of the district court upon review brought by the defendant, it shall direct that the sentence pronounced be executed; and if the judgment is reversed, it shall direct a new trial or that the defendant be absolutely discharged according to the circumstances of the case.

**History:** Laws 1917, ch. 43, § 55; 1927, ch. 93, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 105-2529; 1941 Comp., § 42-1505; 1953 Comp., § 41-15-5; Laws 1966, ch. 28, § 60.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For similar appellate rule, see Rule 12-402 NMRA.

**Supreme court's affirmance of execution not repealed by implication.** — Statute providing that on affirmance of conviction, supreme court shall direct execution was not repealed by implication as to capital cases by statute providing for order of execution by district court. *Woo Dak San v. State*, 1931-NMSC-056, 36 N.M. 53, 7 P.2d 940.

**When supreme court affirms decision without further investigation.** — Where brief for defendant upon appeal contained such an unwarranted attack upon the trial judge, his conduct, rulings, and instructions, as to amount to a scandalous and impertinent attack upon the judiciary, supreme court was warranted in striking the brief and argument from the files, and affirming the decision without further investigation. *Tomlinson v. Territory*, 1893-NMSC-017, 7 N.M. 195, 33 P. 950.

**Notice not required as condition precedent to commitment order.** — With the issuance of mandate by the appellate court, the district court is directed to issue a commitment order. Accordingly, the district court is not required to give notice to the defendant, his attorney, or his bondsmen as a condition precedent to the issuance of the commitment order. *In re Martinez*, 1982-NMSC-115, 99 N.M. 198, 656 P.2d 861.

**Remand for new sentence instead of new trial.** — Appellate courts have the authority to remand a case for entry of judgment on the lesser included offense and resentencing rather than retrial when the evidence does not support the offense for which the defendant was convicted but does support a lesser included offense. The rationale for this holding is that there is no need to retry a defendant for a lesser included offense when the elements of a lesser offense necessarily were proven to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt in the course of convicting the defendant of the greater offense. *State v. Haynie*, 1994-NMSC-001, 116 N.M. 746, 867 P.2d 416.

**Court of appeals lacks authority to modify contempt sentence.** *State v. Sanchez*, 1976-NMCA-104, 89 N.M. 673, 556 P.2d 359.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 5 Am. Jur. 2d Appellate Review § 591 et seq.

Knowledge by defendant or his attorney, before return of verdict in criminal case, of misconduct in connection with jury after their retirement as affecting right to reversal, 96 A.L.R. 530.

Appeal by state of order granting new trial in criminal case, 95 A.L.R.3d 596.

Judgment favorable to convicted criminal defendant in subsequent civil action arising out of same offense as ground for reversal of conviction, 96 A.L.R.3d 1174.

Prosecutor's appeal in criminal case to racial, national, or religious prejudice as ground for mistrial, new trial, reversal, or vacation of sentence - modern cases, 70 A.L.R.4th 664.

### **31-11-4. Directions following review brought by state.**

In any criminal case, if the supreme court or court of appeals affirms the judgment of the district court upon review brought by the state, it shall direct that the defendant be discharged; and if the judgment is reversed, it shall direct the district court to enter judgment on the verdict rendered, or, when no judgment has been rendered, to proceed to trial on the indictment or information.

**History:** Laws 1917, ch. 43, § 56; 1927, ch. 93, § 9; C.S. 1929, § 105-2530; 1941 Comp., § 42-1506; 1953 Comp., § 41-15-6; Laws 1966, ch. 28, § 61.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For similar appellate rule, see Rule 12-402 NMRA.

**Severability.** — Laws 1966, ch. 28, § 66, provides for the severability of the act if any part or application thereof is held invalid.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 5 Am. Jur. 2d Appellate Review § 591 et seq.

### **31-11-5. [New trial granted; procedure in district court.]**

The district court to which any criminal cause shall be remanded for new trial shall proceed thereon in same manner as if said cause had not been theretofore tried.

**History:** Laws 1917, ch. 43, § 57; C.S. 1929, § 105-2531; 1941 Comp., § 42-1507; 1953 Comp., § 41-15-7.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For appellate rule, see Rule 12-402 NMRA.

**Definition of "new trial".** — The usual definition of a new trial, both common law and statutory, is that it is a reexamination of an issue of fact in the same court after a verdict by a jury. *State v. Nelson*, 1959-NMSC-023, 65 N.M. 403, 338 P.2d 301, cert. denied, 361 U.S. 877, 80 S. Ct. 142, 4 L. Ed. 2d 115.

**District court retries and reexamines all fact issues.** — Since a vast majority of judicial pronouncements relative to a new trial state that it is a reexamination of an issue of fact in the same court, the legislature, by enacting this section, did not intend to provide that the trial judge who had presided over the original trial without objection could be ousted of jurisdiction to retry the case. Nor does this statutory provision contemplate a new information or indictment, rearrest or a new preliminary hearing. This section simply means that the district court to which any case is remanded for a new



trial shall reexamine and retry all issues of fact. *State v. Nelson*, 1959-NMSC-023, 65 N.M. 403, 338 P.2d 301, cert. denied, 361 U.S. 877, 80 S. Ct. 142, 4 L. Ed. 2d 115.

**Reexamination of fact not admissibility of evidence.** — This section simply means that the district court to which any case is remanded for a new trial shall re-examine and re-try all issues of fact. Neither the wording nor the title of the act of which this section is a part suggests in any manner that it applies to the admissibility of evidence upon retrial. *State v. De Santos*, 1978-NMCA-012, 91 N.M. 428, 575 P.2d 612.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 58 Am. Jur. 2d New Trial §§ 587 to 590.

Right of indigent defendant in criminal case to aid of state as regards new trial, 55 A.L.R.2d 1072.

Conviction of lesser offense as bar to prosecution for greater offense on new trial, 61 A.L.R.2d 1141.

Propriety of increased punishment on new trial for same offense, 12 A.L.R.3d 978.

Appeal by state of order granting new trial in criminal case, 95 A.L.R.3d 596.

### **31-11-6. Post-conviction remedy.**

A prisoner in custody under sentence of a court established by the laws of New Mexico claiming the right to be released upon the ground that the sentence was imposed in violation of the constitution of the United States, or of the constitution or laws of New Mexico, or that the court was without jurisdiction to impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law, or is otherwise subject to collateral attack, may move the court which imposed the sentence to vacate, set aside or correct the sentence.

A. A motion for such relief may be made at any time.

B. Unless the motion and the files and records of the case conclusively show that the prisoner is entitled to no relief, the court shall cause notice thereof to be served upon the district attorney of the judicial district in which such motion is pending, appoint local counsel if the prisoner is indigent, grant a prompt hearing therein, determine the issues and make findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect thereto. If the court finds that the judgment was rendered without jurisdiction, or that the sentence imposed was not authorized by law, or otherwise open to collateral attack, or that there has been such a denial or infringement of the constitutional rights of the prisoner as to render the judgment vulnerable to collateral attack, the court shall vacate and set the judgment aside and shall discharge the prisoner or resentence him, or grant a new trial, or correct the sentence, as may appear appropriate.

C. A court may entertain and determine such motion without requiring the production of the prisoner at the hearing.

D. The sentencing court shall not be required to entertain a second or successive motion for similar relief on behalf of the same prisoner.

E. An appeal may be taken from the order entered on the motion as from a final judgment in the manner and within the time provided in Section 21-2-1(5) New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1953 Compilation.

F. An application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a prisoner who is authorized to apply for relief by motion pursuant to this section shall not be entertained if it appears that the applicant has failed to apply for relief by motion to the court which sentenced him, or that such court has denied him relief, unless it also appears that the remedy by motion is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention, or that a habeas corpus proceeding is pending at the effective date of this section.

G. This section shall not apply to municipal or justice of the peace courts [magistrate courts].

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-15-8, enacted by Laws 1966, ch. 29, § 1.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Compiler's notes.** — Section 21-2-1(5), 1953 Comp., referred to in Subsection E, was Rule 5 of the "Supreme Court Rules." The "Supreme Court Rules" were superseded by rules adopted by the supreme court in 1973, 1974 and 1975. For present, similar provisions, see Rule 12-201 NMRA. Rule 1-093 NMRA was superseded by Rule 5-802 NMRA as to all motions for post-conviction relief filed on or after September 1, 1975.

The office of justice of the peace has been abolished, and the jurisdiction, powers and duties have been transferred to the magistrate court. See 35-1-38 NMSA 1978.

**Habeas corpus.** — An inmate may not resort to this section when the relief sought can be obtained directly by writ of habeas corpus and a habeas corpus petitioner is not required to first seek relief by a post-conviction remedy motion before seeking a writ of habeas corpus. *Cummings v. State*, 2007-NMSC-048, 142 N.M. 656, 168 P.3d 1080.

**Preemption by Rule 5-802 NMRA.** — This section has been preempted by Rule 5-802 NMRA, which governs the procedure for filing a writ of habeas corpus. *State v. Peppers*, 1990-NMCA-057, 110 N.M. 393, 796 P.2d 614, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 260, 794 P.2d 734.

**Conflicts controlled by Rule 5-802 NMRA.** — This section does not provide a post-conviction remedy to the extent that it conflicts with N.M.R. Crim. P. 57 (now Rule 5-802

NMRA). *State v. Garcia*, 1984-NMCA-009, 101 N.M. 232, 680 P.2d 613, cert. quashed, 101 N.M. 189, 679 P.2d 1287.

**Generally.** — In a post-conviction proceeding, the issue is not the guilt or innocence of the prisoner; the issue is the validity of the conviction. *State v. Ramirez*, 1967-NMSC-210, 78 N.M. 418, 432 P.2d 262 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Sixth amendment right to counsel inapplicable.** — Right to counsel provided by the U.S. Const., amend. VI does not apply to post-conviction relief proceedings. *State v. Ramirez*, 1967-NMSC-210, 78 N.M. 418, 432 P.2d 262 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Absent constitutional requirement, appointment of counsel within court's discretion.** *State v. Ramirez*, 1967-NMSC-210, 78 N.M. 418, 432 P.2d 262 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Proceeding independent civil action before criminal procedure rules enacted.** — Prior to enactment of criminal procedural rules, a Rule 1-093 NMRA or proceeding under this section was an independent civil action, and, therefore, Rule 1-052 NMRA, requiring the making of findings of fact, applied to such proceedings. *State v. Hardy*, 1967-NMSC-203, 78 N.M. 374, 431 P.2d 752 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Definition of "conclusive".** — The term "conclusive" means "beyond question," "beyond dispute," or "so irrefutable as to end all uncertainty or question." *State v. Sanchez*, 1966-NMCA-002, 78 N.M. 25, 420 P.2d 786 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Claims for relief must be specific.** — Where defendant does not in any way specify or particularize claimed vital points, claimed errors or claimed discrepancies, a mere allegation of incompetence of attorney or inefficiency is not ground for relief. *State v. Crouch*, 1967-NMSC-093, 77 N.M. 657, 427 P.2d 19 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Defendant must allege some factual basis for relief sought.** — Vague conclusional charges do not raise an issue which demands an inquiry. *State v. Sexton*, 1968-NMCA-003, 78 N.M. 694, 437 P.2d 155; *State v. Williams*, 1967-NMSC-224, 78 N.M. 431, 432 P.2d 396 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Denial or absence of counsel is issue raisable on collateral attack.** *State v. Hardy*, 1967-NMSC-203, 78 N.M. 374, 431 P.2d 752 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Motion to vacate sentence.** — Motion to vacate sentence which raised no new grounds for relief not raised in previous habeas corpus proceeding was properly found to be repetitious, even though transcript of habeas corpus proceeding was never

admitted into evidence. *Lott v. State*, 1967-NMSC-073, 77 N.M. 612, 426 P.2d 588 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**What motion to vacate includes.** — A petitioner is not entitled upon a motion to vacate a sentence to have his case retried on the facts, and only rarely may he raise questions of law which could have been raised by appeal. *State v. Selgado*, 1967-NMSC-147, 78 N.M. 165, 429 P.2d 363 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**No basis for relief where claim of entrapment.** — A claim of entrapment does not state a basis for post-conviction relief. *State v. Simien*, 1968-NMSC-025, 78 N.M. 709, 437 P.2d 708; *State v. Apodaca*, 1967-NMSC-218, 78 N.M. 412, 432 P.2d 256 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or where mere allegation of perjury.** — A mere allegation of perjury does not entitle defendant to post-conviction relief. A charge of perjury, which neither names or identifies the witnesses who committed the perjury nor specifies the claimed false statements, is not sufficient basis for relief. *State v. Crouch*, 1967-NMSC-093, 77 N.M. 657, 427 P.2d 19 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or conclusion that due process denied.** — A mere conclusion that due process was denied is not sufficient basis for relief. *State v. Crouch*, 1967-NMSC-093, 77 N.M. 657, 427 P.2d 19 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or credibility of witness.** — Credibility of a witness does not provide a ground for post-conviction relief. *State v. Williams*, 1967-NMSC-224, 78 N.M. 431, 432 P.2d 396 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or general claim that attorney was pro forma** rather than zealous and active does not provide a basis for post-conviction relief. *State v. Apodaca*, 1967-NMSC-218, 78 N.M. 412, 432 P.2d 256 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or where dissatisfaction with results obtained** through the efforts of attorney does not provide a basis for post-conviction relief. *State v. Apodaca*, 1967-NMSC-218, 78 N.M. 412, 432 P.2d 256 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Representation at preliminary hearing affords no basis for relief.** — Claim that defendant was entitled to counsel when he appeared before the magistrate states no basis for post-conviction relief where defendant was represented by counsel at preliminary hearing. *State v. Apodaca*, 1967-NMSC-218, 78 N.M. 412, 432 P.2d 256 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or where record shows adequate representation.** — Claim that defendant is unlearned, has little education and "did not fully understand everything that made up his trial" does not set forth a basis for relief, where the record on the trial and the direct

appeal shows that his attorneys protected his rights. *State v. Williams*, 1967-NMSC-224, 78 N.M. 431, 432 P.2d 396 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or that counsel fails to advise defendant of potential appeal.** — Where defendant's motion does not assert that any official in New Mexico's system of justice rejected a request for counsel or failed to take steps toward appointment of counsel after having knowledge of defendant's indigency and desire for counsel on appeal, nor does the motion assert that defendant made any request to be furnished appellate counsel, the claim that counsel did not advise defendant that he could appeal as an indigent does not set forth a basis for post-conviction relief. *State v. Raines*, 1967-NMCA-026, 78 N.M. 579, 434 P.2d 698 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or complaint with attorney's trial tactics.** — The petitioner is not entitled to post-conviction relief on the grounds that the result might have been different if different trial tactics and strategy had been employed as where the petitioner discussed a change of venue with his attorney because of certain publicity, and that after consideration, his counsel decided against seeking the change. He cannot now complain of that decision. *State v. Selgado*, 1967-NMSC-147, 78 N.M. 165, 429 P.2d 363 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Claims concerning procedure afford no basis for relief.** — Where, at the time defendant's suspended sentence was revoked, the statutory procedure was not followed, but the record shows that counsel was present with defendant at the time of the revocation, that neither the defendant nor his counsel had any objections to the procedure that was in fact followed and defendant, in response to the court's question, stated that he did not desire further hearing on the motion to revoke the suspended sentence, this is a claim concerning the conduct of the proceeding and how it was managed and it does not set forth a basis for relief. *State v. Raines*, 1967-NMCA-026, 78 N.M. 579, 434 P.2d 698 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**No grounds for relief where factual questions already resolved.** — Whether defendant was properly tried for first-degree murder rather than voluntary manslaughter are factual questions which the jury resolved by its verdict and present no grounds for relief. *State v. Williams*, 1967-NMSC-224, 78 N.M. 431, 432 P.2d 396 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Time for appointing counsel.** — Once, however, the prisoner alleges some factual basis raising a substantial issue, counsel must be appointed. *State v. Ramirez*, 1967-NMSC-210, 78 N.M. 418, 432 P.2d 262 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**No counsel appointed when motion groundless.** — Where a motion has been filed in a post-conviction proceeding, but is completely groundless, counsel need not be appointed to represent the defendant. *State v. Ramirez*, 1967-NMSC-210, 78 N.M. 418, 432 P.2d 262 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Or when prisoner explores possibility of motion.** — Where the conviction has been affirmed on direct review, the trial court is not required to appoint counsel to assist the prisoner in exploring the possibilities for post-conviction relief. *State v. Ramirez*, 1967-NMSC-210, 78 N.M. 418, 432 P.2d 262 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Not enough to show indigency hampered employment of counsel.** — For a petitioner to be entitled to post-conviction relief, it is not enough to show that indigency occasioned the petitioner's inability to employ counsel or to appeal; the petitioner must show that the state deprived him of his fourteenth amendment rights. State action is shown when a responsible official in the state's system of justice rejects a request for counsel or fails to take proper steps toward appointment of counsel for a convicted defendant when he has knowledge of the defendant's indigency and desire for appellate counsel. *State v. Raines*, 1967-NMCA-026, 78 N.M. 579, 434 P.2d 698 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Where motion groundless, court under no duty to appoint counsel.** — Where the motion for post-conviction relief is completely groundless, the trial court need not appoint counsel to represent defendant in connection with the motion and may determine the motion without the presence of defendant. *State v. Sanchez*, 1966-NMCA-002, 78 N.M. 25, 420 P.2d 786 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Waiver of prior defects bars post-conviction relief.** — Absent a showing of prejudice, the plea at arraignment waived prior defects in the proceedings. Here, while prejudice is claimed, it is not shown. Thus, defendant fails to set forth a basis for post-conviction relief. *State v. Robinson*, 1967-NMSC-220, 78 N.M. 420, 432 P.2d 264 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Illegal arrest not ground for attacking judgment.** — Claim of illegal arrest, in itself, is not a proper ground for attacking a judgment under post-conviction remedy. *State v. Gibby*, 1967-NMSC-219, 78 N.M. 414, 432 P.2d 258 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Successive motions.** — It is within the discretion of the trial court either to grant or deny successive motions. *Lott v. State*, 1967-NMSC-073, 77 N.M. 612, 426 P.2d 588 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Subsequent application.** — If doubts arise in particular cases as to whether the grounds in a subsequent application are different, they should be resolved in favor of the applicant. *State v. Canales*, 1967-NMSC-221, 78 N.M. 429, 432 P.2d 394 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Burden on applicant to show need for redetermination.** — The burden is on the applicant to show that, although the ground of the new application was determined against him on the merits of a prior application, the ends of justice would be served by a

redetermination of the ground. *State v. Canales*, 1967-NMSC-221, 78 N.M. 429, 432 P.2d 394 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**No redetermination of trial issues.** — Where the extent of defendant's drinking was an issue at the trial, it is not to be redetermined in a post-conviction proceeding. *State v. Williams*, 1967-NMSC-224, 78 N.M. 431, 432 P.2d 396 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Refusal of application.** — A second or successive application may be refused only if the prior denial rested on an adjudication of the merits of the ground presented in the subsequent application. This means that an evidentiary hearing must have been held in the prior application if factual issues were raised and it was not denied on the basis that the files and records conclusively resolved those issues. *State v. Canales*, 1967-NMSC-221, 78 N.M. 429, 432 P.2d 394 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Remedy not intended as substitute for appeal.** — Post-conviction proceedings are not intended for, or to be utilized as a substitute for appeal as a means of correcting errors occurring during the course of a trial, or to get reconsideration of matters considered on appeal. *State v. Williams*, 1967-NMSC-224, 78 N.M. 431, 432 P.2d 396 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Filing of notice of appeal jurisdictional.** — The timely filing of a notice of appeal is jurisdictional and if it has not been complied with, in the absence of excusable neglect, the court is bound to act on its own motion and dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction, even though the parties do not raise the question of jurisdiction. *State v. Weddle*, 1967-NMSC-027, 77 N.M. 417, 423 P.2d 609 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Issues decided on appeal not relitigated.** — Issue concerning prior convictions and the state's use of an "F.B.I. rap sheet" was raised and decided on defendant's appeal and may not be relitigated in post-conviction proceedings. *State v. Williams*, 1967-NMSC-224, 78 N.M. 431, 432 P.2d 396 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Attack on district court's conclusion of law must fail.** — Where there is conflict in appellant's attack on the district court's conclusion of law, that appellant knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily, while being advised by competent counsel, entered a plea of guilty, must fail. *State v. Simien*, 1968-NMSC-025, 78 N.M. 709, 437 P.2d 708 (decided prior to adoption of Rule 5-802 NMRA).

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Habeas Corpus in New Mexico," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 291 (1981).

For article, "Jurisdiction as May Be Provided by Law: Some Issues of Appellate Jurisdiction in New Mexico," see 36 N.M.L. Rev. 215 (2006).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 18 Am. Jur. 2d Coram Nobis and Allied Statutory Remedies §§ 4, 5, 7, 17, 21, 44 to 48, 52 to 54, 56, 57, 59, 60.

Power of successor judge taking office during term-time to vacate, etc., judgment entered by his predecessor, 11 A.L.R.2d 1117.

Motion to vacate judgment on order as constituting general appearance, 31 A.L.R.2d 262.

Incompetency of counsel chosen by accused as affecting validity of conviction, 74 A.L.R.2d 1390, 34 A.L.R.3d 470, 2 A.L.R.4th 27, 2 A.L.R.4th 807, 13 A.L.R.4th 533, 15 A.L.R.4th 582, 18 A.L.R.4th 360, 26 A.L.R. Fed. 218, 53 A.L.R. Fed. 140.

Post-conviction procedure for raising contention that enforcement of penal statute or law is unconstitutionally discriminatory, 4 A.L.R.3d 404.

When criminal case becomes moot so as to preclude review of or attack on conviction or sentence, 9 A.L.R.3d 462.

Right to a jury trial on motion to vacate judgment, 75 A.L.R.3d 894.

Coram nobis on ground of other's confession to crime, 46 A.L.R.4th 468.

Power of successor judge taking office during term time to vacate, set aside, or annul judgment entered by his or her predecessor, 51 A.L.R.5th 747.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1610 to 1618, 1620 to 1629, 1633 to 1637, 1742.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **Fines, Fees and Costs**

**31-12-1, 31-12-2. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1983, ch. 51, § 1, repealed 31-12-1 and 31-12-2 NMSA 1978, relating to the reporting of fines by the county clerk and their credit to the state school fund, and the collection of fines by sheriff, respectively.

### **31-12-3. Paying fines, fees or costs in installments; community service option.**

A. Any person sentenced to pay a fine or to pay fees and costs in any criminal proceeding against the person, either in addition to or without a term of imprisonment,



shall be allowed to pay such fine, fees or costs in installments of such amounts, at such times and upon such conditions as the court may fix.

B. The defendant may also be required to serve a period of time in labor to be known as "community service" in lieu of all or part of the fine, fees or costs. The labor shall be meaningful, shall not be suspended or deferred and shall be of a type that benefits the public at large or any public, charitable or educational entity or institution, including enrollment in job training or an academic or vocational program or participation in social service or rehabilitation programs, and is consistent with Article 9, Section 14 of the constitution of New Mexico. Any person performing community service pursuant to court order shall be immune from civil liability arising out of the community service other than for gross negligence, shall not be entitled to wages or considered an employee for any purpose and shall not be entitled to workers' compensation, unemployment or any other benefits otherwise provided by law. Instead, a person who performs community service shall receive credit toward the fine, fees or costs at twice the rate of the prevailing state hourly minimum wage. Unless otherwise provided, however, the total fine, fees and costs shall be payable forthwith.

C. The court may at any time revise, modify, reduce or enlarge the amount of the installment or the time and conditions fixed for payment of it.

D. When a defendant sentenced to pay a fine in installments or ordered to pay fees or costs defaults in payment, the court, upon motion of the prosecutor or upon its own motion, may require the defendant to show cause why the defendant's default should not be treated as contumacious and may issue a summons or a warrant of arrest for the defendant's appearance. It shall be a defense that the defendant did not willfully refuse to obey the order of the court or that the defendant made a good faith effort to obtain the funds required for the payment. If the defendant's default was contumacious, the court may order the defendant committed until the fine or a specified part of it or the fees or costs are paid. A defendant who is ordered to a period of confinement under this subsection shall receive credit toward the fine, fees or costs at twenty-four times the rate of the state minimum wage for each day or portion of a day of incarceration. A defendant shall receive credit at the same rate for all pre-sentence confinement served. The maximum term of imprisonment for such contumacious nonpayment shall be specified in the order of commitment.

E. If it appears that a defendant's default in the payment of a fine, fees or costs is not contumacious, the court may allow the defendant additional time for payment, reduce the amount of the fine or of each installment, revoke the fine or the unpaid portion in whole or in part or require the defendant to perform community service in lieu of the fine, fees or costs.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-21-8, enacted by Laws 1971, ch. 236, § 1; 1991, ch. 54, § 1; 1993, ch. 155, § 1; 2023, ch. 184, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, provided that any person sentenced to pay a fine or to pay fees and costs in any criminal proceeding shall be allowed to pay such fine, fees or costs in installments, provided additional ways of fulfilling "community service" to pay fines, fees or costs; increased the amount of credit that community service counts toward fines, fees or costs, provided that any period of confinement for failure to pay fines, fees or costs shall be credited at a rate of twenty-four times the rate of the state minimum wage, and provided that a defendant shall receive credit at the same rate for all pre-sentence confinement served; in Subsection A, after "a term of imprisonment", deleted "may in the discretion of the court" and added "shall"; redesignated former Subsections B through D as Subsections C through E, respectively; in Subsection B, after "part of the fine", deleted "If unable to pay the fees or costs, he may be granted permission to perform community service in lieu of them as well" and added "fees or costs", after "entity or institution", added "including enrollment in job training or an academic or vocational program or participation in social service or rehabilitation programs", after "credit toward the fine, fees or costs at", added "twice", and after "prevailing", deleted "federal" and added "state"; and in Subsection D, added "A defendant who is ordered to a period of confinement under this subsection shall receive credit toward the fine, fees or costs at twenty-four times the rate of the state minimum wage for each day or portion of a day of incarceration. A defendant shall receive credit at the same rate for all pre-sentence confinement served."

**The 1993 amendment**, effective July 1, 1993, substituted "shall be meaningful, shall not be suspended or deferred and shall" for "must" and changed the style of the constitutional reference in the fourth sentence of Subsection A.

**The 1991 amendment**, effective June 14, 1991, rewrote this section to the extent that a detailed comparison would be impracticable.

**Substantive limits on revocation of probation when unable to pay fine.** — This section must be read together with the ruling of the United States supreme court in *Bearden v. Georgia*, 461 U.S. 660, 103 S. Ct. 2064, 76 L. Ed. 2d 221 (1983), which recognized substantive limits on the automatic revocation of probation where an indigent defendant is unable to pay a fine or restitution. Those substantive limits require that: (1) There must be an inquiry into the reasons for the failure to pay; (2) if the reasons for defendant's failure to pay are either not willful or indicate an inability to pay, the court must consider alternatives to incarceration; and (3) only if alternative measures do not meet the state's interests, then the court may order confinement. *State v. Parsons*, 1986-NMCA-027, 104 N.M. 123, 717 P.2d 99.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 944 et seq.

Indigency of offender as affecting validity of imprisonment as alternative to payment of fine, 31 A.L.R.3d 926.

Recovery under state law of attorney's fees by law pro se litigant, 14 A.L.R.5th 947.

36A C.J.S. Fines § 6.

### **31-12-4, 31-12-5. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1983, ch. 51, § 1, repealed 31-12-4 and 31-12-5 NMSA 1978, relating to fees in criminal cases and the charging of illegal fees, respectively.

### **31-12-6. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1858-1859, p. 30; C.L. 1865, ch. 46, § 14; C.L. 1884, § 2506; C.L. 1897, § 3445; Code 1915, § 4450; C.S. 1929, § 105-2229; 1941 Comp., § 42-1304; 1953 Comp., § 41-13-4; 1972, ch. 71, § 16; 1978 Comp., § 31-12-6 repealed by Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19 repealed 31-12-6 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 16, relating to costs of conviction, effective July 1, 2024. For provisions of former section, see the 2023 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-12-7. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 367, § 1; 1988, ch. 56, § 5; 1991, ch. 245, § 1; 1997, ch. 203, § 1; 2010, ch. 5, § 1; repealed by Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2024, ch. 184, § 19 repealed 31-12-7 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 367, § 1, relating to motor vehicles, influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, fee upon conviction, effective July 1, 2024. For provisions of former section, see the 2023 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-12-8. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 367, § 2; 1984, ch. 82, § 1; 1988, ch. 14, § 5; repealed by Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2024, ch. 184, § 19 repealed 31-12-8 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 367, § 2, relating to controlled substances, fee upon conviction, municipal ordinance requirement, effective July 1, 2024. For provisions of former section, see the 2023 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-12-9. Crime laboratory fund created; appropriation.**

There is created in the state treasury the "crime laboratory fund". The fund consists of gifts, grants, donations, appropriations and distributions to the fund made pursuant to the Tax Administration Act [Chapter 7, Article 1 NMSA 1978]. All balances in the crime laboratory fund are appropriated to the traffic safety bureau of the department of transportation to provide funds to approved comprehensive community programs for the prevention of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and for other traffic safety purposes. Payment out of the crime laboratory fund shall be made on vouchers issued and signed by the chief of the traffic safety bureau upon warrants drawn by the department of finance and administration.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 367, § 3; 1989, ch. 324, § 22; 1991, ch. 245, § 2; 2023, ch. 184, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective July 1, 2024, changed the source of funds that are credited to the crime laboratory fund; deleted "All fees collected pursuant to the provisions of Sections 31-12-7 and 31-12-8 NMSA 1978 shall be transmitted monthly to the administrative office of the courts for credit to the crime laboratory fund. All balances in the crime laboratory fund of fees collected pursuant to the provisions of Subsection A of Section 31-12-7 NMSA 1978 are appropriated to the administrative office of the courts for payment upon invoice to the scientific laboratory division of the health and environment department, the New Mexico state police crime laboratory division and the Albuquerque police crime laboratory for costs related to chemical and other tests and analyses described in those sections and incurred by these laboratories and local law enforcement agencies. Payments out of the crime laboratory fund of fees collected pursuant to the provisions of Subsection A of Section 31-12-7 NMSA 1978 shall be made on vouchers issued and signed by the director of the administrative office of the courts upon warrants drawn by the department of finance and administrations" and added "The fund consists of gifts, grants, donations, appropriations and distributions to the fund made pursuant to the Tax Administration Act."; after "All balances in the crime laboratory fund", deleted "of fees collected pursuant to the provisions of Subsection B of Section 31-12-7 NMSA 1978"; after "traffic safety bureau of the", deleted "transportation program division of the state highway and transportation"; after "department", added "of transportation"; and after "Payment out of the crime laboratory fund", deleted "of fees collected pursuant to the provisions of Subsection B of Section 31-12-7 NMSA 1978".

**The 1991 amendment**, effective October 1, 1991, inserted "monthly" in the second sentence; inserted "of fees collected pursuant to the provisions of Subsection A of Section 31-12-7 NMSA 1978" in the third and fourth sentences; and added the final two sentences.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective April 7, 1989, substituted "Sections 31-12-7 and 31-12-8 NMSA 1978" for "Sections 1 and 2 of this act" in the second sentence, and "described in those sections" for "described in Sections 1 and 2 of this act" in the third sentence, and deleted the former last sentence which read "Any interest earned on the fund shall be credited to it".

### **31-12-10. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1990, ch. 104, § 3 repealed 31-12-10 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws, 1990, ch. 104, § 1, relating to DWI fund, effective July 1, 1991. For provisions of former section, see the 1989 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-12-11. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 387, § 1; 2008, ch. 7, § 1; repealed by Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19 repealed 31-12-11 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 2003, ch. 387, § 1, relating to court fees, deposit in the domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund, effective July 1, 2024. For provisions of former section, see the 2023 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-12-12. Domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund created; appropriation; program requirements.**

A. The "domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund consists of gifts, grants, donations, appropriations and distributions to the fund made pursuant to the Tax Administration Act [Chapter 7, Article 1 NMSA 1978].

B. Balances in the domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund are appropriated to the children, youth and families department to provide funds to domestic violence offender treatment or intervention programs to defray the cost of providing treatment or intervention to domestic violence offenders. Unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

C. Payment out of the domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund shall be made on vouchers issued and signed by the secretary of children, youth and families upon warrants drawn by the department of finance and administration.

D. In order to be eligible for money from the domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund, a domestic violence offender treatment or intervention program shall include the following components in its program:

(1) an initial assessment to determine if a domestic violence offender will benefit from participation in the program;

(2) a written contract, which must be signed by the domestic violence offender, that sets forth:

(a) attendance and participation requirements;

(b) consequences for failure to attend or participate in the program; and

(c) a confidentiality clause that prohibits disclosure of information revealed during treatment or intervention sessions;

(3) strategies to hold domestic violence offenders accountable for their violent behavior;

(4) a requirement that group discussions are limited to members of the same gender;

(5) an education component that:

(a) defines physical, emotional, sexual, economic and verbal abuse and techniques for stopping those forms of abuse; and

(b) examines gender roles, socialization, the nature of violence, the dynamics of power and control and the effects of domestic violence on children;

(6) a requirement that a domestic violence offender not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during a treatment or intervention session;

(7) a requirement, except with respect to a domestic violence offender who is a voluntary participant in the program, that the program provide monthly written reports to the presiding judge or the domestic violence offender's probation or parole officer regarding:

(a) proof of the domestic violence offender's enrollment in the program;

(b) progress reports that address the domestic violence offender's attendance, fee payments and compliance with other program requirements; and

(c) evaluations of progress made by the domestic violence offender and recommendations as to whether or not to require the offender's further participation in the program; and

(8) a requirement that the term of the program be at least fifty-two weeks.

E. Counseling for couples shall not be a component of a domestic violence offender treatment or intervention program.

F. As used in this section, "domestic violence offender" means a person:

(1) convicted for an offense pursuant to the provisions of the Crimes Against Household Members Act [30-3-10 to 30-3-18 NMSA 1978];

(2) convicted for violating an order of protection granted by a court pursuant to the provisions of the Family Violence Protection Act [Chapter 40, Article 13 NMSA 1978];

(3) referred to a domestic violence offender treatment or intervention program by a judge, a domestic violence special commissioner or the parole board; or

(4) who voluntarily participates in a domestic violence offender treatment or intervention program.

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 387, § 2; 2008, ch. 7, § 2; 2023, ch. 184, § 3.

### ANNOTATIONS

**The 2023 amendment**, effective July 1, 2024, changed the source of funds that are credited to the domestic violence treatment or intervention fund; and in Subsection A, deleted "All fees collected pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-12-11 NMSA 1978 shall be transmitted monthly to the department of finance and administration for credit to the domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund." and added "The fund consists of gifts, grants, donations, appropriations and distributions to the fund made pursuant to the Tax Administration Act.".

**The 2008 amendment**, effective July 1, 2008, changed the name of the domestic violence offender treatment fund to the domestic violence offender treatment or intervention fund and added Paragraphs (3) and (4) of Subsection F.

### 31-12-13. Repealed.

**History:** Laws 2015, ch. 10, § 3; repealed by Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 19 repealed 31-12-13 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 2015, ch. 10, § 3, relating to crime victims reparation fee, effective July 1, 2024. For provisions of former section, see the 2023 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-12-14. Relief of court debt for fees or costs.**

The court, by its own motion or by defendant petition, may waive fees or costs assessed prior to July 1, 2024.

**History:** Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 4.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 20 made Laws 2023, ch. 184, § 4 effective July 1, 2024.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **Civil Rights and Pardons**

#### **31-13-1. Felony conviction; restoration of right to hold office of public trust.**

A person who has been convicted of a felony shall not be permitted to hold an office of public trust for the state, a county, a municipality or a district, unless the person has presented the governor with a certificate verifying the completion of the sentence and was granted a pardon or a certificate by the governor restoring the person's full rights of citizenship.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-14, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-14; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-38, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16; 2001, ch. 46, § 2; 2005, ch. 116, § 2; 2023, ch. 84, § 23.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Recompilations.** — Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16 recompiled 40A-29-14, 1953 Comp., as 40A-29-38, 1953 Comp. effective July 1, 1979.

**Cross references.** — For persons convicted of a felonious or infamous crime as not being qualified voters, see N.M. Const., art. VII, § 1 and 1-4-24 NMSA 1978.

For qualification of voters, see N.M. Const., art VII, § 1.

For governor's power to pardon, see N.M. Const., art V, § 6.

For registration following conviction, see 1-4-27.1 NMSA 1978.



**The 2023 amendment**, effective July 1, 2023, removed provisions related to the restoration of the right to register to vote after the completion of a sentence for a felony conviction; in the section heading, deleted "citizenship" and added "right to hold office of public trust"; and deleted former Subsections A through D.

**The 2005 amendment**, effective June 17, 2005, in Subsection B, provided that when a person has completed the terms of a suspended or deferred sentence, the clerk of the district court shall notify the secretary of state and the secretary of state shall notify all county clerks that the person is eligible for registration; in Subsection C, provided that upon the issuance of a certificate of completion of sentence, which shall state that the person's voting rights are restored, the corrections department shall inform the person that the person is entitled to vote; and in Subsection D, provided that when the corrections department issues a certificate of completion, the corrections department shall notify the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall notify all county clerks that the person is eligible for registration and county clerks shall accept the certificate of completion as proof that the person is eligible for registration.

**The 2001 amendment**, effective July 1, 2001, substituted "Felony conviction" for "Effect of criminal conviction upon civil rights; governor may pardon or grant" in the section heading; rewrote Subsections A and B adding alternatives to the gubernatorial restoration of voting rights following a felony conviction; and rewrote Subsection C to relate only to the holding of public office after a felony conviction.

**Governor's pardon removes only state, not federal, disabilities for convicted felon.** — A pardon by the governor only removes the disabilities previously imposed on a convicted felon by this state, namely, the right to vote and to hold office, but does not remove any disabilities imposed by federal statute on the convicted felon, for example, the disability of not being allowed to receive a firearm involved in interstate commerce. *U.S. v. Larranaga*, 614 F.2d 239 (10th Cir. 1980).

**Eligibility for elective office.** — A convicted felon who was elected to the position of county commissioner became eligible to hold that office when, prior to taking the oath of office, she applied for and received a certificate of restoration of full rights of citizenship from the governor of New Mexico. *Lopez v. Kase*, 1999-NMSC-011, 126 N.M. 733, 975 P.2d 346.

**Dual pathways to restoration of civil rights.** — Section 31-13-1 NMSA 1978 provides dual pathways to restoring civil rights. Subsection A provides for the restoration of civil rights for convicted felons who receive deferred sentences and have no criminal sentences to complete. Subsections C and E provide for the restoration of civil rights for convicted felons who receive and complete criminal sentences. *United States of America v. Reese*, 2014-NMSC-013.

**Completion of deferred sentence.** — Upon the completion of all conditions for a deferred sentence and the resulting dismissal of all charges, a person's civil rights, including the right to vote, the right to hold public office, the right to serve on a jury, and

the right to possess firearms, are restored by operation of law without the necessity of a pardon or certificate from the governor. *United States of America v. Reese*, 2014-NMSC-013.

Where defendant pleaded no contest to one felony count of tampering with evidence; the district court deferred sentencing and placed defendant on probation; defendant completed the conditions of deferment and the district court dismissed the charge of tampering with evidence; a decade later, defendant was indicted for violation of a federal statute that prohibited felons from possessing firearms based on defendant's felony conviction for tampering with evidence; federal law excluded any conviction for which a person had their civil rights restored; and the parties agreed that New Mexico had restored defendant's right to vote, to serve on a jury and to possess firearms, but disagreed over whether New Mexico had restored defendant's right to hold public office because Subsection E, which addresses the right to hold public office, does not refer to deferred sentences, upon the completion of defendant's deferred sentence, all of defendant's civil rights were automatically restored, including the right to hold public office. *United States of America v. Reese*, 2014-NMSC-013.

**Definition of "pardon".** — A "pardon" is a declaration on record by the chief magistrate of a state or country that a person named is relieved from the legal consequences of a specific crime, or an act of grace proceeding from the power entrusted with execution of laws, which exempt the individual on whom it is bestowed from the punishment the law inflicts for a crime he has committed. 1959 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-176.

**Certificate of pardon operates to cover all convictions and sentences.** 1970 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 70-85.

**Full pardon absolves one from all legal consequences of crime.** — It was formerly doubted whether a pardon could do more than take away the punishment, leaving the crime and its disabling consequences unremoved, but, with certain exceptions hereinafter noted, it is now the accepted general doctrine that a full pardon absolves one from all legal consequences of his crime. If granted before conviction, it prevents any of the penalties and disabilities consequent upon conviction from attaching; if granted after conviction it removes the penalties and disabilities which ordinarily follow from conviction, and, generally speaking, restores the offender to all his civil rights. 1959 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-176.

**Restoration of citizenship rights.** — A full pardon automatically restores such citizenship rights as were lost by the conviction. 1959 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-176.

**But record not expunged.** — There is no law in this state authorizing the expunging from records the fact of a felony conviction for which pardoned. 1959 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-176.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1311 et seq.

Executive clemency to remove disqualification for office, resulting from conviction of crime, as applicable in case of conviction in federal court or court of another state, 135 A.L.R. 1493.

Pardon as restoring license or other special privilege or office forfeited by conviction, 143 A.L.R. 172, 70 A.L.R.2d 268.

Offense under federal law or law of another state or country, conviction as vacating accused's holding of state or local office or as ground for removal, 20 A.L.R.2d 732.

Propriety of conditioning probation on suspended sentence or defendant's refraining from political activity, protest, or the like, 45 A.L.R.3d 1022.

Pardon as restoring public office on license or eligibility therefor, 58 A.L.R.3d 1191.

What constitutes conviction within statutory or constitutional provision making conviction of crime ground of disqualification for, removal from, or vacancy in, public office, 10 A.L.R.5th 139.

State pardon as affecting "convicted" status of one accused of violations of Gun Control Act of 1968 (18 USCS §§ 921 et seq.), 44 A.L.R. Fed. 692.

State restoration of federal felon's civil rights as nullification of conviction under 18 USCS § 921(a)(20) which defines conviction for purposes of penalizing possession of weapon by convicted felon pursuant to 18 USCS § 922(g)(1), 117 A.L.R. Fed. 247.

18 C.J.S. Convicts § 3 et seq.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **Execution of Death Sentence (Repealed.)**

#### **31-14-1. Repealed.**

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-14-12, enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 9; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-12, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-1 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 1, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

#### **31-14-2. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 35-322; 1941 Comp., § 42-1402; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-2; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-2, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-2 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 2, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-14-3. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 3; C.S. 1929, § 35-323; 1941 Comp., § 42-1403; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-3; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-3, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-3 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 3, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-14-4. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 4; C.S. 1929, § 35-324; 1941 Comp., § 42-1404; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-4; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-4, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-4 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 4, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-14-5. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 5; C.S. 1929, § 35-325; 1941 Comp., § 42-1405; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-5; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-5, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-5 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 5, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-14-6. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 6; C.S. 1929, § 35-326; 1941 Comp., § 42-1406; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-6; 2005, ch. 313, § 8; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-6, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-6 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 6, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### 31-14-7. Repealed.

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 7; C.S. 1929, § 35-327; 1941 Comp., § 42-1407; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-7; 2005, ch. 313, § 9; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-7, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-7 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 7, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### 31-14-8. Repealed.

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 35-328; 1941 Comp., § 42-1408; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-8; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-8, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-8 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 8, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### 31-14-9. Repealed.

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 9; C.S. 1929, § 35-329; 1941 Comp., § 42-1409; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-9; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-9, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-9 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 9, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### 31-14-10. Repealed.

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 10; C.S. 1929, § 35-330; 1941 Comp., § 42-1410; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-10; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-10, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-10 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 10, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

#### **31-14-11. Repealed.**

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-14-11.1, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 127, § 1; 1979, ch. 150, § 8; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-11, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-11 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 127, § 1, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

#### **31-14-12. Repealed.**

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-14-12, enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 9; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-12, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-12 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 9, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

#### **31-14-13. Repealed.**

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-14-11.3, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 127, § 3; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-13, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-13 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 127, § 3, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-14-14. Repealed.**

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-14-11.4, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 127, § 4; 1979, ch. 150, § 10; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-14, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-14 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 127, § 4, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-14-15. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 12; C.S. 1929, § 35-332; 1941 Comp., § 42-1412; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-12; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-15, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-15 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 12, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-14-16. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 13; C.S. 1929, § 35-333; 1941 Comp., § 42-1413; 1953 Comp., § 41-14-13; 1978 Comp., § 31-14-16, repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-14-16 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1929, ch. 69, § 13, relating to the execution of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **Public Defenders**

#### **31-15-1. Short title.**

Chapter 31, Article 15 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Public Defender Act".

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-1, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 1; 2013, ch. 195, § 2.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For Indigent Defense Act, see 31-16-1 NMSA 1978.

**The 2013 amendment,** effective June 14, 2013, added the NMSA chapter and article for the Public Defender Act; and at the beginning of the sentence, changed "This act" to "Chapter 31, Article 15 NMSA 1978".

**Multiple representation.** — While it is incontestable that a criminal defendant is entitled to representation, there is no support for the argument that more than one attorney must be appointed to represent an indigent defendant based merely on the claim that a case is complex and a conviction would carry serious consequences to the defendant. *State v. Chamberlain*, 1991-NMSC-094, 112 N.M. 723, 819 P.2d 673.

**Immunity extends to attorneys under contract to public defender.** — The Public Defender Act (this article) does not contain any language about immunity or lack of immunity, but reading the Public Defender Act and the Judgment Defense Act in pari materia, the legislature intended the immunity granted in this section to attorneys appointed under the Indigent Defense Act to apply also to those appointed because they are under contract to the public defender. *Herrera v. Sedillo*, 1987-NMCA-098, 106 N.M. 206, 740 P.2d 1190.

**Legal representation of juveniles.** — The public defender department has the responsibility of providing legal representation for indigent juveniles. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-58.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Construction and effect of statutes providing for office of public defender, 36 A.L.R.3d 1403.

Public defender's immunity from liability for malpractice, 6 A.L.R.4th 774.

### 31-15-2. Definitions.

As used in the Public Defender Act:

- A. "chief" means the chief public defender;
- B. "commission" means the public defender commission;
- C. "court" means the district, metropolitan and magistrate courts of this state;



- D. "department" means the public defender department;
- E. "district" means a public defender district; and
- F. "judge" means a judge of the district or metropolitan court or a magistrate.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-3, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 2; 1985, ch. 32, § 1; 2013, ch. 195, § 3.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2013 amendment**, effective June 14, 2013, defined "chief" and "commission" to provide for the independent public defender department; added Subsections A and B; in Subsection C, after "district", deleted "courts" and added "metropolitan"; and deleted former Subsection E, which defined "chief" as the chief public defender.

**The 1985 amendment** deleted former Subsection A, defining "board," and redesignated former Subsections B, C, D, E, and F as present Subsections A, B, C, D, and E, respectively.

### **31-15-2.1. Public defender commission; membership; terms; removal.**

A. The public defender commission, created pursuant to Article 6, Section 39 of the constitution of New Mexico, consists of eleven members. Members shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) the governor shall appoint one member;
- (2) the chief justice of the supreme court shall appoint three members;
- (3) the dean of the university of New Mexico school of law shall appoint three members;
- (4) the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one member;
- (5) the majority floor leaders of each chamber shall each appoint one member; and
- (6) the president pro tempore of the senate shall appoint one member.

B. The appointments made by the chief justice of the supreme court and the dean of the university of New Mexico school of law shall follow the appointments made by the other appointing authorities and shall be made in such a manner so that each of the two largest major political parties, as defined in the Election Code, shall be equally divided on the commission.

C. Initial appointments to the commission shall be made by July 1, 2013. If a position remains vacant on July 1, 2013, the supreme court shall fill the vacancy. Initial terms of members appointed by the dean of the university of New Mexico school of law, the speaker of the house of representatives and the majority floor leader of the senate shall be for three years; and initial terms of members appointed by the governor and the chief justice of the supreme court shall be for two years.

D. Subsequent terms shall be for four years. A commission member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. A commission member shall serve until the member's successor has been appointed and qualified. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.

E. A member may be removed by the commission for malfeasance, misfeasance or neglect of duty. If a member's professional status changes to render the member ineligible pursuant to the Public Defender Act, the member shall resign immediately.

F. Members of the commission are entitled to compensation pursuant to the provisions of the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978] and shall receive no other perquisite, compensation or allowance.

G. The commission is administratively attached to the department, and staff for the commission shall be provided by the department.

**History:** Laws 2013, ch. 195, § 4.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2013, ch. 195 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 14, 2013, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-15-2.2. Public defender commission; member qualifications.**

A. A person appointed to the commission shall have:

(1) significant experience in the legal defense of criminal or juvenile justice cases; or

(2) demonstrated a commitment to quality indigent defense representation or to working with and advocating for the population served by the department.

B. The following persons shall not be appointed to and shall not serve on the commission:

(1) current prosecutors, law enforcement officials or employees of prosecutors or law enforcement officials;

- (2) current public defenders or other employees of the department;
- (3) current judges, judicial officials or employees of judges or judicial officials;
- (4) current elected officials or employees of elected officials; or
- (5) persons who currently contract with or receive funding from the department or employees of such persons.

**History:** Laws 2013, ch. 195, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2013, ch. 195 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 14, 2013, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-15-2.3. Public defender commission; organization; meetings.**

A. The commission shall hold its first meeting by September 1, 2013 and shall organize and elect a chair at that meeting. Three subsequent meetings shall be held in 2013. Thereafter, the commission shall meet at least four times a year, as determined by a majority of commission members. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair or the chief or at the request of four commission members.

B. The commission shall appoint the chief by October 15, 2013.

C. A majority of commission members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and an action by the commission is not valid unless six or more members concur.

D. The commission may adopt rules and shall keep a record of its proceedings.

E. A commission member may select a designee to serve in the member's stead only once per year.

**History:** Laws 2013, ch. 195, § 6.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2013, ch. 195 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 14, 2013, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-15-2.4. Public defender commission; powers and duties; restriction on individual member.**

A. The commission shall exercise independent oversight of the department, set representation standards for the department and provide guidance and support to the chief in the administration of the department and the representation of indigent persons pursuant to the Public Defender Act.

B. The commission shall develop fair and consistent standards for the operation of the department and the provision of services pursuant to the Public Defender Act, including standards relating to:

(1) the minimum experience, training and qualifications for appointed, contract and staff attorneys in both adult and juvenile cases in coordination with the state personnel office;

(2) monitoring and evaluating appointed, contract and staff attorneys;

(3) ethically responsible caseload and workload levels and workload monitoring protocols for staff attorneys, contract attorneys and district defender offices;

(4) the competent and efficient representation of clients whose cases present conflicts of interest;

(5) qualifications and performance of appointed, contract and staff attorneys in capital cases at the trial, appellate and post-conviction levels; and

(6) personnel policies and procedures, including the development of public defender personnel rules, to establish an independent system of personnel administration for the department; provided that no employee of the department, except the chief, assistant chief public defenders, appellate defender and district public defenders, shall have fewer rights than under the Personnel Act [Chapter 10, Article 9 NMSA 1978] and under administrative rules applicable to state employees on the effective date of this 2014 act.

C. An individual member of the commission shall not interfere with the discretion, professional judgment or advocacy of a public defender, a public defender office, a public defender contractor or an assigned counsel in the representation of a public defender client.

**History:** Laws 2013, ch. 195, § 7; 2014, ch. 78, § 2.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Compiler's notes.** — The effective date "of this 2014 act", referred to in Subsection B (6), was May 21, 2014.

**The 2014 amendment**, effective May 21, 2014, mandated the minimum standard for a system of personnel administration for employees of the public defender department; and in Subsection B, added Paragraph (6).

### **31-15-3. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1985, ch. 32, § 4 repealed 31-15-3 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 3, relating to the public defender board, effective June 14, 1985.

### **31-15-4. Chief public defender; appointment; qualifications; removal.**

A. The chief shall be the administrative head of the department. The commission shall appoint a chief for a term of four years by approval of two-thirds of its members. The commission may reappoint a chief for subsequent terms. A vacancy in the office of the chief shall be filled by appointment by the commission.

B. The commission shall appoint as chief only a person with the following qualifications:

- (1) an attorney licensed to practice law in New Mexico or who will be so licensed within one year of appointment;
- (2) an attorney whose practice of law has been active for at least five years immediately preceding the date of this appointment;
- (3) an attorney whose practice of law has included a minimum of five years' experience in defense of persons accused of crime; and
- (4) an attorney who has clearly demonstrated management or executive experience.

C. The chief may be removed by the commission; provided, however, that no removal shall be made without notice of hearing and an opportunity to be heard having been first given to the chief.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-4, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 4; 1977, ch. 257, § 58; 1985, ch. 32, § 2; 2013, ch. 195, § 8.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2013 amendment**, effective June 14, 2013, provided for the appointment and removal of the chief public defender; in the title, after "defender", added "appointment" and after "qualifications", added "removal"; in Subsection A, in the first sentence, after

"The", deleted "governor shall appoint the", after "chief", deleted "who", added the second sentence, and in the fourth sentence, after appointment by the", deleted "governor" and added "commission"; in Subsection B, in the introductory sentence, after "The", deleted "governor" and added "commission"; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection B, after "practice law in", deleted "the highest court in this state" and added the remainder of the sentence; in Paragraph (2) of Subsection B, after "law has been" deleted "continuously"; in Paragraph (3) of Subsection B, after "practice of law has", deleted "clearly demonstrated" and added "included a minimum of five years'", after "defense", deleted "or prosecution", and after "crime", deleted "in this state"; added Paragraph (4) of Subsection B; and in Subsection C, after "The chief", deleted "shall serve at the pleasure of the governor" and added the remainder of the sentence.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2013, ch. 195, § 12, provided that the chief public defender serving on the effective date of Laws 2013, ch. 195, June 14, 2013, shall continue serving until a chief public defender is appointed by the public defender commission, but shall not serve after January 1, 2014, and that nothing in the act prohibits the public defender commission from reappointing the chief public defender serving on the effective date of the act.

**The 1985 amendment** substituted the present catchline for "Duties of the public defender board" in the catchline and deleted former Subsection D, relating to the public defender board's advisory capacity.

### **31-15-5. Public defender department; administration; finance.**

A. The headquarters of the department shall be maintained at Santa Fe.

B. All salaries and other expenses of the department shall be paid by warrants of the secretary of finance and administration, supported by vouchers signed by the chief or the chief's authorized representative and in accordance with budgets approved by the state budget division of the department of finance and administration.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-5, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 14, § 1; 2013, ch. 195, § 9.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1978, ch. 14, § 1, repealed 41-22A-5, 1953 Comp. (former 31-15-5 NMSA 1978), relating to the creation, administration and finance of the public defender department, and enacted the above section.

**Cross references.** — For administrative attachment to the criminal justice department, see 9-3-11 NMSA 1978.

**The 2013 amendment,** effective June 14, 2013, provided for the administration of the public defender department as an independent state agency; in the title, after

"department", deleted "creation"; and in Subsection A, deleted the former first sentence, which created the public defender department; deleted the former third sentence, which provided that the chief was the administrative head of the department; and deleted the former fourth sentence, which provided that the department was administratively attached to the criminal justice department.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2013, ch. 195, § 13, provided that existing contracts, agreements and other obligations in effect for the public defender department shall be binding on the public defender department on and after the effective date of Laws 2013, ch. 195, June 14, 2013.

### **31-15-5.1. Public defender automation fund created; administration; distribution.**

A. The "public defender automation fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by the department. The department shall report on the status of the fund to the legislative finance committee during each legislative interim.

B. All balances in the public defender automation fund are appropriated to the department for the purchase and maintenance of automation systems for the department.

C. Payments from the public defender automation fund shall be made pursuant to vouchers issued and signed by the chief upon warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and administration. Any purchase or lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be entered into in accordance with the Procurement Code [13-1-28 to 13-1-199 NMSA 1978].

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 79, § 2; 2013, ch. 195, § 10.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2013 amendment**, effective June 14, 2013, changed terminology; changed "public defender department" to "department".

### **31-15-6. Public defender department; powers.**

The department may receive on behalf of the state any gifts, grants-in-aid, donations or bequests from any source to be used in carrying out the purposes of the Public Defender Act.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-6, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 6.

### **31-15-7. Chief public defender; general duties and powers.**

A. The chief is responsible to the commission for the operation of the department. It is the chief's duty to manage all operations of the department and to:

- (1) administer and carry out the provisions of the Public Defender Act with which the chief is charged;
- (2) exercise authority over and provide general supervision of employees of the department; and
- (3) represent and advocate for the department and its clients.

B. To perform the chief's duties, the chief has every power implied as necessary for that purpose, those powers expressly enumerated in the Public Defender Act or other laws and full power and authority to:

- (1) exercise general supervisory authority over all employees of the department;
- (2) delegate authority to subordinates as the chief deems necessary and appropriate;
- (3) within the limitations of applicable appropriations and applicable laws, employ and fix the compensation of those persons necessary to discharge the chief's duties;
- (4) organize the department into those units the chief deems necessary and appropriate to carry out the chief's duties;
- (5) conduct research and studies that will improve the operation of the department and the administration of the Public Defender Act;
- (6) provide courses of instruction and practical training for employees of the department that will improve the operation of the department and the administration of the Public Defender Act;
- (7) purchase or lease personal property and lease real property for the use of the department;
- (8) maintain records and statistical data that reflect the operation and administration of the department;
- (9) submit an annual report and budget covering the operation of the department together with appropriate recommendations to the commission and, upon approval by the commission, to the legislature and the governor;



(10) serve as defense counsel under the Public Defender Act as necessary and appropriate;

(11) formulate a fee schedule for attorneys who are not employees of the department who serve as counsel for indigent persons under the Public Defender Act;

(12) adopt a standard to determine indigency;

(13) provide for the collection of reimbursement from each person who has received legal representation or another benefit under the Public Defender Act after a determination is made that the person was not indigent according to the standard for indigency adopted by the department. Any amounts recovered shall be paid to the state treasurer for credit to the general fund;

(14) require each person who desires legal representation or another benefit under the Public Defender Act to enter into a contract with the department agreeing to reimburse the department if a determination is made that the person was not indigent according to the standard for indigency adopted by the department; and

(15) certify contracts and expenditures for litigation expenses, including contracts and expenditures for professional and nonprofessional experts, investigators and witness fees, but not including attorney contracts, pursuant to the provisions of the Procurement Code [13-1-28 to 13-1-199 NMSA 1978].

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-7, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 7; 1977, ch. 257, § 60; 1985, ch. 32, § 3; 1987, ch. 20, § 1; 2001, ch. 34, § 1; 2013, ch. 195, § 11; 2014, ch. 78, § 3.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For defense of indigents, see 31-16-1 to 31-16-10 NMSA 1978.

**The 2014 amendment,** effective May 21, 2014, authorized the public defender to supervise department employees under personnel policies adopted by the public defender commission; and in Subsection B, Paragraph (1), after "department", deleted "subject to the Personnel Act".

**The 2013 amendment,** June 14, 2013, required the chief public defender to represent and advocate for the public defender department and its clients; in Subsection A, in the first sentence of the introductory paragraph, after "responsible to the", deleted "governor" and added "commission"; added Paragraph (3) of Subsection A; in Paragraph (9) of Subsection B, after "annual report", added "and budget", after "recommendations to the", deleted "governor, secretary of corrections" and added "commission", after "commission, and", added "upon approval by the commission, to the", and after "to the legislature", added "and the governor".

**The 2001 amendment**, effective July 1, 2001, inserted Paragraph B(15), which gives the chief the power to certify certain contracts and expenditures for litigation expenses.

**The 1987 amendment**, effective June 19, 1987, in Subsection B(9), substituted "corrections and" for "the criminal justice department and the" and added Subsections B(12) through (14).

**The 1985 amendment** deleted former Subsection A(3), relating to the chief's duty to advise the public defender board on matters relating to the administration of the department.

**Constitutionality of flat-fee arrangements for indigent defense contract counsel.**

— Where the New Mexico legislature, in its 2015 general appropriation to the law office of the public defender (LOPD), specifically provided that the appropriations to the public defender department shall not be used to pay hourly reimbursement rates to contract attorneys, the district court erred in entering an order requiring the LOPD to pay contract counsel hourly rates and the state to provide additional funding, nullifying the legislature's prohibition of the payment of hourly rates to indigent defense contract counsel as violative of the federal and state constitutions, based on its conclusion that the flat-fee rates paid to contract counsel by the LOPD contravene the constitutional guarantee of effective assistance of counsel; an indigent criminal defendant who is represented by contract counsel who is compensated under a flat-fee arrangement does not necessarily receive ineffective assistance of counsel. *Kerr v. Parsons*, 2016-NMSC-028.

**31-15-8. Duty of chief public defender to establish appellate division; duty of appellate division.**

A. The chief shall establish within the department an appellate division. The appellate division shall be headed by the appellate defender.

B. The appellate division shall assist the chief and district public defenders by providing representation before the court of appeals and the supreme court in appellate, review and postconviction proceedings involving persons represented under the Public Defender Act.

C. The appellate division shall assist private counsel not employed under the Public Defender Act in any appellate, review or postconviction remedy proceeding by providing representation for persons entitled to representation under the Indigent Defense Act [31-16-1 to 31-16-10 NMSA 1978].

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-8, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 8; 2014, ch. 78, § 4.

**ANNOTATIONS**

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 13, provided for the chief public defender to establish an appellate division during the sixty-second fiscal year, to handle all appellate proceedings under the act.

**The 2014 amendment,** effective May 21, 2014, required that the appellate division be headed by the appellate defender; and in Subsection A, added the second sentence.

### **31-15-9. Duty of chief public defender to establish district public defender office; appointment of district public defender.**

A. The chief shall designate one or more public defender districts having boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of one or more judicial districts of this state. The chief shall consider the demand for legal services provided under the Public Defender Act, criminal case load statistics, population, geographical characteristics and any other relevant factor in the designation of public defender districts.

B. The chief may review the designation of districts at any time. The review shall be based on the same factors enumerated in Subsection A of this section. On the basis of the review the chief may change the designation of any district so long as the new designation has boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of one or more judicial districts of this state.

C. The chief shall appoint a district public defender in each district. The district public defender shall administer the operation of the district and shall serve at the pleasure of the chief. Each district public defender shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in the highest courts of this state and a resident of this state.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-9, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 9.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 13, provided for the limitation of the chief public defender to designated districts and to appoint district public defenders during the sixty-second fiscal year to establish pilot programs.

### **31-15-10. Duties of district public defender.**

A. Under the supervision and control of the chief, each district public defender shall administer the operation of the department office within his district.

B. The district public defender or the chief may authorize the representation of a person who is without counsel and who is financially unable to obtain counsel when that person is under investigation for allegedly committing murder or any other felony criminal offense.

C. The district public defender shall represent every person without counsel who is financially unable to obtain counsel and who is charged in any court within the district with any crime that carries a possible sentence of imprisonment. The representation shall begin not later than the time of the initial appearance of the person before any court and shall continue throughout all stages of the proceedings against him, including any appeal, as directed by the chief.

D. The district public defender shall represent any person within the district who is without counsel and who is financially unable to obtain counsel in any state postconviction proceeding.

E. The district public defender shall notify the chief if, for any reason, he is unable to represent a person entitled to his representation, and the chief shall make provision for representation.

F. The district public defender may confer with any person who is not represented by counsel and who is being forcibly detained.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-10, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 10; 2001, ch. 34, § 2.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2001 amendment**, effective July 1, 2001, inserted Subsection B and redesignated the remaining subsections accordingly.

**No per se conflict of interest** exists when post conviction conflict division of public defender department represents individual arguing ineffective assistance of counsel by attorney from department's trial division, but each potential conflict must be reviewed on case-by-case basis, and individual may waive any such conflict by knowingly and intelligently signing waiver after proper advisement. *Morales v. Bridgforth*, 2004-NMSC-034, 136 N.M. 511, 100 P.3d 668.

**Construction with Indigent Defense Act.** — The legislature, understanding that courts determine indigence under the Indigent Defense Act (IDA), enacted this section of the Public Defender Act (PDA) intending "every person without counsel who is financially unable to obtain counsel" to include all persons who courts determine are "needy" under the IDA. Therefore, under the administrative system of the PDA and IDA, when a court determines that a defendant is "needy," the defendant is "financially unable to obtain counsel" under the PDA, and the Department "shall represent" the defendant pursuant to this section, assuming the defendant is charged with a crime carrying a possible sentence of imprisonment. *State ex rel. Quintana v. Schnedar*, 1993-NMSC-033, 115 N.M. 573, 855 P.2d 562.

**Standards for determining indigency.** — The Indigent Defense Act and the Public Defender Act are consistent as amended: The IDA obligates courts to determine

indigence, the PDA directs the department to adopt standards for determining indigence, and other statutes instruct courts to employ those standards. *State ex rel. Quintana v. Schnedar*, 1993-NMSC-033, 115 N.M. 573, 855 P.2d 562.

**Judicial procedure upon claim of conflict of interest by public defender.** — If a conflict of interest or other disqualification is claimed to exist under Subsection D (now Subsection E), the court shall: (1) determine whether a conflict of interest or other disqualification of the office of public defender in fact exists, (2) determine whether the conflict or disqualification is local or statewide, (3) if the conflict or disqualification is local, direct the chief public defender to provide a staff attorney or contract attorney from another county or district to represent the indigent, and (4) if the conflict or disqualification extends beyond the county or district, then the court may appoint counsel for the indigent defendant. *Richards v. Patton*, 1985-NMSC-059, 103 N.M. 14, 702 P.2d 4.

**No statutory right to counsel in grand jury proceedings.** — Neither the Grand Jury Act nor the Public Defender Act provides a target witness testifying before a grand jury with a right to counsel such that an indictment must be dismissed if counsel is not present and there is no express voluntary, knowing, and intelligent waiver of counsel's presence. *State v. Tisthammer*, 1998-NMCA-115, 126 N.M. 52, 966 P.2d 760, cert. denied, 126 N.M. 107, 967 P.2d 447.

**No blanket authorization to confer with all forcibly detained indigents.** — Subsection E (now Subsection F) is not a blanket authorization to confer with all indigent persons who are forcibly detained, but rather authorizes the public defender to confer with a person detained only (1) when that person has evinced a desire to consult with an attorney or have one present during questioning in response to Miranda warnings and law enforcement personnel have asked the defender to do so; (2) when the defender is conducting inquiries into whether the initial appearance has been unnecessarily delayed or attempting to have the person detained brought before the court for such an appearance, and the district court has authorized him to do so; (3) when authorized or directed in other circumstances by a district judge or (4) when defending a criminal charge following the initial appearance. *State v. Rascon*, 1976-NMSC-016, 89 N.M. 254, 550 P.2d 266.

**Information obtained by district public defender's staff must be imputed to him.** *State v. Valdez*, 1980-NMSC-098, 95 N.M. 70, 618 P.2d 1234.

**Municipality not required to provide representation.** — Although a defendant is entitled to be represented by counsel on the appeal of his conviction to the court of appeals, a municipality is not required to provide for such legal representation because the legislature has set forth a comprehensive plan to furnish counsel to qualified criminal defendants and municipal budgetary restrictions preclude expenditures for items not budgeted. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-04.

**Duty to represent indigents in metropolitan court.** — The public defender department's scope of representation is limited statutorily to the magistrate and district courts; the legislature has designated the Albuquerque metropolitan court as a magistrate court. Therefore, the public defender department is obligated to represent all indigents in the Albuquerque metropolitan court who are charged with any violation that carries a possible penalty of imprisonment, including city code violations. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-43.

**Children allowed counsel prior to court appearance.** — Subsection E (now Subsection F) can be used to provide children in detention with counsel at a stage prior to any court appearance and therefore before an attorney can be appointed. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-58.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to evidence, see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 379 (1982).

### **31-15-11. Compensation; private practice of law by attorneys employed by the department prohibited.**

A. For the purposes of the exempt salaries plan prepared pursuant to Section 10-9-5 NMSA 1978, each district public defender shall be considered an assistant in the offices of the chief.

B. All employees of the department other than the chief, assistant chief public defenders, appellate defender and district public defenders shall be subject to the provisions of the Personnel Act [Chapter 10, Article 9 NMSA 1978], unless the employees are exempted from the Personnel Act by the commission.

C. Before the commission may exempt the department from the Personnel Act, the commission shall develop and adopt personnel policies for the department; provided that no employee of the department, except the chief, assistant chief public defenders, appellate defender and district public defenders, shall have fewer rights under these policies than under the Personnel Act and under administrative rules applicable to state employees on the effective date of this 2014 act.

D. No chief, assistant chief public defender, appellate defender, district public defender or attorney hired on a full-time basis as an assistant to the chief or to a district public defender, while holding that office or employed in that capacity, shall engage in the private practice of law. Attorneys who serve as counsel for indigent persons under contract with the department may engage in the private practice of law.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-11, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 11; 1977, ch. 257, § 61; 2014, ch. 78, § 5.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2014 amendment**, effective May 21, 2014, required the public defender commission to develop and adopt personnel policies before it exempts the public defender department from the Personnel Act; in Subsection A, after "offices of the chief", deleted "public defender"; in Subsection B, after "other than the chief", deleted "public defender" and added "assistant chief public defenders, appellate defender", and after "Personnel Act", added the remainder of the sentence; added Subsection C; and in Subsection D, in the first sentence, after "No chief", added "assistant chief public defender, appellate defender".

### **31-15-12. Explanation of rights; waiver of counsel; application fee; indigency determination.**

A. If any person charged with any crime or a delinquent act that carries a possible sentence of imprisonment appears in any court without counsel, the judge shall inform the person of the person's right:

- (1) to confer with the district public defender; and
- (2) if the person is financially unable to obtain counsel, to be represented by the district public defender at all stages of the proceedings against the person.

B. Following notification of any person under Subsection A of this section, the judge shall notify the district public defender and continue the proceedings until the person has applied with the district public defender.

C. A person shall pay a nonrefundable application fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) at the time the person applies with the public defender for representation. The fee shall be deposited in the public defender automation fund. The public defender shall determine if the person is indigent and unable to pay the fee, subject to review by the court. When the person remains in custody and is unable to pay the fee, the court may waive payment of the fee. A child subject to the provisions of the Delinquency Act [Chapter 32A, Article 2 NMSA 1978] shall not be required to pay the application fee.

D. Peace officers shall notify the district public defender of any person not represented by counsel who is being forcibly detained and who is charged with, or under suspicion of, the commission of any crime that carries a possible sentence of imprisonment, unless the person has previously appeared in court upon that charge.

E. Any person entitled to representation by the district public defender may intelligently waive the right to representation. The waiver may be for all or any part of the proceedings. The waiver shall be in writing and countersigned by a district public defender.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22A-12, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 156, § 12; 1993, ch. 79, § 1; 2021, ch. 15, § 2.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For explanation of rights, opportunity to call attorney, see Rule 6-501A NMRA.

**The 2021 amendment,** effective June 18, 2021, eliminated, for children subject to the provisions of the Delinquency Act, the application fee for applying for representation with the public defender, and made technical, nonsubstantive changes; and in Subsection C, after "the court may waive payment of the fee", added "A child subject to the provisions of the Delinquency Act shall not be required to pay the application fee."

**The 1993 amendment,** effective July 1, 1993, inserted "application fee; indigency determination" in the catchline; inserted "or a delinquent act" in the introductory paragraph of Subsection A; substituted "applied" for "conferred" near the end of Subsection B; added present Subsection C; redesignated former Subsections C and D as present Subsections D and E; and substituted "shall" for "must" in the second sentence of Subsection D.

**Import of Subsection B.** — Inasmuch as the benefits of the Public Defender Act accrue only to those who are "financially unable to obtain counsel" and who are charged with certain crimes, obviously a determination of indigency is required. Inquiry into this feature is accomplished by the court, and the public defender is assigned to the case where indigency appears. *State v. Rascon*, 1976-NMSC-016, 89 N.M. 254, 550 P.2d 266.

**Defendant must make showing of indigence.** — Although trial court failed to advise pro se defendant of his rights under the public defender laws, such failure was harmless error where defendant made no showing of indigence, but instead chose to represent himself, even after trial judge notified him of his constitutional right to counsel. *Attorney General v. Montoya*, 1998-NMCA-149, 126 N.M. 273, 968 P.2d 784, cert. denied, 126 N.M. 532, 972 P.2d 351.

**Purpose of Subsection D.** — Subsection D does not expand upon or extend the constitutional rights of a person forcibly detained, under the constitutions of the United States or New Mexico. Rather, its prime purpose is to protect and implement the right of persons detained to be brought before a court without unnecessary delay. *State v. Rascon*, 1976-NMSC-016, 89 N.M. 254, 550 P.2d 266.

**Public defender to make inquiries about forcibly detained persons.** — Subsection D is intended to advise the public defender of the names and whereabouts of persons who are being forcibly detained so that if they are not brought before a court for an initial appearance without unnecessary delay, the public defender may make inquiries, with demands upon the state to bring forth the prisoner if appropriate and with application to a court if necessary. *State v. Rascon*, 1976-NMSC-016, 89 N.M. 254, 550 P.2d 266.



**Failure of police to comply with Subsection D** did not infringe upon defendant's rights against self-incrimination where defendant was advised of those rights both at time of arrest and booking, voluntarily acknowledged that he understood them and signed waiver of rights form. *State v. Rascon*, 1976-NMSC-016, 89 N.M. 254, 550 P.2d 266.

**Counsel need not be notified before defendant questioned about unrelated offense.** — Where an accused has been charged with one offense and is represented by counsel with respect to that offense, police need not notify that counsel before questioning defendant about another unrelated offense. *State v. Seward*, 1986-NMCA-062, 104 N.M. 548, 724 P.2d 756, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 522, 724 P.2d 231.

**Lack of a countersignature on defendant's waiver of counsel form** does not of itself make that waiver invalid for the purpose of enhancing later convictions. *State v. Pino*, 1997-NMCA-001, 122 N.M. 789, 932 P.2d 13, cert. denied, 122 N.M. 589, 929 P.2d 981.

**No waiver where defendant was unaware of possibility of jail.** — There was no voluntary, knowing, and intelligent waiver of counsel where the defendant, who pled guilty, was not advised, and was not aware, of the possibility of jail when he waived his right to an attorney. *Smith v. Maldonado*, 1985-NMSC-115, 103 N.M. 570, 711 P.2d 15.

**Lack of countersignature not considered on appeal.** — The fact that defendant's waiver form was not countersigned by a district public defender as required by Subsection E was not raised below nor briefed and supported by authority on appeal, and would not be considered by the appellate court. *State v. Ramirez*, 1976-NMCA-101, 89 N.M. 635, 556 P.2d 43, *overruled on other grounds by City of Albuquerque v. Haywood*, 1998-NMCA-029, 124 N.M. 661, 954 P.2d 93, cert. denied, 124 N.M. 589, 953 P.2d 1087.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Fathers Behind Bars: The Right to Counsel in Civil Contempt Proceedings," see 14 N.M.L. Rev. 275 (1984).

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **Defense of Indigents**

#### **31-16-1. Short title.**

Sections 58 through 68 [31-16-1 to 31-16-10 NMSA 1978] of this act may be cited as the "Indigent Defense Act".

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-1, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 58.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For public defender's duties relating to indigents, see 31-15-7 NMSA 1978.

For juvenile court indigency standard, fee schedule and reimbursement, see 32A-2-30 NMSA 1978.

For district court indigency standard, fee schedule and reimbursement, see 34-6-46 NMSA 1978.

For metropolitan court indigency standard, fee schedule and reimbursement, see 34-8A-11 NMSA 1978.

For magistrate court indigency standard, fee schedule and reimbursement, see 35-5-8 NMSA 1978.

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature does not, in the Indigent Defense Act, provide that the state is to furnish free counsel for persons pursuing civil damage claims. *Orrs v. Rodriguez*, 1972-NMCA-148, 84 N.M. 355, 503 P.2d 335.

**Multiple representation.** — While it is incontestable that a criminal defendant is entitled to representation, there is no support for the argument that more than one attorney must be appointed to represent an indigent defendant based merely on the claim that a case is complex and a conviction would carry serious consequences to the defendant. *State v. Chamberlain*, 1991-NMSC-094, 112 N.M. 723, 819 P.2d 673.

**Counsel need not be notified before defendant questioned about unrelated offense.** — Where an accused has been charged with one offense and is represented by counsel with respect to that offense, police need not notify that counsel before questioning defendant about another unrelated offense. *State v. Seward*, 1986-NMCA-062, 104 N.M. 548, 724 P.2d 756, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 522, 724 P.2d 231.

**Where conflict in procedure, rule controls.** — If Rule 1-092 NMRA and the Indigent Defense Act are in conflict on a procedural matter, the rule must control. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1197 et seq.

Ineffective assistance of counsel: misrepresentation, or failure to advise, of immigration consequences of guilty plea - state cases, 65 A.L.R.4th 719.

Right of indigent defendant in state criminal case to assistance of investigators, 81 A.L.R.4th 259.

22 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 277, 278, 292.

### **31-16-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Indigent Defense Act:

- A. "detain" means to have in custody or otherwise deprive of freedom of action;
- B. "expenses", when used with reference to representation, includes the expenses of investigation, other preparation and trial;
- C. "needy person" means a person who, at the time his need is determined by the court, is unable, without undue hardship, to provide for all or a part of the expenses of legal representation from available present income and assets; and
- D. "serious crime" includes a felony and any misdemeanor or offense which carries a possible penalty of confinement for more than six months.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-2, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 59; 1973, ch. 210, § 1.

### **31-16-3. Right to representation.**

A. A needy person who is being detained by a law enforcement officer, or who is under formal charge of having committed, or is being detained under a conviction of, a serious crime, is entitled to be represented by an attorney to the same extent as a person having his own counsel and to be provided with the necessary services and facilities of representation, including investigation and other preparation. The attorney, services and facilities and expenses and court costs shall be provided at public expense for needy persons.

B. A needy person entitled to representation by an attorney under Subsection A is entitled to be:

- (1) counseled and defended at all stages of the matter beginning with the earliest time when a person providing his own counsel would be entitled to be represented by an attorney;
- (2) represented in any appeal or review proceedings; and
- (3) represented in any other postconviction proceeding that the attorney or the needy person considers appropriate unless the court in which the proceeding is brought determines that it is not a proceeding that a reasonable person with adequate means would be willing to bring at his own expense.

C. A needy person's right to a benefit under this section is unaffected by his having provided a similar benefit at his own expense, or by his having waived it, at an earlier stage.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-3, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 60.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature did not intend current implementation of the Indigent Defense Act to come from any other source of funds than the public defender department. *State v. Brown*, 2004-NMCA-037, 135 N.M. 291, 87 P.3d 1073, cert. granted, 135 N.M. 321, 88 P.3d 263, *rev'd*, 2006-NMSC-023, 139 N.M. 466, 134 P.3d 753.

**Right to basic tools of an adequate defense.** — Funding for expert witnesses should extend to those indigent defendants represented by pro bono counsel, in addition to those represented by the public defender department. *State v. Brown*, 2006-NMSC-023, 139 N.M. 466, 134 P.3d 753, *rev'g* 2004-NMCA-037, 135 N.M. 291, 87 P.3d 1073.

**Constitution grants accused right to representation.** — New Mexico Const., art. II, § 14, gives the accused the right to be defended by counsel. When the offense with which the defendant is charged is punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary, the court is required to assign counsel "if the prisoner has not the financial means to procure counsel." *State v. Anaya*, 1966-NMSC-144, 76 N.M. 572, 417 P.2d 58.

**Absent waiver, pauper charged with crime entitled to counsel.** — Absent competent and intelligent waiver, a person charged with crime in a state court who is a pauper and unable to employ counsel is entitled to have an attorney appointed to defend him. *State v. Dalrymple*, 1965-NMSC-124, 75 N.M. 514, 407 P.2d 356.

**Showing of indigency required.** — A showing of an accused's indigency is a prerequisite to the right of court-appointed counsel. *State v. Powers*, 1965-NMSC-046, 75 N.M. 141, 401 P.2d 775.

**Court entitled to make defendant show need.** — A showing of an accused's indigency is a prerequisite to the right of a court-appointed counsel and it is proper for the trial court to require the defendant to make a reasonable showing that he is unable to employ counsel. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Court must make sufficient inquiry.** — When defendant makes a reasonable showing of indigency in support of his request for court-appointed counsel, the trial court has a duty to inquire into the facts claimed by defendant. This does not require an independent inquiry by the court. It does require sufficient questioning by the court to enable the court either to decide the question of indigency at that time or to direct that

defendant is to report further to the court on the question of obtaining counsel. *State v. Anaya*, 1966-NMSC-144, 76 N.M. 572, 417 P.2d 58.

When a defendant makes a reasonable showing of indigency, the trial court has a duty to inquire into the facts relied upon by the defendant. *State v. Watchman*, 1991-NMCA-010, 111 N.M. 727, 809 P.2d 641, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Hosteen*, 1996-NMCA-084, 122 N.M. 228, 923 P.2d 595.

**Burden of proceeding rests first upon defendant.** — It is proper for the trial court to require defendant to make a reasonable showing that he is unable to employ counsel. Depending on the facts, more than one inquiry may be necessary. *State v. Anaya*, 1966-NMSC-144, 76 N.M. 572, 417 P.2d 58.

**Doubts resolved in accused's favor.** — Although the courts recognize the relative concepts of indigency and that this determination should be made at the trial court level, the opinions indicate that doubts as to indigency should be resolved in favor of the accused. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Effect of refusal to fill out certificate of indigency.** — Defendant was not entitled to any appointed counsel because he refused to fill out, under oath, a certificate of indigency showing his income, and thus there was no showing that he was a needy person. *State v. Pina*, 1977-NMCA-020, 90 N.M. 181, 561 P.2d 43.

**No counsel provided prior to claim of indigency.** — Defendant does have a right to be represented by counsel, but the trial court has no obligation to provide defendant with counsel prior to any claim of indigency. *State v. Deats*, 1971-NMCA-089, 82 N.M. 711, 487 P.2d 139.

**Attorney provided before preliminary hearing.** — This section would provide an attorney for a needy person who is being detained by a law enforcement officer, and this could be before the preliminary hearing. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Absent waiver, preliminary hearing without counsel present invalid.** — The determination of the question of indigency must often be made before the otherwise normal appearance of the accused before the district court. To hold a preliminary hearing without counsel present, unless the right to counsel has been competently, intelligently and voluntarily waived, vitiates the hearing. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Claim of inadequate representation** by court-appointed counsel requires a showing that the proceedings leading to his conviction were a sham, farce or mockery. *State v. Salazar*, 1970-NMCA-056, 81 N.M. 512, 469 P.2d 157.

**Representation must be more than pro forma appearance.** — The representation to which a defendant is entitled is something more than a pro forma appearance. *State v. Dalrymple*, 1965-NMSC-124, 75 N.M. 514, 407 P.2d 356.

**Appointment of counsel lies within court's discretion.** — An indigent defendant may not compel the court to appoint such counsel as defendant may choose. Such appointment lies within the sound discretion of the trial court. Likewise, whether the dissatisfaction of an indigent accused with his court-appointed counsel warrants discharge of that counsel and appointment of new counsel is for the trial court, in its discretion, to decide. *State v. Salazar*, 1970-NMCA-056, 81 N.M. 512, 469 P.2d 157.

**Indigent Defense Act does not provide for payment of advances.** *State v. Frazier*, 1973-NMCA-127, 85 N.M. 545, 514 P.2d 302.

**Motion for advancement of funds for investigator properly denied.** — Defendant's motion for a prior advancement of funds for a professional investigator was properly denied as an expenditure is clearly not required in every case and need not be provided unless the necessity is shown. *State v. Frazier*, 1973-NMCA-127, 85 N.M. 545, 514 P.2d 302.

**Free polygraph examination refused to "indigent".** — Where defendant sought by motion an order committing the state to pay for a polygraph examination before the examination was conducted, alleging that defendant was indigent, thus presumably invoking the provisions of the Indigent Defense Act, but although trial counsel was court-appointed the only reference to indigency was in defendant's various motions, not in orders of the court, and also appearing in defendant's motions were allegations that defendant had employment and could return to that employment if released on bail, the record did not support the claim that defendant was indigent when he sought a free polygraph examination and thus this subsection did not apply. *State v. Carrillo*, 1975-NMCA-103, 88 N.M. 236, 539 P.2d 626.

**Uncontested motion for determination of indigency.** — When a defendant's motion for determination of indigency is uncontested, the better procedure in such cases is for the trial court to either grant the motion or to expressly indicate the basis for its denial. *State v. Watchman*, 1991-NMCA-010, 111 N.M. 727, 809 P.2d 641, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Hosteen*, 1996-NMCA-084, 122 N.M. 228, 923 P.2d 595.

**State must afford indigents record of proceedings.** — It is not a requirement that a certified copy of a court reporter's notes of the proceedings be always furnished but that the state must afford indigents a record of sufficient completeness to permit proper consideration of their claims and a tape recording of preliminary examination proceedings in a magistrate's court is sufficient. *State ex rel. Moreno v. Floyd*, 1973-NMSC-117, 85 N.M. 699, 516 P.2d 670.

**Appointment of additional attorneys.** — Where two or more defendants were jointly charged with a felony, the language of former 41-11-2, 1953 Comp., did not require any construction denying to a court the power to appoint attorneys for each jointly charged indigent defendant as the circumstances should appear. Indeed, if a prejudicial conflict of interest arose or if the number of defendants being represented and divergence in defenses would reduce the attorneys' effectiveness the court was required to appoint additional attorneys. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-27.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 7 Am. Jur. 2d Attorneys § 228; 20 Am. Jur. 2d Courts § 44 et seq.; 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1197 et seq.

Constitutional guaranty of right to appear by counsel as applicable to misdemeanor case, 42 A.L.R. 1157.

Brevity of time between assignment of counsel and trial as affecting question whether accused is denied right to assistance of counsel, 84 A.L.R. 544.

Right of indigent defendant in criminal case to aid of state as regards new trial or appeal, 100 A.L.R. 321, 55 A.L.R.2d 1072.

Relief in habeas corpus for violation of accused's right to assistance of counsel, 146 A.L.R. 369.

Duty of court when appointing counsel for defendant to name attorney other than one employed by, or appointed for, a codefendant, 148 A.L.R. 183.

Plea of guilty without advice of counsel, 149 A.L.R. 1403.

Right of defendant in criminal case to discharge of, or substitution of other counsel for, attorney appointed by court to represent him, 157 A.L.R. 1225.

Right to aid of counsel in application or hearing for habeas corpus, 162 A.L.R. 922.

Right to notice and hearing before revocation of suspension of sentence, parole, conditional pardon, or probation, 29 A.L.R.2d 1074.

Validity and construction of statutes providing for psychiatric examination of accused to determine mental condition, 32 A.L.R.2d 434.

New trial or appeal, right of indigent defendant in criminal case to aid of state as regards, 55 A.L.R.2d 1072.

Counsel's right in criminal prosecution to argue law or to read lawbooks to the jury, 67 A.L.R.2d 245.

Psychiatrist, psychologist, hypnotist or similar practitioner, counsel's right, in consulting with accused as client, to be accompanied by, 72 A.L.R.2d 1120.

Calling accused's counsel as a prosecution witness as improper deprivation of right to counsel, 88 A.L.R.2d 796.

Constitutionally protected right of indigent accused to appointment of counsel in state court prosecution, 93 A.L.R.2d 747.

Accused's right to assistance of counsel at or prior to arraignment, 5 A.L.R.3d 1269.

Scope and extent, and remedy or sanctions for infringement, of accused's right to communicate with his attorney, 5 A.L.R.3d 1360.

Propriety and prejudicial effect of counsel's representing defendant in criminal case notwithstanding counsel's representation or former representation of prosecution witness, 27 A.L.R.3d 1431.

Circumstance giving rise to conflict of interest between or among criminal codefendants precluding representation by same counsel, 34 A.L.R.3d 470.

Attorney's refusal to accept appointment to defend indigent, or to proceed in such defense, as contempt, 36 A.L.R.3d 1221.

Right to assistance of counsel at proceedings to revoke probation, 44 A.L.R.3d 306.

Right to counsel in contempt proceedings, 52 A.L.R.3d 1002.

Accused's right to choose particular counsel appointed to assist him, 66 A.L.R.3d 996.

Right of indigent criminal defendant to polygraph test at public expense, 11 A.L.R.4th 733.

Relief available for violation of right to counsel at sentencing in state criminal trial, 65 A.L.R.4th 183.

Right of indigent defendant in state criminal case to assistance of ballistics experts, 71 A.L.R.4th 638.

Right of indigent defendant in state criminal case to assistance of fingerprint expert, 72 A.L.R.4th 874.

Right of indigent defendant in state criminal case to assistance of expert in social attitudes, 74 A.L.R.4th 330.



Right of indigent defendant in state criminal case to assistance of chemist, toxicologist, technician, narcotics expert, or similar nonmedical specialist in substance analysis, 74 A.L.R.4th 388.

Criminal defendant's representation by person not licensed to practice law as violation of right to counsel, 19 A.L.R.5th 351.

Right to appointment of counsel in contempt proceedings, 32 A.L.R.5th 31.

Right of indigent defendant in state criminal prosecution to ex parte in camera hearing on request for state-funded expert witness, 83 A.L.R.5th 541.

Accused's right, under 28 USCS § 1654, and similar predecessor statutes, to represent himself in federal criminal proceeding, 27 A.L.R. Fed. 485.

What constitutes assertion of right to counsel following Miranda warnings - federal cases, 80 A.L.R. Fed. 622.

22 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 277, 278, 292.

### **31-16-4. Notice of right to representation.**

A. If a person who is being detained by a law enforcement officer, or who is under formal charge of having committed, or is being detained under a conviction of, a serious crime, is not represented by an attorney under conditions in which a person having his own counsel would be entitled to be so represented, the law enforcement officers concerned, upon commencement of detention, or the court, upon formal charge, as the case may be, shall clearly inform him of the right of a needy person to be represented by an attorney at public expense and, if the person detained or charged does not have an attorney, notify the district court concerned that he is not so represented.

B. Upon commencement of any later judicial proceeding relating to the same matter, the presiding officer shall clearly inform the person so detained or charged of the right of a needy person to be represented by an attorney at public expense.

C. If the district court determines that the person is entitled to be represented by an attorney at public expense, it shall promptly assign an attorney who shall represent the person in accordance with the terms of his assignment.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-4, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 61.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature did not, in the Indigent Defense Act, provide that the state was to furnish free counsel for persons pursuing civil damage claims. *Orrs v. Rodriguez*, 1972-NMCA-148, 84 N.M. 355, 503 P.2d 335.

**Act not violated.** — There being no claim of indigency at the trial level, this section was the only portion of the act applicable to defendant's contention that he was denied counsel at arraignment, and where the record at arraignment disclosed defendant after pleading not guilty was advised that if he could not employ counsel within a week the court would appoint counsel, the act (Indigent Defense Act) was not violated. *State v. Torres*, 1970-NMCA-017, 81 N.M. 521, 469 P.2d 166, cert. denied, 81 N.M. 506, 469 P.2d 151.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1197.

Duty to advise accused as to right to assistance of counsel, 3 A.L.R.2d 1003.

Duty of court to inform accused who is not represented by counsel of his right not to testify, 79 A.L.R.2d 643.

Right of motorist stopped by police officers for traffic offense to be informed at that time of his federal constitutional rights under *Miranda v. Arizona*, 25 A.L.R.3d 1076.

What constitutes "custodial interrogation" within rule of *Miranda v. Arizona* requiring that suspect be informed of his federal constitutional rights before custodial interrogation, 31 A.L.R.3d 565.

What constitutes assertion of right to counsel following *Miranda* warnings - federal cases, 80 A.L.R. Fed. 622.

What circumstances fall within public safety exception to general requirement, pursuant to or as aid in enforcement of federal Constitution's Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination, to give *Miranda* warnings before conducting custodial interrogation - post-*Quarles* cases, 142 A.L.R. Fed. 229.

### **31-16-5. Determination of indigency.**

A. The determination of whether a person covered by Section 60 [31-16-3 NMSA 1978] of the Indigent Defense Act is a needy person shall be deferred until his first appearance in court or in a suit for payment or reimbursement under Section 66 [31-16-9 NMSA 1978] of the Indigent Defense Act, whichever occurs earlier. Thereafter, the court concerned shall determine, with respect to each proceeding, whether he is a needy person.

B. In determining whether a person is a needy person and the extent of his inability to pay, the court concerned may consider such factors as income, property owned, outstanding obligations and the number and ages of his dependents. Release on bail does not necessarily prevent him from being a needy person. In each case, the person shall, subject to the penalties for perjury, certify in writing or by other record material factors relating to his ability to pay as the court prescribes.

C. To the extent that a person covered by Section 60 of the Indigent Defense Act is able to provide for an attorney, the other necessary services and facilities of representation and court costs, the court may order him to provide for their payment.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-5, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 62.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For jury and witness fee fund, see 34-9-11 NMSA 1978.

**Determination fails to meet constitutional mandate.** — The limited determination of indigency under the standard of pauperism does not conform to constitutional mandate. *Anaya v. Baker*, 427 F.2d 73 (10th Cir. 1970).

**Proper to require defendant to make reasonable showing of indigency.** — A showing of an accused's indigency is a prerequisite to the right of a court-appointed counsel, and it is proper for the trial court to require the defendant to make a reasonable showing that he is unable to employ counsel. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Doubts resolved in favor of accused.** — Although the courts recognize the relative concepts of indigency and that this determination should be made at the trial court level, doubts as to indigency should be resolved in favor of the accused. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Right of district court to determine indigency.** — Although this rule makes it the duty of the district court to appoint counsel for the indigent person immediately upon receipt of a certificate of indigency from the committing magistrate, we do not construe this as depriving the district court of its right to determine whether such person is in fact indigent. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Court must make adequate inquiry into whether person needy.** — Whether defendant has the financial means to procure counsel is a factual question. This factual question cannot be resolved without an adequate inquiry into the facts. *State v. Anaya*, 1966-NMSC-144, 76 N.M. 572, 417 P.2d 58.

When a defendant makes a reasonable showing of indigency, the trial court has a duty to inquire into the facts relied upon by the defendant. *State v. Watchman*, 1991-NMCA-010, 111 N.M. 727, 809 P.2d 641, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227, *overruled in part on other grounds by State v. Hosteen*, 1996-NMCA-084, 122 N.M. 228, 923 P.2d 595.

**Determination must be made before district court appearance.** — The determination of the question of indigency must often be made before the otherwise normal appearance of the accused before the district court. To hold a preliminary hearing without counsel present, unless the right to counsel has been competently,

intelligently and voluntarily waived, vitiates the hearing. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Court determination obligates public defender.** — The legislature, understanding that courts determine indigence under the Indigent Defense Act (IDA), enacted 31-15-10 NMSA 1978 of the Public Defender Act (PDA) intending "every person without counsel who is financially unable to obtain counsel" to include all persons who courts determine are "needy" under the 31-16-5 NMSA 1978 of the IDA. Therefore, under the administrative system of the PDA and IDA, when a court determines that a defendant is "needy," the defendant is "financially unable to obtain counsel" under the PDA, and the department "shall represent" the defendant pursuant to 31-15-10 NMSA 1978, assuming the defendant is charged with a crime carrying a possible sentence of imprisonment. *State ex rel. Quintana v. Schnedar*, 1993-NMSC-033, 115 N.M. 573, 855 P.2d 562.

**Construction with Public Defender Act.** — The Indigent Defense Act and the Public Defender Act are consistent as amended: The IDA obligates courts to determine indigence, the PDA directs the department to adopt standards for determining indigence, and other statutes instruct courts to employ those standards. *State ex rel. Quintana v. Schnedar*, 1993-NMSC-033, 115 N.M. 573, 855 P.2d 562.

**Claim of indigency in letter form sufficient.** — If in fact defendant was indigent at time of filing notice of appeal, he was entitled to be represented by court-appointed counsel on his appeal; his letter stating he cannot pay costs is a sufficient claim of indigency. *Barela v. State*, 1970-NMCA-044, 81 N.M. 433, 467 P.2d 1005.

**Effect of refusal to fill out certificate of indigency.** — Defendant was not entitled to any appointed counsel because he refused to fill out, under oath, a certificate of indigency showing his income, and thus there was no showing that he was a needy person. *State v. Pina*, 1977-NMCA-020, 90 N.M. 181, 561 P.2d 43.

**Borrowing ability one factor in determining financial means.** — Neither the ability nor the inability to borrow money is the sole criterion. The question is whether defendant has the financial means to employ counsel. Borrowing ability is only one aspect of the defendant's "financial means." *State v. Anaya*, 1966-NMSC-144, 76 N.M. 572, 417 P.2d 58.

**As well as property interest and employment.** — The fact that defendant had an undefined interest in three items of property and the fact that he was employed prior to his arrest is insufficient to determine the question of defendant's financial ability to obtain counsel. *State v. Anaya*, 1966-NMSC-144, 76 N.M. 572, 417 P.2d 58.

**Represented by employed counsel, but still indigent.** — A defendant may be represented by employed counsel and still be indigent in connection with other matters pertaining to defense of the case. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-038, 80 N.M. 244, 453 P.2d 764.

**Mandamus is not available to control judicial discretion** unless there is a clear abuse of that discretion, or unless such action would prevent the doing of useless things. *State ex rel. Peters v. McIntosh*, 1969-NMSC-103, 80 N.M. 496, 458 P.2d 222.

**Uncontested motion for determination of indigency.** — When a defendant's motion for determination of indigency is uncontested, the better procedure in such cases is for the trial court to either grant the motion or to expressly indicate the basis for its denial. *State v. Watchman*, 1991-NMCA-010, 111 N.M. 727, 809 P.2d 641, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Hosteen*, 1996-NMCA-084, 122 N.M. 228, 923 P.2d 595.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1199 et seq.

Determination of indigency of accused entitling him to appointment of counsel, 51 A.L.R.3d 1108.

Determination of indigency entitling accused in state criminal case to appointment of counsel on appeal, 26 A.L.R.5th 765.

### **31-16-6. Waiver of right to representation.**

A person who has been appropriately informed under Section 61 [31-16-4 NMSA 1978] of the Indigent Defense Act may waive in writing or by other record any right provided by the Indigent Defense Act if the court authorized to appoint counsel, at the time of or after waiver, finds of record that he has acted with full awareness of his rights and of the consequences of a waiver and if the waiver is otherwise according to law. The court shall consider such factors as the person's age, education and familiarity with English and the complexity of the crime involved.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-6, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 63.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Failure to advise defendant of possible jail sentence.** — There was no voluntary knowing, and intelligent waiver of the right to an attorney where defendant was advised of the allowable penalty, but was not aware of the possibility of a jail sentence when defendant waived the right to an attorney. *Smith v. Maldonado*, 1985-NMSC-115, 103 N.M. 570, 711 P.2d 15.

**Effective waiver of right to counsel.** — Where both the justice of the peace and the district court advised defendant that, if indigent, counsel would be appointed to represent him, where defendant affirmatively waived counsel in both courts and where the district court questioned defendant extensively as to his understanding of the charges, the penalties if convicted, his various rights, including the right to counsel, to a jury trial and to an appeal if found guilty, then defendant's motion for post-conviction

relief on the grounds of lack of counsel was denied, as defendant effectively waived his right to counsel. *State v. Martin*, 1969-NMCA-079, 80 N.M. 531, 458 P.2d 606.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1237 et seq.

Validity and efficacy of minor's waiver of right to counsel, 25 A.L.R.4th 1072.

22 C.J.S. Criminal Law § 292.

### **31-16-7. Recovery from defendant.**

A. The district attorney may, on behalf of the state, recover payment or reimbursement, as the case may be, from each person who has received legal assistance or another benefit under the Indigent Defense Act:

- (1) to which he was not entitled;
- (2) with respect to which he was not a needy person when he received it; or
- (3) with respect to which he has failed to make the certificate required by Section 62 B [31-16-5 NMSA 1978] of the Indigent Defense Act and for which he refuses to pay. Suit must be brought within six years after the date on which the aid was received.

B. The district attorney may, on behalf of the state, recover payment or reimbursement, as the case may be, from each person other than a person covered by Subsection A who has received legal assistance under the Indigent Defense Act and who, on the date on which suit is brought, is financially able to pay or reimburse the state for it according to the standards of ability to pay applicable under the Indigent Defense Act but refuses to do so. Suit must be brought within three years after the date on which the benefit was received.

C. Amounts recovered under this section shall be paid to the state treasurer for credit to the state general fund.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-7, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 64.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For jury and witness fee fund, see 34-9-11 NMSA 1978.

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature did not, in the Indigent Defense Act, provide that the state was to furnish free counsel for persons pursuing civil damage claims. *Orrs v. Rodriguez*, 1972-NMCA-148, 84 N.M. 355, 503 P.2d 335.

**Defendant's financial means.** — In resolving the factual question as to defendant's financial means, the defendant's answers should be under oath. The factual question is not whether defendant ought to be able to employ counsel, but whether he is able to do so. *State v. Anaya*, 1966-NMSC-144, 76 N.M. 572, 417 P.2d 58.

### **31-16-8. Payment of costs, expenses and attorney fees.**

A. Payments of costs, expenses and attorney fees under the Indigent Defense Act shall be made from:

(1) funds appropriated to the supreme court with respect to habeas corpus matters initiated in that court; and

(2) funds appropriated to the district court with respect to all stages of proceedings initiated in the district court.

B. The court assigning counsel under the Indigent Defense Act shall pay costs, including the costs of transcripts where appropriate, shall reimburse counsel for direct expenses the court determines to have been properly incurred by him and shall pay to counsel fees:

(1) for services in magistrate courts and district courts where the proceedings are terminated prior to trial in the district court, a sum fixed by the court at not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300);

(2) for services in magistrate courts and district courts which include trial in the district court and, where appropriate, filing notice of appeal, a sum fixed by the court at not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than four hundred dollars (\$400);

(3) for services in postconviction remedy proceedings in the district court, a sum fixed by the court at not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150);

(4) for services in prosecuting any appeal or review in the court of appeals or the supreme court, a sum fixed by the court at not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500);

(5) for services in habeas corpus proceedings in the supreme court, a sum fixed by the court at not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150); and

(6) for services in any case involving a capital offense, a sum fixed by the court.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-8, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 65.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The district court has no authority to order the New Mexico Public Defender Department to pay expert witness fees** on behalf of an indigent defendant who is represented by pro bono private counsel. *Subin v. Ulmer*, 2001-NMCA-105, 131 N.M. 350, 36 P.3d 441.

**Statutory fee not violative of constitutional rights.** — Defendant's argument that the statutory attorney fee limitation of \$400 in defense of indigent criminal cases was a denial of equal protection and due process was without merit where there was no claim that the defendant was poorly represented, nor were there any facts indicating how the statutory fee limitation so deprived the defendant. *State v. Silver*, 1971-NMCA-112, 83 N.M. 1, 487 P.2d 910.

**Constitutionality of flat-fee arrangements for indigent defense contract counsel.** — Where the New Mexico legislature, in its 2015 general appropriation to the law office of the public defender (LOPD), specifically provided that the appropriations to the public defender department shall not be used to pay hourly reimbursement rates to contract attorneys, the district court erred in entering an order requiring the LOPD to pay contract counsel hourly rates and the state to provide additional funding, nullifying the legislature's prohibition of the payment of hourly rates to indigent defense contract counsel as violative of the federal and state constitutions, based on its conclusion that the flat-fee rates paid to contract counsel by the LOPD contravene the constitutional guarantee of effective assistance of counsel; an indigent criminal defendant who is represented by contract counsel who is compensated under a flat-fee arrangement does not necessarily receive ineffective assistance of counsel. *Kerr v. Parsons*, 2016-NMSC-028.

**Legislature may appropriate additional funds.** — Language in Subsection A (2) providing that expenses under the Indigent Defense Act are to be paid from "funds appropriated to the district court with respect to all stages of proceedings initiated in the district court" does not prevent the legislature from appropriating additional funds for expenses in indigent cases. *State v. Duran*, 1977-NMCA-091, 91 N.M. 35, 570 P.2d 36, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 3, 569 P.2d 413, 435 U.S. 972, 98 S. Ct. 1615, 56 L. Ed. 2d 65 (1978).

**Indigent Defense Act does not provide for payment of advances.** *State v. Frazier*, 1973-NMCA-127, 85 N.M. 545, 514 P.2d 302.

**Motion for advancement of funds for investigator properly denied.** — Defendant's motion for a prior advancement of funds for a professional investigator was properly denied as an expenditure is clearly not required in every case and need not be provided unless the necessity is shown. *State v. Frazier*, 1973-NMCA-127, 85 N.M. 545, 514 P.2d 302.



**Indigent defendant represented by *pro bono* counsel** is constitutionally entitled to public funding for expert witness fees, provided that the expert witness meets all of the standards promulgated by the Public Defender Department. Constitutional right to be provided with basic tools of an adequate defense is not contingent upon the appointment of counsel by the Public Defender Department. *State v. Brown*, 2006-NMSC-023, 139 N.M. 466, 134 P.3d 753.

**Attorney fees for jointly charged defendants.** — The court may pay the appointed attorney for the defense of each jointly charged defendant, jointly tried the same as though a severance had been effected and separate trials had. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-27.

**Transcript for habeas corpus petitioner.** — The laws of this state and the holdings of the supreme court of the United States do not require more being furnished than is necessary to effectively pursue the remedy sought, and one copy of the transcript, furnished to either the habeas corpus petitioner or his attorney, is adequate for this purpose. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-66.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Construction of state statutes providing for compensation of attorney for services under appointment by court in defending indigent accused, 18 A.L.R.3d 1074.

Right of attorney appointed by court for indigent accused to, and court's power to award, compensation by public, in absence of statute or court rule, 21 A.L.R.3d 819.

Validity and construction of state statute or court rule fixing maximum fees for attorney appointed to represent indigent, 3 A.L.R.4th 576.

Right of indigent criminal defendant to polygraph test at public expense, 11 A.L.R.4th 733.

### **31-16-9. Contractual services of counsel.**

In order to facilitate representation in matters arising before appearance in any court in matters covered by the Indigent Defense Act, the director of the administrative office of the courts may, upon direction of the supreme court with respect to habeas corpus proceedings initiated in the supreme court, or upon request of a district court, enter into contracts with attorneys designated by these courts whereby the attorney shall undertake to perform the services of assigned counsel in all or any specified portion of the cases originating within the judicial district. All contracts shall be approved by the chief justice of the supreme court and all payments provided therein shall be made by the supreme court or in the appropriate district court requesting the contract, but in no instance shall contract payments exceed the maximums set out in Section 65 [31-16-8 NMSA 1978] of the Indigent Defense Act.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-9, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 66.

## **31-16-10. Counsel not subject to liability.**

No attorney assigned or contracted with to perform services under the Indigent Defense Act shall be held liable in any civil action respecting his performance or nonperformance of such services.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-22-10, enacted by Laws 1968, ch. 69, § 67.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Immunity extends to those under contract to public defender.** — The Public Defender Act (31-15-1 to 31-15-12) does not contain any language about immunity or lack of immunity, but reading the Public Defender Act and the Judgment Defense Act in pari materia, the legislature intended the immunity granted in this section to attorneys appointed under the Indigent Defense Act to apply also to those appointed because they are under contract to the public defender. *Herrera v. Sedillo*, 1987-NMCA-098, 106 N.M. 206, 740 P.2d 1190.

**Immunity not violation of equal protection.** — Public defenders, whether regular employees of the public defender's office or performing as contractors, are immune from malpractice claims, and statutes providing such immunity did not violate the equal protection rights of a former prisoner. *Coyazo v. State*, 1995-NMCA-056, 120 N.M. 47, 897 P.2d 234.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Incompetency, negligence, illness or the like of counsel as ground for new trial or reversal in criminal case, 24 A.L.R. 1025, 64 A.L.R. 436.

Attorney's refusal to accept appointment to defend indigent, or to proceed in such defense, as contempt, 36 A.L.R.3d 1221.

Court-appointed attorney as subject to liability under 42 U.S.C.S. § 1983, 36 A.L.R. Fed. 594.

## **ARTICLE 16A**

### **Preprosecution Diversion**

#### **31-16A-1. Short title.**

This act [31-16A-1 to 31-16A-8 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Preprosecution Diversion Act".

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 1.

#### **31-16A-2. Purpose.**

The purposes of the Preprosecution Diversion Act are to remove those persons from the criminal justice system who are most amenable to rehabilitation and least likely to commit future offenses, to provide those persons with services designed to assist them in avoiding future criminal activity, to conserve community and criminal justice resources, to provide standard guidelines and to evaluate preprosecution programs.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 2.

### **31-16A-3. Program establishment.**

Each district attorney shall establish a preprosecution diversion program in his judicial district in accordance with the provisions of the Preprosecution Diversion Act to the extent public or private funds permit.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 3.

### **31-16A-4. Eligibility.**

A. A defendant shall meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible for a preprosecution diversion program:

- (1) the defendant shall have no prior felony convictions for a violent crime;
- (2) the defendant is willing to participate in the program and submit to all program requirements;
- (3) any additional criteria set by the district attorney.

B. A person who meets all of the criteria pursuant to Subsection A of this section may be entered into the preprosecution diversion program; provided that the district attorney may elect not to divert a person to the preprosecution diversion program even though that person meets the minimum criteria set forth in this section.

C. A decision by the district attorney not to divert a person to the preprosecution diversion program is not subject to appeal and shall not be raised as a defense to any prosecution or habitual offender proceeding.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 4; 2019, ch. 211, § 5.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2019 amendment**, effective July 1, 2019, revised eligibility requirements for preprosecution diversion, requiring only that the defendant have no prior felony convictions for a violent crime and is willing to participate in the program and submit to program requirements while allowing the district attorney to set any additional requirements; in Subsection A, after "defendant", deleted "must" and added "shall", in

Paragraph A(1), after "defendant", deleted "must" and added "shall", after "violent crime;", deleted "and no prior felony convictions for any crime for the previous ten years", deleted former Paragraphs A(2) through A(4) and redesignated former Paragraph A(5) as Paragraph A(2), deleted former Paragraphs A(6) and Paragraph A(7), and added a new Paragraph A(3); in Subsection B, after "A", deleted "district attorney may set additional criteria" and added the remainder of the subsection; and added Subsection C.

### **31-16A-5. Program functions and responsibilities.**

The preprosecution diversion program in each judicial district shall include:

- A. individual counseling and guidance for all participants;
- B. required victim restitution where applicable to the extent practical. In addition to monetary restitution, a program may require public service restitution; and
- C. referral resources where clients may be sent for treatment and rehabilitation.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 5.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Termination of preprosecution agreement by state.** — The state may terminate a preprosecution diversion agreement, even if the sole ground is the defendant's nonwilful failure to make restitution, but only if there are no adequate alternatives to termination which will meet the state's legitimate penological interests. *State v. Jimenez*, 1991-NMSC-041, 111 N.M. 782, 810 P.2d 801.

### **31-16A-6. Waivers; suspension of criminal proceedings.**

A. A defendant must secure or be appointed defense counsel to be present at a preprosecution diversion screening interview prior to applying for acceptance into a preprosecution diversion program, and, upon applying, the defendant shall waive his constitutional right to a preliminary hearing as set forth in Rule 15(d) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure for the Magistrate Courts [Rule 6-202D NMRA].

B. If a defendant is certified eligible by the district attorney and by the preprosecution diversion program, the defendant shall also waive his constitutional right to a speedy trial and any rights as provided by Rule 37(b) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure for the District Court [Courts] [Rule 5-604B NMRA]. Upon entry of this waiver, the district attorney shall divert the defendant into the preprosecution diversion program and criminal proceedings against the defendant shall be suspended. Participating defendants shall also waive any confidentiality provided by the Arrest Record Information Act [29-10-1 NMSA 1978] to permit scrutiny of records; provided

that the publication of the personal information, except the name of the defendant, gathered while a defendant is participating in a program shall not be a public record.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 6.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Bracketed material.** — The bracketed material in this section was added by the compiler for clarity and it is not part of the law.

### **31-16A-7. Program participation; reasonable conditions; termination.**

A. A defendant may be diverted to a preprosecution diversion program for no less than six months and no longer than two years. A district attorney may extend the diversion period for a defendant as a disciplinary measure or to allow adequate time for restitution; provided that the extension coupled with the original period does not exceed two years.

B. A district attorney may require as a program requirement that a defendant agree to such reasonable conditions as the district attorney deems necessary to ensure that the defendant will observe the laws of the United States and the various states and the ordinances of any municipality.

C. If a defendant does not comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of a preprosecution diversion program, the defendant's participation in the program may be terminated, and the district attorney may proceed with the suspended criminal prosecution of the defendant.

D. If the participation of a defendant in a preprosecution diversion program is terminated, the district attorney shall state in writing the specific reasons for the termination, which reasons shall be available for review by the defendant and the defendant's counsel.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 7; 1984, ch. 110, § 5; 2019, ch. 211, § 6.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For creation of district attorney fund, see 36-1-28 NMSA 1978.

**The 2019 amendment,** effective July 1, 2019, removed provisions related to the mandatory reimbursement of costs to participate in preprosecution diversion, and made it discretionary to remove a defendant from a preprosecution diversion program for failure to comply with requirements of a program; in the section heading, deleted "costs" and added "reasonable conditions"; added new subsection designation "B." and redesignated former Subsections B and C as Subsection C and D, respectively; in

Subsection B, after "any municipality", deleted the remainder of the subsection, which required the defendant to reimburse the district attorney's office for the costs related to his participation in the preprosecution diversion program; and in Subsection C, after "participation in the program", deleted "shall" and added "may".

**The 1984 amendment** added the third and fourth sentences in Subsection A.

**Time limit for refiling charges.** — The legislature did not intend to limit the state's ability to refile charges against a defendant for non-compliance with a preprosecution diversion program. *State v. Davis*, 2007-NMCA-022, 141 N.M. 205, 152 P.3d 848, cert. denied, 2007-NMCERT-002, 141 N.M. 339, 154 P.3d 1239.

**Prosecutor's unilateral termination limited.** — The prosecutor's authority to unilaterally terminate a diversion program is limited to a termination on the basis of defendant's noncompliance with the program. *State v. Trammel*, 1983-NMCA-139, 100 N.M. 543, 673 P.2d 827.

A trial court may require a prosecutor to keep his end of a diversion program agreement and may determine whether the prosecutor has terminated the preprosecution diversion agreement in violation of his statutory authority. *State v. Trammel*, 1983-NMCA-139, 100 N.M. 543, 673 P.2d 827.

**Termination of preprosecution agreement by state.** — The state may terminate a preprosecution diversion agreement, even if the sole ground is the defendant's nonwilful failure to make restitution, but only if there are no adequate alternatives to termination which will meet the state's legitimate penological interests. *State v. Jimenez*, 1991-NMSC-041, 111 N.M. 782, 810 P.2d 801.

**Court review of reasons for failure to pay.** — In proceedings to terminate a preprosecution diversion agreement for failure to pay restitution, the court reviewing the termination must first inquire into the reasons for the failure to pay. *State v. Jimenez*, 1991-NMSC-041, 111 N.M. 782, 810 P.2d 801.

If a defendant has wilfully refused to pay or has failed to make sufficient bona fide efforts legally to acquire the resources to pay, the state may revoke a preprosecution diversion agreement and begin prosecution of the alleged crime or crimes. If, however, the court determines that the defendant has not been at fault in failing to make restitution, then the court must consider whether there are alternatives to termination which will meet the state's legitimate penal interests. *State v. Jimenez*, 1991-NMSC-041, 111 N.M. 782, 810 P.2d 801.

Only if a court determines that alternative measures are not adequate to meet the state's interests may that court uphold termination of a preprosecution diversion agreement when the defendant has made sufficient bona fide efforts to pay. *State v. Jimenez*, 1991-NMSC-041, 111 N.M. 782, 810 P.2d 801.

**Wrongful termination of agreement as defense.** — A claim that a prosecutor has wrongly terminated a diversion agreement is a defense to the initiation of a criminal prosecution and must be raised prior to trial. *State v. Trammel*, 1983-NMCA-139, 100 N.M. 543, 673 P.2d 827.

**Six-month trial period starts when arraignment waived.** — Since the defendant was originally indicted for numerous offenses, was diverted into a preprosecution diversion program (PDP), after which the state dismissed the indictment, was later terminated from the program because she had violated the terms of PDP contract, was reindicted on the same charges for which she had previously been indicted, and waived her arraignment on the charges in the second indictment, the six-month time period for commencement of trial (Rule 5-604B NMRA) was calculated from the date the defendant waived arraignment on the second complaint, and not from the date the defendant was terminated from the PDP, where there was no evidence that the dismissal of the initial indictment and the defendant's later reindictment were carried out for purposes of delay or an attempt to circumvent Rule 5-604B(6) NMRA. *State v. Altherr*, 1994-NMCA-029, 117 N.M. 403, 872 P.2d 376, cert. denied, 117 N.M. 524, 873 P.2d 270.

### **31-16A-8. Record keeping.**

A. Each district attorney shall maintain an accurate record of each individual accepted into a preprosecution diversion program for the purpose of complying with the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection A of Section 4 [31-16A-4A(4) NMSA 1978] of the Preprosecution Diversion Act.

B. Each district attorney shall be required to forward to the state police accurate records of acceptance, successful termination or unsuccessful termination of each individual accepted into the program. The state police shall be required to maintain accurate records of all information forwarded to them by each respective district attorney concerning acceptance, successful termination or unsuccessful termination of all preprosecution diversion programs.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 33, § 8.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **Victim Restitution**

#### **31-17-1. Victim restitution.**

A. It is the policy of this state that restitution be made by each violator of the Criminal Code [30-1-1 NMSA 1978] to the victims of his criminal activities to the extent that the defendant is reasonably able to do so. This section shall be interpreted and administered to effectuate this policy. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "victim" means any person who has suffered actual damages as a result of the defendant's criminal activities;

(2) "actual damages" means all damages which a victim could recover against the defendant in a civil action arising out of the same facts or event, except punitive damages and damages for pain, suffering, mental anguish and loss of consortium. Without limitation, "actual damages" includes damages for wrongful death;

(3) "criminal activities" includes any crime for which there is a plea of guilty or verdict of guilty, upon which a judgment may be rendered and any other crime committed after July 1, 1977 which is admitted or not contested by the defendant; and

(4) "restitution" means full or partial payment of actual damages to a victim.

B. If the trial court exercises either of the sentencing options under Section 31-20-6 NMSA 1978, the court shall require as a condition of probation or parole that the defendant, in cooperation with the probation or parole officer assigned to the defendant, promptly prepare a plan of restitution, including a specific amount of restitution to each victim and a schedule of restitution payments. If the defendant is currently unable to make any restitution but there is a reasonable possibility that the defendant may be able to do so at some time during his probation or parole period, the plan of restitution shall also state the conditions under which or the event after which the defendant will make restitution. If the defendant believes that he will not be able to make any restitution, he shall so state and shall specify the reasons. If the defendant believes that no person suffered actual damages as a result of the defendant's criminal activities, he shall so state.

C. The defendant's plan of restitution and the recommendations of his probation or parole officer shall be submitted promptly to the court. The court shall promptly enter an order approving, disapproving or modifying the plan, taking into account the factors enumerated in Subsection D of this section. Compliance with the plan of restitution as approved or modified by the court shall be a condition of the defendant's probation or parole. Restitution payments shall be made to the clerk of the court unless otherwise directed by the court. The court thereafter may modify the plan at any time upon the defendant's request or upon the court's own motion. If the plan as approved or modified does not require full payment of actual damages to all victims or if the court determines that the defendant is not able and will not be able to make any restitution at any time during his probation or parole period or that no person suffered actual damages as a result of the defendant's criminal activities, the court shall file a specific written statement of its reasons for and the facts supporting its action or determination.

D. An order requiring an offender to pay restitution, validly entered pursuant to this section, constitutes a judgment and lien against all property of a defendant for the amount the defendant is obligated to pay under the order and may be recorded in any office for the filing of liens against real or personal property, or for garnishment. A judgment of restitution may be enforced by the state, a victim entitled under the order to



receive restitution, a deceased victim's estate or any other beneficiary of the judgment in the same manner as a civil judgment. An order of restitution is enforceable, if valid, pursuant to this section, the Victims of Crime Act [31-26-1 NMSA 1978] or Article 2, Section 24 of the constitution of New Mexico. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a victim to pursue full civil legal remedies.

E. The probation or parole officer, when assisting the defendant in preparing the plan of restitution, and the court, before approving, disapproving or modifying the plan of restitution, shall consider the physical and mental health and condition of the defendant; the defendant's age, education, employment circumstances, potential for employment and vocational training, family circumstances and financial condition; the number of victims; the actual damages of each victim; what plan of restitution will most effectively aid the rehabilitation of the defendant; and such other factors as shall be appropriate. The probation or parole officer shall attempt to determine the name and address of each victim and the amount of pecuniary damages of each victim.

F. The clerk of the court shall mail to each known victim a copy of the court's order approving or modifying the plan of restitution, including the court's statement, if any, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection C of this section.

G. At any time during the probation or parole period, the defendant or the victim may request and the court shall grant a hearing on any matter related to the plan of restitution.

H. Failure of the defendant to comply with Subsection B of this section or to comply with the plan of restitution as approved or modified by the court may constitute a violation of the conditions of probation or parole. Without limitation, the court may modify the plan of restitution or extend the period of time for restitution, but not beyond the maximum probation or parole period specified in Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978.

I. This section and proceedings pursuant to this section shall not limit or impair the rights of victims to recover damages from the defendant in a civil action.

J. The rightful owner of any stolen property is the individual from whom the property was stolen. When recovering his property, the rightful owner of the stolen property shall not be civilly liable to any subsequent holder, possessor or retainer of the property for the purchase or sale price of the property or for any other costs or expenses associated with the property. Any subsequent holder, possessor or retainer of returned stolen property shall return the property to the rightful owner. The subsequent holder, possessor or retainer shall have a cause of action against the person from whom he obtained the property for actual damages.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-18.1, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 217, § 2; 1989, ch. 101, § 1; 1993, ch. 221, § 1; 2005, ch. 282, § 1.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2005 amendment**, effective June 17, 2005, added Subsection D to provide that an order requiring an offender to pay restitution is a judgment and lien against all property of the defendant and may be recorded in any office for the filing of liens against real or personal property or for garnishment and to provide for the enforcement of the order of restitution.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, deleted "of New Mexico" following "Criminal Code" in the first sentence of Subsection A; and deleted the former last two sentences of Subsection H, which provided for set off of restitution payments against certain judgments, and limited the admissibility as evidence of the fact that restitution was required or made, respectively.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, in Subsection B substituted "Section 31-20-6 NMSA 1978" for "Section 40A-29-18 NMSA 1953" in the first sentence and substituted "make" for "made" near the beginning of the second sentence; in Subsection G substituted "Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978" for "section 41-17-24 NMSA 1953" in the second sentence; and added Subsection I.

## **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.**

**Effect of bankruptcy.** — Criminal restitution may generally be imposed despite a previous discharge of the underlying debts in bankruptcy. *State v. Collins*, 2007-NMCA-106, 142 N.M. 419, 166 P.3d 480.

**Purpose of section.** — This section is declarative of the public policy to: (1) Make whole the victim of the crime to the extent possible; and (2) to remind the defendant of his wrongdoing and to require him to repay the costs society has incurred as a result of his misconduct. *State v. Taylor*, 1986-NMCA-011, 104 N.M. 88, 717 P.2d 64, cert. denied, 103 N.M. 798, 715 P.2d 71.

**Public policy to make crime victim whole.** — This section is declarative of public policy to make whole the victim of the crime to the extent possible. *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Restitution was not an appropriate punishment in criminal contempt proceeding.** — Where attorney was held in criminal contempt of court for refusing to proceed with trial, asserting that proceeding to trial when a defense witness was unavailable would result in ineffective assistance of counsel, the district court abused its discretion in ordering attorney to pay criminal restitution, because criminal restitution is not an appropriate punishment in the context of criminal contempt, and the district court failed to show that any entity suffered an actual loss as a result of attorney's contempt. *In re Maestas*, 2022-NMCA-057.

**Actual damages may include compensation for pecuniary losses related to mental anguish.** — Where defendant, in two separate cases, pleaded no contest in each case to false imprisonment with intent to commit a sex offense against the victim,

and where the district court ordered defendant to pay restitution as compensation for, in one case, costs associated with difficulty the victim experienced completing part of her high school education and, in the other case, costs for mental-health care the victim had received, and where defendant challenged the orders of restitution, claiming they were contrary to the victim restitution statute in that they compel him to pay restitution relating to or resulting from mental anguish, and that the relationship between his conduct and the harms for which compensation was ordered was too attenuated to establish causation, the district court's orders of restitution were not an abuse of discretion, because while the damages at issue may relate to or have resulted from the victims' mental anguish, they are meant to compensate for pecuniary losses, not mental anguish. Moreover, substantial evidence supported the district court's determination that defendant's criminal conduct caused the damages in each case. *State v. Quintero*, 2022-NMCA-037, cert. denied.

**Consecutive sentencing does not violate the public policy** of making the victim whole, even though it may prevent the defendant from earning the money necessary to compensate his or her victims, where such sentencing is imposed as part of a comprehensive rehabilitative plan necessary to instill in the defendant the wrongness of his or her actions. *State v. Jensen*, 1998-NMCA-034, 124 N.M. 726, 955 P.2d 195.

## II. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

**Commencement of obligation.** — A defendant's obligation to make restitution may commence upon sentencing or incarceration and need not be delayed until the defendant is placed on probation or parole. *State v. Palmer*, 1998-NMCA-052, 125 N.M. 86, 957 P.2d 71, cert. denied, 125 N.M. 146, 958 P.2d 104.

**When restitution award is improper.** — Awarding restitution to the victim is improper where a defendant does not admit liability for the crime, was not convicted of the crime, or does not plead guilty to the crime. *State v. Madril*, 1987-NMCA-010, 105 N.M. 396, 733 P.2d 365.

**Restitution must have a direct, causal relationship to the crime committed.** — Where defendant was ordered as part of her sentence, following a guilty plea to the offense of forgery, to pay restitution for the costs of her extradition from New York, the district court erred in ordering defendant to pay the sheriff's department's extradition expenses, because there is no direct, causal relationship between the crime defendant pled guilty to and the damages sought by the department. *State v. George*, 2020-NMCA-039.

**Notice to defendant required.** — When the state intends to seek restitution based on charges that have been dismissed under a plea and disposition agreement, the defendant must be placed on notice that he will be subject to the payment of restitution, and should be advised at the time of the entry of his plea of the amount of restitution sought by the state. *State v. Lozano*, 1996-NMCA-075, 122 N.M. 120, 921 P.2d 316.

**Relationship necessary between criminal activity and damage to victim.** — A direct, causal relationship is required between the criminal activities of a defendant and the damages which the victim suffers. Restitution must be limited by and directly related to those criminal activities. *State v. Madril*, 1987-NMCA-010, 105 N.M. 396, 733 P.2d 365.

In determining whether a direct or causal relationship exists between a defendant's criminal activities and the damage suffered by a victim of those activities, an adequate evidentiary basis must be presented. Mere speculation or supposition as to that relationship will not suffice. *State v. Madril*, 1987-NMCA-010, 105 N.M. 396, 733 P.2d 365.

**Police department as "victim".** — In a prosecution involving the theft of drugs by an undercover narcotics officer, the police department was a "victim" for purposes of this section. *State v. Ellis*, 1995-NMCA-124, 120 N.M. 709, 905 P.2d 747, cert. denied, 120 N.M. 715, 905 P.2d 1119.

**Restitution for unlicensed work not required.** — Bad-check defendant was not required to make restitution for any amounts owed to interior design company for work done without the requisite New Mexico contractor's license. *State v. Platt*, 1992-NMCA-110, 114 N.M. 721, 845 P.2d 815, cert. denied, 114 N.M. 501, 841 P.2d 549.

**Victim restitution policy not limited to cases where sentence suspended or deferred.** — Subsection B contains no qualifying language limiting the application of the policy of victim restitution only to those cases in which a sentence is suspended or deferred. *State v. Gross*, 1982-NMCA-099, 98 N.M. 309, 648 P.2d 348, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 336, 648 P.2d 794.

**Mandatory probationary period may include restitution condition.** — Subsection B does not limit or restrict the application of restitution only to those cases in which sentence is suspended or deferred. A mandatory probationary period may be included in the defendant's sentence with the condition to make restitution to the victim. *State v. Ennis*, 1982-NMCA-157, 99 N.M. 117, 654 P.2d 570, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 148, 655 P.2d 160.

**Restitution mandatory where sentence suspended or deferred.** — Subsection B makes it mandatory to require victim restitution when a sentence is deferred or suspended; the court has no discretion in such instances. *State v. Gross*, 1982-NMCA-099, 98 N.M. 309, 648 P.2d 348, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 336, 648 P.2d 794.

Where a defendant agreed to plead guilty to nine counts of attempt to evade gross receipts tax, and the state and the defendant agreed that incarceration, if imposed, would not exceed nine years and that sentencing would be postponed to enable defendant to fulfill restitution requirements; and where the defendant, after 11 months failed to pay any restitution, it was not error for the trial court to impose a sentence of

incarceration pursuant to the plea and disposition agreement. *State v. Bowie*, 1990-NMCA-068, 110 N.M. 283, 795 P.2d 88.

**Agreements not to prosecute in exchange for restitution.** — The practice by attorneys or their agents involving the payment of money as privately-negotiated restitution to an alleged victim in exchange for that person's execution of any sworn statement not to prosecute constitutes conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Subsection D of Rule 16-804 NMRA, and adversely reflects on an attorney's fitness to practice law. *In re Steere*, 1990-NMSC-084, 110 N.M. 405, 796 P.2d 1101.

**Insurance company as victim.** — The trial court had the authority under this section to order the embezzling defendant to pay restitution to an insurance company that had paid a claim resulting from the defendant's criminal activities. *State v. Brooks*, 1993-NMCA-078, 116 N.M. 309, 862 P.2d 57, *rev'd on other grounds*, 1994-NMSC-062, 117 N.M. 751, 877 P.2d 557.

**Termination of preprosecution agreement by state.** — The state may terminate a preprosecution diversion agreement, even if the sole ground is the defendant's nonwilful failure to make restitution, but only if there are no adequate alternatives to termination which will meet the state's legitimate penological interests. *State v. Jimenez*, 1991-NMSC-041, 111 N.M. 782, 810 P.2d 801.

**Trial court must consider defendant's ability to pay restitution.** — In a fraud case, the district court's order regarding payment of restitution within thirty days was not a proper method of achieving the district court's legitimate objective of determining whether the fraudulently obtained funds were recoverable. The district court must consider defendant's ability to pay restitution within thirty days before conditioning a portion of his term of imprisonment on payment of restitution within that time frame. *State v. Whitaker*, 1990-NMCA-014, 110 N.M. 486, 797 P.2d 275, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 631, 788 P.2d 931.

**Full evidentiary hearing not contemplated.** — A full evidentiary hearing tantamount to a civil trial adjudicating liability is not contemplated as a prerequisite for a criminal trial judge to require restitution to the victim. *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Notice to defendant, with opportunity to dispute amount of restitution, required.** — Implicit in the provisions of this section is the giving of notice to the defendant of the amount of restitution claimed, the opportunity to dispute the amount thereof and an inquiry into the defendant's ability to pay restitution. *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Failure to prepare restitution plan not error where presentence report provides notice.** — Where no plan of restitution is ever prepared by the defendant in cooperation with the probation or parole officials as required by this section, the failure to comply

with this requirement is not error where data is supplied by the defendant which supports the court's determination of the defendant's ability to pay restitution, the presentence report gives the defendant prior notice concerning the amounts of restitution detailed in the presentence report and he is adequately accorded an opportunity to contest the amounts ordered by the court. *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Restitution order void where not condition of probation.** — The district court's order that defendant make restitution to the New Mexico state police contingency fund in the amount of \$130 (the amount an undercover police officer spent to purchase cocaine from defendant) was void, where the court did not order the payment as a condition of probation; and, thus, it was not authorized by this section. *State v. Dean*, 1986-NMCA-093, 105 N.M. 5, 727 P.2d 944, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 702, 726 P.2d 856.

**Showing of actual damage insufficient to require victim restitution where no actual loss could be shown.** *State v. Griffin*, 1983-NMCA-072, 100 N.M. 75, 665 P.2d 1166.

**Lien on defendant's property not authorized.** — A lien ordered on defendant's property to the extent of restitution is not authorized. *State v. Steele*, 1983-NMCA-078, 100 N.M. 492, 672 P.2d 665.

### III. AMOUNT.

**Amount of restitution and time of payment must be set by the court** and may not be left to the discretion of probation authorities. *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391; *State v. Carrasco*, 1997-NMCA-123, 124 N.M. 320, 950 P.2d 293.

**Trial court is to exercise discretion** in ordering the amount defendant is "reasonably able" to pay. *State v. Steele*, 1983-NMCA-078, 100 N.M. 492, 672 P.2d 665.

**Restitution for full value of stolen merchandise.** — The trial court did not err in ordering defendants to pay restitution for the full value of recovered stolen property that was donated to charity by the victim. *State v. Lucero*, 1999-NMCA-102, 127 N.M. 672, 986 P.2d 468, cert. denied, 128 N.M. 149, 990 P.2d 823.

**Restitution must be limited to the crime for which there is a guilty verdict.** — Where defendant was convicted of fourth-degree fraudulent use of a credit card (over \$500) and conspiracy to commit fraudulent use of a credit card following a trial where the state admitted into evidence the receipts for nine unauthorized credit card transactions made over the course of five consecutive days, offered testimony that defendant appeared in surveillance footage conducting one of the credit card transactions, and submitted documents establishing that the total amount of unauthorized purchases on the credit card was over \$15,000, and where, following defendant's conviction, the district court judge ordered defendant to pay restitution in the

amount of \$15,400 based on the total amount of unauthorized charges, the district court erred in ordering defendant to pay restitution for the total amount of unauthorized charges, because the conspiracy proved at trial was limited to the single transaction defendant made, and therefore an order requiring her to make restitution for all nine of the fraudulent transactions was not authorized by law. *State v. Herrera*, 2024-NMCA-025, cert. denied.

**Quantum of restitution need not be proven by a preponderance of the evidence** as though the sum were being established in a civil action for damages. *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Earnings are properly includable within "actual damages" to be awarded crime victims**, as contemplated by Subsection A(2). *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Payments for victim's counseling.** — An order requiring a defendant convicted of criminal sexual penetration, incest, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor to pay a monthly sum towards the cost of the victim's counseling was reasonably related to the defendant's rehabilitation and valid under this section. *State v. Palmer*, 1998-NMCA-052, 125 N.M. 86, 957 P.2d 71, cert. denied, 125 N.M. 146, 958 P.2d 104.

**Audit expenses properly included in restitution order.** — In a fraud case, an audit was an appropriate element of restitution. So long as the audit was a reasonable attempt to determine the nature and extent of losses caused by the wrongdoer, rather than an expense of trial preparation, the district court acted properly in including the expense of the audit as "actual damages" to be considered in ordering restitution. *State v. Whitaker*, 1990-NMCA-014, 110 N.M. 486, 797 P.2d 275, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 631, 788 P.2d 931.

**Losses qualifying as damages.** — In a prosecution involving the theft of drugs by an undercover narcotics officer, the police department's losses, including the officer's salary, expense money, and money spent for the purchase of drugs, qualified as damages under this section. *State v. Ellis*, 1995-NMCA-124, 120 N.M. 709, 905 P.2d 747, cert. denied, 120 N.M. 715, 905 P.2d 1119.

**Damages for conspiracy.** — The trial court, pursuant to this section, may order a defendant to make restitution to the victim of a criminal conspiracy for losses resulting from such conspiracy. *State v. Lozano*, 1996-NMCA-075, 122 N.M. 120, 921 P.2d 316.

**Magistrate court may order restitution.** — The magistrate court may, as part of its sentencing power, order a Criminal Code or Motor Vehicle Code violator to make restitution. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-18.

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1982-83: Criminal Procedure," see 14 N.M.L. Rev. 109 (1984).

For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1321 et seq.; 79 Am. Jur. 2d Welfare Laws § 46.

Propriety of condition of probation which requires defendant convicted of crime of violence to make reparation to injured victim, 79 A.L.R.3d 976.

Statutes providing for governmental compensation for victims of crime, 20 A.L.R.4th 63.

Jurisdiction or power of juvenile court to order parent of juvenile to make restitution for juvenile's offense, 66 A.L.R.4th 985.

Measure and elements of restitution to which victim is entitled under state criminal statute, 15 A.L.R.5th 391.

Apportionment of liability between landowners and assailants for injuries to crime victims, 54 A.L.R.5th 379.

Persons or entities entitled to restitution as "victim" under state criminal restitution statute, 92 A.L.R.5th 35.

Restitutional sentencing under Victim and Witness Protection Act § 5 (18 USCS §§ 3579, 3580), 79 A.L.R. Fed. 724, 108 A.L.R. Fed. 828.

Deductibility, as nonbusiness loss under 26 USC § 165(c)(2), of restitution payments made pursuant to sentencing order, 112 A.L.R. Fed. 289.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **Criminal Sentencing**

#### **31-18-1 to 31-18-11. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 17, repealed 40A-29-1 to 40A-29-3.1, 40A-29-5 to 49A-29-11, 1953 Comp. (31-18-1 to 31-18-11 NMSA 1978), relating to sentencing of offenders.

#### **31-18-12. Short title.**

Chapter 31, Article 18 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Criminal Sentencing Act".



**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-26, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 1; 1994, ch. 24, § 1.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1994 amendment**, effective July 1, 1994, substituted "Chapter 31, Article 18 NMSA 1978" for "The provisions of Sections 40A-29-26 through 40A-29-34 NMSA 1953".

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1982-83: Criminal Law," see 14 N.M.L. Rev. 89 (1984).

### **31-18-13. Sentencing authority; all crimes.**

A. Unless otherwise provided in this section, all persons convicted of a crime under the laws of New Mexico shall be sentenced in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Sentencing Act; provided, that a person sentenced as a serious youthful offender or as a youthful offender may be sentenced to less than the basic or mandatory sentence prescribed by the Criminal Sentencing Act.

B. Whenever a defendant is convicted of a crime under the constitution of New Mexico, or a statute not contained in the Criminal Code [30-1-1 NMSA 1978], which specifies the penalty to be imposed on conviction, the court shall set as a definite term of imprisonment the minimum term prescribed by the statute or constitutional provision and may impose the fine prescribed by the statute or constitutional provision for the particular crime for which the person was convicted; provided, that a person sentenced as a serious youthful offender or as a youthful offender may be sentenced to less than the minimum term of imprisonment prescribed by the statute or the constitutional provision.

C. A crime declared to be a felony by the constitution or a statute not contained in the Criminal Code, without specification of the sentence or fine to be imposed on conviction, shall constitute a fourth degree felony as prescribed under the Criminal Code for the purpose of the sentence, and the defendant shall be so sentenced.

D. Any other crime for which the sentence to be imposed upon conviction is not specified shall constitute, for the purpose of the sentence, a petty misdemeanor.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-27, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 2; 1993, ch. 77, § 4.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1993 amendment**, effective July 1, 1993, added the provisos at the end of Subsections A and B, and made minor stylistic changes.

## **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.**

**Criminal sentences must be imposed as prescribed by statute.** *State v. Baros*, 1968-NMSC-001, 78 N.M. 623, 435 P.2d 1005.

**The district court did not err in granting specific performance of the plea agreement.** — Where defendant was charged with possession of a controlled substance after officers seized 152 fentanyl pills from defendant after finding him under the influence of narcotics and asleep in his vehicle, and where defendant agreed to waive his constitutional right to a preliminary hearing and to plead guilty in district court to felony possession of a controlled substance in exchange for the state agreeing to a guaranteed specific sentence of eighteen months of probation, and where the state sought to withdraw the plea agreement prior to its acceptance by the district court, arguing that the plea agreement provided a deadline of thirty days following the filing of the waiver for that offer and that the public defender's office failed to initiate the plea paperwork within that time limit, the district court did not err in granting defendant's motion to specifically enforce the plea agreement, because when the state promises a specific plea in exchange for a defendant relinquishing a right or cooperating with the state pre-plea, the plea agreement is specifically enforceable if the defendant relinquishes the right or performs their part of the bargain with the state. Moreover, defendant relied to his detriment on the state's promised plea agreement by giving up legal challenges to his arrest and the constitutionally guaranteed hearing requiring the state to prove that probable cause supported the possession charge, and defendant did not reasonably understand that the agreement was contingent on a deadline for plea paperwork. *State v. Jurado*, 2024-NMCA-058, cert. denied.

**Plea agreements will be specifically enforced.** — Where defendant entered into three plea agreements in which the state agreed that defendant would serve zero to nine years of incarceration, supervised probation, treatment program or a combination thereof and that the sentences in each case would be served concurrently with each other; and the district court accepted the plea agreements and sentenced defendant to twenty-one years in prison, with sixteen years suspended, for an actual prison term of five years, plus five years of supervised probation, the sentence violated the terms of the plea agreements, because the suspended sentence allowed for the possibility that defendant could actually serve more than nine years in prison and defendant was entitled to specific performance of the plea agreements. *State v. Gomez*, 2011-NMCA-120, 267 P.3d 831.

**Plea agreement provided for a specific sentence.** — Where the plea agreement provided for a maximum sentence of forty years and the court accepted the plea, the plea agreement constituted a promise, not a recommendation, for a sentence within a particular range that the court was bound to enforce and the imposition of a forty-two year sentence, nine of which were suspended, violated the sentence cap in the plea

agreement. *State v. Miller*, 2012-NMCA-051, 278 P.3d 561, cert. granted, 2012-NMCERT-005.

**Plea agreement for a maximum permissible sentence "at initial sentencing".** —

Where the plea agreement provided for a maximum sentence of forty years "at initial sentencing", the phrase "at initial sentencing" did not transform the limit on sentencing into a limit on the initial period of incarceration because the sentence could not be increased at a later date and the court's sentence of forty-two years imprisonment, nine of which were suspended, violated the plea agreement. *State v. Miller*, 2012-NMCA-051, 278 P.3d 561, cert. granted, 2012-NMCERT-005.

**Sentence otherwise imposed void.** — Sentences must be imposed as prescribed by statute, and a sentence otherwise imposed was not merely irregular, but was null and void, and a void sentence may be vacated even though it has been partially served. *State v. Peters*, 1961-NMSC-160, 69 N.M. 302, 366 P.2d 148, cert. denied, 369 U.S. 831, 82 S. Ct. 849, 7 L. Ed. 2d 796 (1962).

**Sentences which are unauthorized by law are null and void.** *Sneed v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-250, 74 N.M. 659, 397 P.2d 308.

**Fixing of penalties is legislative function,** and what constitutes an adequate punishment is a matter for legislative judgment, and the question of whether the punishment for a given crime is too severe and disproportionate to the offense is for the legislature to determine. *State v. Peters*, 1967-NMSC-171, 78 N.M. 224, 430 P.2d 382.

**For crimes committed prior to July 1, 1979,** the sentencing provision in effect at the time of the commission of the crime controls. *State v. Hargrove*, 1989-NMSC-012, 108 N.M. 233, 771 P.2d 166.

**Subsection B controls over DWI statute.** — Section 66-8-102E NMSA 1978 (now Section 66-8-102F NMSA 1978) which provides that where the conviction is for a second or subsequent DWI, the offense is punishable by imprisonment for not less than ninety days or more than one year, does not control over Subsection B of this section which provides the method for establishing the applicable determinate sentence for offenses not contained in the Criminal Code. *State v. Greyeyes*, 1987-NMCA-022, 105 N.M. 549, 734 P.2d 789, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 521, 734 P.2d 761.

**Motor Vehicle Code violation petty misdemeanor.** — Section 66-8-7B NMSA 1978 (Motor Vehicle Code violation) is governed by the provisions of Subsection D of this section. The violation is not declared to be a felony. Since it is not declared to be a felony and is not punishable by a specified sentence, Subsection D applies. *State v. Mendoza*, 1993-NMCA-027, 115 N.M. 772, 858 P.2d 860, cert. denied, 115 N.M. 359, 851 P.2d 481.

**Section does not apply to contempt sentence.** — Contempt is not a "crime" under Section 34-1-2 NMSA 1978, and therefore, this section does not apply to a contempt

sentence. *State v. Case*, 1985-NMCA-027, 103 N.M. 574, 711 P.2d 19, *rev'd on other grounds*, 103 N.M. 501, 709 P.2d 670.

**Effect of acquittal on one count of indictment.** — The mere fact that the jury saw fit to acquit the defendant on one count of the indictment cannot be construed as effectuating a determination of the factual issues under another count, even though the same evidence is offered in support of both counts of the indictment; as the reason for the acquittals is speculative, the acquittals, even though irreconcilable with the conviction, do not require the conviction to be set aside as a matter of law. *State v. Rogers*, 1969-NMCA-034, 80 N.M. 230, 453 P.2d 593.

**Effective date of resentence** is the date when the initial sentence commenced. *State v. Dalrymple*, 1966-NMSC-203, 77 N.M. 4, 419 P.2d 218.

**Effect of sentence in excess of that permitted by law.** — Where a court has jurisdiction of the person and the offense, the imposition of a sentence in excess of what the law permits does not render the legal or authorized portion of the sentence void, but only leaves such portion in excess open to question and attack. A sentence is legal so far as it is within the provisions of law and the jurisdiction of the court over the person and the offense, and only void as to the excess, when such excess is separable and may be dealt with without disturbing the valid portion of the sentence. *Sneed v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-250, 74 N.M. 659, 397 P.2d 308.

**Legal or authorized portion valid.** — The imposition of a sentence in excess of what the law permits does not render the legal or authorized portion of the sentence void, but only leaves such portion in excess open to attack, unless such portion is inseparable and cannot be dealt with without disturbing the valid portion of the sentence. *State v. Baros*, 1968-NMSC-001, 78 N.M. 623, 435 P.2d 1005.

**When probationary part of sentence void.** — Where the court ordered defendant placed on probation without deferring or suspending any of his sentences, this action is not within the bounds prescribed by law, and therefore, the probationary part of the defendant's sentence is void. *State v. Nolan*, 1979-NMCA-116, 93 N.M. 472, 601 P.2d 442, cert. denied, 93 N.M. 683, 604 P.2d 821.

## **II. JUDICIAL DISCRETION.**

**Sua sponte amendment of sentence.** — Where defendant was convicted of possession of child pornography; the court sentenced defendant to three years of imprisonment, suspended thirty-four and one-half years, followed by five years of supervised probation and on the following day, after reconsidering the court's reliance on the fact that defendant had no criminal history and the evidence in the case, the court revised the sentence to nine years of imprisonment, the court did not abuse its discretion. *State v. Ballard*, 2012-NMCA-043, 276 P.3d 976, cert. granted, 2012-NMCCRT-005.

**Court may impose statutory sentence notwithstanding jury's recommendation for clemency.** — Trial court did not err in refusing to grant appellant's motion to vacate for the reason that, despite the jury's recommendation for clemency, minor was sentenced for armed robbery to the maximum term permitted by law. *State v. Henry*, 1967-NMSC-265, 78 N.M. 573, 434 P.2d 692.

**Statutory sentence notwithstanding recommendation in diagnostic report.** — Where the sentence was in accordance with law, an appellate court cannot say it was unjust or improper in the circumstances because recommendations in a diagnostic report for a more lenient sentence were not followed or because the statutory sentence is imposed on a 17-year old first offender. *State v. Madrigal*, 1973-NMCA-116, 85 N.M. 496, 513 P.2d 1278, cert. denied, 85 N.M. 483, 513 P.2d 1265.

**Court need not impose identical sentences on joint defendants.** — There is no requirement in criminal procedure that a court impose identical sentences upon persons jointly guilty of a crime. *State v. Holly*, 1968-NMCA-075, 79 N.M. 516, 445 P.2d 393.

**Court statutorily limited in sentencing authority.** — The district court's authority to sentence is only that which has been provided by statute. *State v. Sparks*, 1985-NMCA-004, 102 N.M. 317, 694 P.2d 1382.

**Suspended or deferred sentence within discretion of trial court.** — Of the sentencing alternatives available, a suspended or deferred sentence is within the discretion of the trial court. *State v. Madrigal*, 1973-NMCA-116, 85 N.M. 496, 513 P.2d 1278, cert. denied, 85 N.M. 483, 513 P.2d 1265 (decided under former law).

**Sentencing judge has discretion in determining whether sentences are to run consecutively or concurrently.** His discretion in this area will not be interfered with unless he has violated one of the sentencing statutes. *State v. Deats*, 1971-NMCA-089, 82 N.M. 711, 487 P.2d 139.

**Court should not fix date when sentence to commence.** — It is improper for a trial court to fix a date when the sentence should commence. *Sneed v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-250, 74 N.M. 659, 397 P.2d 308.

**Jurisdiction of trial court to sentence is not exhausted until sentence pronounced,** and will carry over from term to term. *Pavlich v. State*, 1968-NMSC-147, 79 N.M. 473, 444 P.2d 984.

**Sentences cannot be increased after first commitment** has begun. *Deats v. State*, 1972-NMCA-155, 84 N.M. 405, 503 P.2d 1183.

**Credit where prisoner has served part of void sentence.** — It is proper to allow credit where a prisoner is resentenced without a new trial after serving part of a void sentence. *Sneed v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-250, 74 N.M. 659, 397 P.2d 308.

### III. SPECIFIC SENTENCES.

**Life sentence is not mandatory for a second conviction of trafficking in heroin** and the court has the authority to suspend or defer the sentence imposed. *State v. Sanchez*, 1982-NMSC-032, 97 N.M. 521, 641 P.2d 1068.

**Proper to enhance sentence under both habitual offender and firearm enhancement provisions.** — It is not improper to enhance a sentence under the general habitual offender statute if it has already been enhanced under the firearm enhancement statute. *State v. Reaves*, 1982-NMCA-169, 99 N.M. 73, 653 P.2d 904.

**Validity of consecutive sentences.** — Where 1969 sentences were expressly made consecutive to 1967 sentences, and eight sentences in 1969 were also expressly made consecutive, these nine consecutive sentences were validly imposed. *Deats v. State*, 1972-NMCA-155, 84 N.M. 405, 503 P.2d 1183.

**Special probation condition did not terminate parental rights.** — Where defendant pleaded guilty to eight counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor in the fourth degree, the charges stemming from a series of incidents that occurred over the course of several months between defendant and one of his adopted daughters, and after the sentencing hearing, the district court imposed nine conditions of probation, with one condition prohibiting defendant from having direct or indirect contact with all children under the age of 18, including the victim of his crimes, absent a court order, the specific condition did not amount to a "de facto" termination of parental rights, necessitating jurisdiction within the children's court. *State v. Garcia*, 2005-NMCA-065, 137 N.M. 583, 113 P.3d 406.

**Jurisdiction to revoke probation imposed under consecutive sentences.** — Where two consecutive sentences are imposed, as to the second sentence, the district court retained jurisdiction to revoke a defendant's probation when probation violations occurred before the defendant had begun serving the second sentence to which the probation is attached and as to the first sentence, which the defendant had completed serving, the district court did not have jurisdiction to revoke the probation that was attached to the first sentence. *State v. Lopez*, 2006-NMCA-079, 140 N.M. 1, 138 P.3d 534, *aff'd* 2007-NMSC-011, 141 N.M. 293, 154 P.3d 668.

**Magistrate court may order restitution.** — The magistrate court may, as part of its sentencing power, order a Criminal Code or Motor Vehicle Code violator to make restitution. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-18.

**Law reviews.** — For symposium, "The Impact of the Equal Rights Amendment on the New Mexico Criminal Code," see 3 N.M.L. Rev. 106 (1973).

For survey, "Children's Court Practice in Delinquency and Need of Supervision Cases Under the New Rules," see 6 N.M.L. Rev. 331 (1976).

For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For article, "The Capital Defendant's Right to Make a Personal Plea for Mercy: Common Law Allocution and Constitutional Mitigation," see 15 N.M.L. Rev. 41 (1985).

For annual survey of New Mexico criminal law, see 16 N.M.L. Rev. 9 (1986).

For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

For annual survey of New Mexico criminal law and procedure, see 19 N.M.L. Rev. 655 (1990).

For survey of 1990-91 criminal procedure and evidence, see 22 N.M.L. Rev. 713 (1992).

For note, "State v. Muniz: Authorizing Adult Sentencing of Juveniles Absent a Conviction that Authorizes an Adult Sentence," see 35 N.M.L. Rev. 229 (2005).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 825.

Right to credit on state sentence for time served under sentence of court of separate jurisdiction where state court fails to specify in that regard, 90 A.L.R.3d 408.

Loss of jurisdiction by delay in imposing sentence, 98 A.L.R.3d 605.

Power of state court, during same term, to increase severity of lawful sentence - modern status, 26 A.L.R.4th 905.

Power of court to increase severity of unlawful sentence - modern status, 28 A.L.R.4th 147.

Propriety of sentencing judge's consideration of defendant's perjury or lying in pleas or testimony in present trial, 34 A.L.R.4th 888.

Admissibility of expert testimony as to appropriate punishment for convicted defendant, 47 A.L.R.4th 1069.

When does delay in imposing sentence violate speedy trial provision, 86 A.L.R.4th 340.

Transmission or risk of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) as basis for prosecution or sentencing in criminal or military discipline case, 13 A.L.R.5th 628.

**31-18-14. Sentencing authority; capital felonies.**

When a defendant has been convicted of a capital felony, the defendant shall be sentenced to life imprisonment or life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-18-14, enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 1; 1993, ch. 77, § 5; 2009, ch. 11, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 1, repealed former 31-18-14 NMSA 1978 (40A-29-27.1, 1953 Comp.), relating to life imprisonment for conviction of a capital felony, and enacted the above section.

**Cross references.** — For capital felony sentencing procedure, see 31-20A-2 and 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978.

**The 2009 amendment,** effective July 1, 2009, abolished the death penalty and provided for sentencing to life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole.

**The 1993 amendment,** effective July 1, 1993, substituted "may be sentenced" for "shall be sentenced" in the last sentence of Subsection A and added "but shall not be punished by death" at the end thereof.

**Applicability.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 6 provided that the provisions of this section apply to crimes committed on or after July 1, 2009.

**Constitutionality.** — Where defendant pled guilty to one count of first-degree, willful and deliberate murder, and where, prior to sentencing, defendant filed a motion seeking the opportunity to present mitigating evidence which could eventually shorten his sentence, arguing that Section 31-18-14 NMSA 1978 is unconstitutional because it does not provide for the opportunity for capital felons to present evidence of mitigating circumstances at sentencing and Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 requires the district court to hold a sentencing hearing for lesser offenses, defendant's equal protection rights were not violated, because first-degree murderers are not similarly situated to lesser offenders, in that first-degree murderers are guilty of a categorically more serious offense. It is a lawful exercise of legislative authority to impose distinct sentencing schemes for first-degree murder and lesser offenses, and the language of Section 31-18-14 reflects an intent that those convicted of first-degree murder be treated differently from less serious offenders, regardless of the maximum possible penalty. *State v. Franklin*, 2018-NMSC-015.

**Life sentence for mentally ill offender constitutional.** — Mandatory life sentence for a capital crime committed by a defendant found to be guilty but mentally ill did not constitute cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the eighth amendment. *Neely v. Newton*, 149 F.3d 1074 (10th Cir. 1998), cert. denied, 525 U.S. 1107, 119 S. Ct. 877, 142 L. Ed. 2d 777 (1999).



**It is first degree murder that the legislature has designated as eligible for capital sentencing** when an aggravating circumstance is present. *State v. Fry*, 2006-NMSC-001, 138 N.M. 700, 126 P.3d 516 (decided prior to 2009 repeal of death penalty).

**New Mexico's death penalty is unconstitutional**, and the penalty to be imposed for a conviction of first-degree murder is life imprisonment. *State v. Noble*, 1977-NMSC-031, 90 N.M. 360, 563 P.2d 1153 (decided prior to 2009 repeal of death penalty).

This section, which provided, upon conviction of a capital crime, for mandatory sentence of death, and leaves neither judge nor jury discretion to impose a lesser sentence, violates state and federal constitutional provisions against cruel and unusual punishment and is void. This action revives previous 40A-29-2, 1953 Comp., as it existed before its amendment in 1973, but that section was likewise unconstitutional and void in that it left recommendation of death or life imprisonment to the unbridled discretion of the jury. Therefore, maximum penalty available for defendants convicted of murder is life imprisonment. *State v. Rondeau*, 1976-NMSC-044, 89 N.M. 408, 553 P.2d 688 (decided prior to 2009 repeal of death penalty).

**Life imprisonment proper penalty for serious felonies.** — The imposition of the death penalty for felony-murder, rape, aggravated sodomy and kidnapping was unconstitutional; the proper penalty to be imposed was life imprisonment. *State v. Melton*, 1977-NMSC-014, 90 N.M. 188, 561 P.2d 461 (decided prior to 2009 repeal of death penalty).

**Mandatory nature of section.** — The court did not have discretion not to sentence the defendant, a minor, to a life term after a conviction of a first degree capital felony. *State v. Taylor*, 1988-NMSC-023, 107 N.M. 66, 752 P.2d 781 (decided prior to 1993 amendment) (decided prior to 2009 repeal of death penalty).

**Death qualification of a jury**, properly conducted, is not grounds for reversal. *State v. Gilbert*, 1983-NMSC-083, 100 N.M. 392, 671 P.2d 640, cert. denied, 465 U.S. 1073, 104 S. Ct. 1429, 79 L. Ed. 2d 753 (1984) (decided prior to 2009 repeal of death penalty).

**Law reviews.** — For article, "The Proposed New Mexico Criminal Code," see 1 Nat. Resources J. 122 (1961).

For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For article, "Constitutionality of the New Mexico Capital Punishment Statute," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 269 (1981).

For article, "Sufficiency of Provocation for Voluntary Manslaughter in New Mexico: Problems in Theory and Practice," see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 747 (1982).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

For article, "The Capital Defendant's Right to Make a Personal Plea for Mercy: Common Law Allocution and Constitutional Mitigation," see 15 N.M.L. Rev. 41 (1985).

For comment, "An Equal Protection Challenge to First Degree Depraved Mind Murder Under the New Mexico Constitution", see 19 N.M.L. Rev. 511 (1989).

For article, "Unintentional homicides caused by risk-creating conduct: Problems in distinguishing between depraved mind murder, second degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and noncriminal homicide in New Mexico," 20 N.M.L. Rev. 55 (1990).

For note on Imposing the Death Penalty upon Juvenile Offenders, see 21 N.M.L. Rev. 373 (1991).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 942 et seq.; 956 to 960, 965 to 970, 972, 973.

Propriety of imposition of death sentence by state court following jury's recommendation of life imprisonment or lesser sentence, 8 A.L.R.4th 1028.

Application of death penalty to nonhomicide cases, 62 A.L.R.5th 121.

Propriety, under Federal Constitution, of evidence or argument concerning deterrent effect of death penalty, 78 A.L.R. Fed. 553.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1593, 1596, 1597, 1604, 1609.

### **31-18-14.1. Repealed.**

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-18-14.1, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 128, § 1; repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-18-14.1 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 128, § 1, relating to capital felony sentencing hearings and explanations by court to the jury, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-18-15. Sentencing authority; noncapital felonies; basic sentences and fines; parole authority; meritorious deductions.**

A. As used in a statute that establishes a noncapital felony, the following defined felony classifications and associated basic sentences of imprisonment are as follows:

## FELONY CLASSIFICATION

first degree felony resulting in the death of a child

first degree felony for aggravated criminal sexual penetration

first degree felony

second degree felony resulting in the death of a human being

second degree felony for a sexual offense against a child

second degree felony for sexual exploitation of children

second degree felony

third degree felony resulting in the death of a human being

third degree felony for a sexual offense against a child

third degree felony for sexual exploitation of children

third degree felony

fourth degree felony for sexual exploitation of children

fourth degree felony

## BASIC SENTENCE

life imprisonment

life imprisonment

eighteen years imprisonment

eighteen years imprisonment

fifteen years imprisonment

twelve years imprisonment

nine years imprisonment

six years imprisonment

six years imprisonment

eleven years imprisonment

three years imprisonment

ten years imprisonment

eighteen months imprisonment.

B. The appropriate basic sentence of imprisonment shall be imposed upon a person convicted and sentenced pursuant to Subsection A of this section, unless the court alters the sentence pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Sentencing Act.

C. A period of parole shall be imposed only for felony convictions wherein a person is sentenced to imprisonment of more than one year, unless the parties to a proceeding agree that a period of parole should be imposed. If a period of parole is imposed, the court shall include in the judgment and sentence of each person convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in a corrections facility designated by the corrections department authority for a period of parole to be served in accordance with the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978. If imposed, the period of parole shall be deemed to be part of the sentence of the convicted person in addition to the basic sentence imposed pursuant to Subsection A of this section together with alterations, if any, pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Sentencing Act.

D. When a court imposes a sentence of imprisonment pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15.1, 31-18-16 or 31-18-17 NMSA 1978 and suspends or defers the basic sentence of imprisonment provided pursuant to the provisions of Subsection A of this section, the period of parole shall be served in accordance with the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978 for the degree of felony for the basic sentence for which the inmate was convicted. For the purpose of designating a period of parole, a court shall not consider that the basic sentence of imprisonment was suspended or deferred

and that the inmate served a period of imprisonment pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Sentencing Act.

E. The court may, in addition to the imposition of a basic sentence of imprisonment, impose a fine not to exceed:

(1) for a first degree felony resulting in the death of a child, seventeen thousand five hundred dollars (\$17,500);

(2) for a first degree felony for aggravated criminal sexual penetration, seventeen thousand five hundred dollars (\$17,500);

(3) for a first degree felony, fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000);

(4) for a second degree felony resulting in the death of a human being, twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500);

(5) for a second degree felony for a sexual offense against a child, twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500);

(6) for a second degree felony for sexual exploitation of children, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);

(7) for a second degree felony, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);

(8) for a third degree felony resulting in the death of a human being, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);

(9) for a third degree felony for a sexual offense against a child, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);

(10) for a third degree felony for sexual exploitation of children, five thousand dollars (\$5,000);

(11) for a third or fourth degree felony, five thousand dollars (\$5,000); or

(12) for a fourth degree felony for sexual exploitation of children, five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

F. When the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment for a felony offense, the court shall indicate whether or not the offense is a serious violent offense as defined in Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978. The court shall inform an offender that the offender's sentence of imprisonment is subject to the provisions of Sections 33-2-34, 33-2-36, 33-2-37 and 33-2-38 NMSA 1978. If the court fails to inform an offender that the offender's sentence is subject to those provisions or if the court provides the offender with

erroneous information regarding those provisions, the failure to inform or the error shall not provide a basis for a writ of habeas corpus.

G. No later than October 31 of each year, the New Mexico sentencing commission shall provide a written report to the secretary of corrections, all New Mexico criminal court judges, the administrative office of the district attorneys and the chief public defender. The report shall specify the average reduction in the sentence of imprisonment for serious violent offenses and nonviolent offenses, as defined in Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978, due to meritorious deductions earned by prisoners during the previous fiscal year pursuant to the provisions of Sections 33-2-34, 33-2-36, 33-2-37 and 33-2-38 NMSA 1978. The corrections department shall allow the commission access to documents used by the department to determine earned meritorious deductions for prisoners.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-28, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 4; 1979, ch. 152, § 1; 1980, ch. 38, § 1; 1981, ch. 285, § 1; 1987, ch. 139, § 3; 1993, ch. 38, § 1; 1993, ch. 182, § 1; 1994, ch. 23, § 3; 1999, ch. 238, § 5; 2003, ch. 75, § 4; 2003 (1st S.S.), ch. 1, § 5; 2005, ch. 59, § 2; 2007, ch. 69, § 2; 2016, ch. 2, § 2; 2019, ch. 211, § 7; 2022, ch. 56, § 29; 2024, ch. 51, § 2; 2025, ch. 79, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, removed the requirement that offenders, as a condition of parole, pay for the costs of parole services after completion of any actual time of imprisonment; and in Subsection C, after "Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978" deleted "after the completion of any actual time of imprisonment and authority to require, as a condition of parole, the payment of the costs of parole services and reimbursement to a law enforcement agency or local crime stopper program in accordance with the provisions of that section".

**The 2024 amendment**, effective May 15, 2024, increased the penalty for a second-degree felony resulting in the death of a human being; and in Subsection A, after "second degree felony resulting in the death of a human being", changed "fifteen" to "eighteen".

**The 2022 amendment**, effective May 18, 2022, clarified noncapital felony sentencing provisions; and in Subsection A, deleted "If a person is convicted of" and added "As used in a statute that establishes", and added "following defined felony classifications and associated", and after "basic", deleted "sentence" and added "sentences", and deleted Paragraphs A(1) through A(13) and added the remainder of the subsection.

**The 2019 amendment**, effective July 1, 2019, required that parole shall be imposed only for felony convictions where a person is sentenced to imprisonment for more than one year, unless the parties to a proceeding agree that a period of parole should be imposed; and in Subsection C, added "A period of parole shall be imposed only for felony convictions wherein a person is sentenced to imprisonment of more than one

year, unless the parties to a proceeding agree that a period of parole should be imposed. If a period of parole is imposed", and after the next period, added "If imposed".

**The 2016 amendment**, effective February 25, 2016, created a new basic sentence structure in the Criminal Sentencing Act for sexual exploitation of children offenses; in Subsection A, added new Paragraph (6) and redesignated former Paragraphs (6), (7) and (8) as Paragraphs (7), (8) and (9), respectively, added new Paragraph (10) and redesignated former Paragraph (9) as Paragraph (11), in Paragraph (11), after the semicolon, deleted "or", and added new Paragraph (12) and redesignated Paragraph (10) as Paragraph (13); and in Subsection D, after "31-18-16", deleted "31-18-16.1"; in Subsection E, added Paragraph (6) and redesignated former Paragraphs (6), (7) and (8) as Paragraphs (7), (8) and (9), respectively, in Paragraph (9), after the semicolon, deleted "or", added new Paragraph (10) and redesignated former Paragraph (9) as Paragraph (11), in Paragraph (11), after the semicolon, added "or", and added new Paragraph (12).

**The 2007 amendment**, effective July 1, 2007, imposed life imprisonment and a \$17,500 fine for a first degree felony for aggravated criminal sexual penetration.

**The 2005 amendment**, effective June 17, 2005, added Subsection A(1) to impose a life sentence for the conviction of a first degree felony resulting in the death of a child and Subsection E(1) to impose a fine of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars for a first degree felony resulting in the death of a child.

**The 2003 (1st S.S.) amendment**, effective February 3, 2004, inserted present Paragraphs (3) and (6) and redesignated former Paragraphs (3) through (6) accordingly in Subsection A, substituted "and sentenced pursuant to Subsection A of this section, unless the court alters the" for "of a first, second, third or fourth degree felony or a second or third degree felony resulting in the death of a human being, unless the court alters such" in Subsection B, deleted "of a first, second, third or fourth degree felony or a second or third degree felony resulting in the death of a human being" following "convicted" near the beginning of the first sentence in Subsection C, and inserted present Paragraphs (3) and (6) and redesignated former Paragraphs (3) through (5) accordingly in Subsection E.

**The 2003 amendment**, effective July 1, 2003 in Subsection G substituted "New Mexico sentencing commission" for "criminal and juvenile justice coordinating council" near the beginning; and substituted "commission" for "coordinating council" near the end.

**The 1999 amendment**, effective July 1, 1999, added "meritorious deductions" to the section heading and added Subsections F and G.

**The 1994 amendment**, effective July 1, 1994, in Subsection A, inserted Paragraphs (2) and (4) and redesignated former Paragraphs (2) to (4) as Paragraphs (3), (5) and (6), and deleted "or" at the end of Paragraph (5); inserted "or a second, third or fourth

degree felony resulting in the death of a human being" in Subsection B and in the first sentence in Subsection C; and, in Subsection E, inserted Paragraphs (2) and (4) and redesignated former Paragraphs (2) and (4) as Paragraphs (3) and (5).

**The 1993 amendment**, effective July 1, 1993, inserted Subsection D, and redesignated former Subsection D as Subsection E. This section was also amended by Laws 1993, ch. 38, § 1, effective July 1, 1993. The section was set out as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 182, § 1. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

## **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.**

**The trial court has authority under Sections 31-18-15 and 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 to alter the basic sentence of life imprisonment** for noncapital felonies if the court finds any mitigating circumstances surrounding the offense or concerning the offender. *State v. Juan*, 2010-NMSC-041, 148 N.M. 747, 242 P.3d 314.

**Method for calculating one-third of a basic sentence of life imprisonment.** — The thirty-year term for parole eligibility is the proper numerical standard by which to measure the trial court's authority to alter a basic sentence of life imprisonment under Sections 31-18-15 and 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978. Because the trial court's alteration cannot exceed one-third of the basic sentence, the trial court lacks authority to reduce a defendant's parole eligibility by more than ten years. *State v. Juan*, 2010-NMSC-041, 148 N.M. 747, 242 P.3d 314.

**A basic sentence of life imprisonment is subject to mitigation.** — Unlike a capital felony, a basic sentence of life imprisonment for a noncapital felony is not a mandatory life sentence and is subject to mitigation. *State v. Cabezuela*, 2015-NMSC-016.

Where defendant was convicted of intentional child abuse resulting in the death of a child under twelve, defendant was found guilty of a noncapital felony, and as a result, the life sentence was basic, not mandatory, and the district court was required to consider mitigation evidence before issuing a final sentence. *State v. Cabezuela*, 2015-NMSC-016.

**The trial court has authority to alter the basic sentence of all noncapital felonies.** — Sections 31-18-15 and 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 explicitly grant the trial court the authority to alter the basic sentence for all noncapital felonies, including those that carry a basic life sentence of life imprisonment. *State v. Montoya*, 2015-NMSC-010.

Where defendant was convicted of intentional child abuse resulting in the death of a child under twelve, which carried a basic sentence of life imprisonment, and where the district court believed that the law required a mandatory life sentence, the trial court abused its discretion when it misunderstood its authority and obligation to consider mitigating circumstances. *State v. Montoya*, 2015-NMSC-010.

**State v. Wilson, 2001-NMCA-032, 130 N.M. 319, 24 P.3d 351 can no longer be considered controlling authority** regarding sentencing enhancements of basic sentences. *State v. Frawley*, 2005-NMCA-017, 137 N.M. 18, 106 P.3d 580, *overruled by State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 526, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Fixing of penalties is a legislative function.** *State v. Hovey*, 1975-NMCA-036, 87 N.M. 398, 534 P.2d 777; *State v. Crespin*, 1981-NMCA-095, 96 N.M. 640, 633 P.2d 1238.

The legislature establishes criminal penalties; the trial court's authority to sentence is that which has been provided by law. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**Mandatory sentencing does not violate the doctrine of separation of powers** contained in N.M. Const., art. III, § 1. *State v. Mabry*, 1981-NMSC-067, 96 N.M. 317, 630 P.2d 269.

**Correction of omission of mandatory provision.** — Where a sentence lacks a statutorily-mandated provision, the trial court retains jurisdiction to correct the sentence by adding the omitted term. *State v. Abril*, 2003-NMCA-111, 134 N.M. 326, 76 P.3d 644, cert. denied, 134 N.M. 320, 76 P.3d 638.

**Factual finding of whether crime resulted "in the death of a human being"** is for the jury and not the judge to make, under *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466 (2000). *State v. McDonald*, 2003-NMCA-123, 134 N.M. 486, 79 P.3d 830, cert. granted, 2003-NMCERT-001, 134 N.M. 612, 81 P.3d 555 (decided under prior law).

**Conspiracy to commit murder.** — Conspiracy to commit murder is a felony "resulting in the death of a human being" within the meaning of this section. *State v. Shije*, 1998-NMCA-102, 125 N.M. 581, 964 P.2d 142 (decided under prior law).

**"Serious violent offense" finding mandatory.** — The omission of any finding does not satisfy the statutory requirement of Subsection F of this section of an affirmative finding as to whether or not the defendant committed a serious violent offense. *State v. Abril*, 2003-NMCA-111, 134 N.M. 326, 76 P.3d 644, cert. denied, 134 N.M. 320, 76 P.3d 638.

**Serious violent offense.** — Where victim of vehicular homicide was a teenager, defendant's breath alcohol level was three times the presumptive level of intoxication, defendant admitted to police that he should be arrested because he was drunk, defendant announced at the scene of the accident that he intended to drive away, and defendant was either too intoxicated to notice the headlights of victim's automobile or he was being untruthful by claiming that the headlights of victim's automobile were off, district court properly concluded that defendant acted with recklessness in the face of knowledge that his acts were reasonably likely to result in serious harm and designated



defendant's crime as a serious violent offense. *State v. Worrick*, 2006-NMCA-035, 139 N.M. 247, 131 P.3d 97, cert. quashed, 2007-NMCERT-008, 142 N.M. 436, 166 P.3d 1090.

**Defendant must be afforded opportunity to speak before sentence pronounced.**

— Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 extends the common-law doctrine of allocutus to noncapital felonies, as enumerated in this section, and the trial judge must give the defendant an opportunity to speak before he pronounces sentence; failure to do so renders the sentence invalid. *Tomlinson v. State*, 1982-NMSC-074, 98 N.M. 213, 647 P.2d 415.

**Victim restitution policy not limited to cases where sentences suspended or deferred.**

— Section 31-17-1B NMSA 1978 contains no qualifying language limiting the application of the policy of victim restitution only to those cases in which a sentence is suspended or deferred. *State v. Gross*, 1982-NMCA-099, 98 N.M. 309, 648 P.2d 348, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 336, 648 P.2d 794.

**Mandatory probationary period may include restitution condition.** — Section 31-17-1B NMSA 1978 does not limit or restrict the application of restitution only to those cases in which sentence is suspended or deferred. A mandatory probationary period may be included in the defendant's sentence with the condition to make restitution to the victim. *State v. Ennis*, 1982-NMCA-157, 99 N.M. 117, 654 P.2d 570, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 148, 655 P.2d 160.

**Restitution mandatory when sentence suspended or deferred.** — Section 31-17-1B NMSA 1978 makes it mandatory to require victim restitution when a sentence is deferred or suspended; the court has no discretion in such instances. *State v. Gross*, 1982-NMCA-099, 98 N.M. 309, 648 P.2d 348, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 336, 648 P.2d 794.

**A fine is a sentence.** *State v. Aragon*, 1979-NMCA-074, 93 N.M. 132, 597 P.2d 317.

**Defendant sentenced under statute existing when crime was committed.** — Where defendant committed voluntary manslaughter before Indeterminate Sentence Act was passed, but was convicted afterwards, defendant's sentencing under statute existing at time crime was committed was proper. *State v. Armstrong*, 1956-NMSC-053, 61 N.M. 258, 298 P.2d 941.

**Good behavior, indeterminate sentencing and parole laws are compatible** and are being administered right along together. *Owens v. Swope*, 1955-NMSC-079, 60 N.M. 71, 287 P.2d 605, cert. denied, 350 U.S. 954, 76 S. Ct. 343, 100 L. Ed. 830 (1956).

**No constitutional separation-of-powers infirmity in unrestricted period-of-parole sentencing authority.** — There is no constitutional separation-of-powers infirmity in the legislature's grant to the judiciary of an unrestricted period-of-parole sentencing authority, any more than there was in its grant to the parole board of the same power to

set whatever period of parole the board chose to impose. *State v. Freeman*, 1980-NMCA-142, 95 N.M. 127, 619 P.2d 572, cert. denied, 95 N.M. 299, 621 P.2d 516.

**Application to youthful offenders.** — The basic sentences prescribed by this section are "mandatory" within the meaning of Section 32A-2-20D NMSA 1978, while the alterations in the basic sentences allowed by 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 are discretionary and, therefore, circumscribed by the Children's Code (Section 32A-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.); thus, the maximum sentence that may be imposed upon a youthful offender convicted of a non-capital felony is the basic sentence prescribed by this section, plus, if applicable, the enhancements prescribed by Sections 31-18-16 and 31-18-16.1 NMSA 1978 (repealed). *State v. Guerra*, 2001-NMCA-031, 130 N.M. 302, 24 P.3d 334, cert. denied *sub nom. State v. Ruby G.*, 130 N.M. 459, 26 P.3d 103 (2001).

**Applicability of parole to indeterminate sentencing.** — The parole provisions of this act apply to statutes such as Section 66-3-505 NMSA 1978 (now Section 30-16D-4 NMSA 1978) which prescribe an indeterminate period of imprisonment, and trial court did not lack authority to impose the statutory term of parole of one year in addition to discretionary two years confinement for transferring stolen vehicle. *State v. Baker*, 1993-NMCA-131, 116 N.M. 526, 864 P.2d 1277.

## **II. JUDICIAL DISCRETION.**

**Subsection B is mandatory.** — Subsection B of this section is mandatory and limits the judge's sentencing discretion. *State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 521, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Trial court did not abuse its discretion in sentencing defendant** pursuant to Subsection A of this section and in accordance with a plea agreement. *State v. Aker*, 2005-NMCA-063, 137 N.M. 561, 113 P.3d 384, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-005, 137 N.M. 522, 113 P.3d 345.

**No entitlement to mitigation.** — Mitigation of a sentence depends solely on the discretion of the district court and on no entitlement derived from any qualities of the defendant. *State v. Cumpton*, 2000-NMCA-033, 129 N.M. 47, 1 P.3d 429, cert. denied, 128 N.M. 688, 997 P.2d 820.

**There is no obligation on the part of a judge to depart from the basic sentence.** — Following defendant's conviction for second-degree murder, the district court judge heard from nine witnesses on defendant's behalf, but declined to mitigate defendant's sentence. Defendant was entitled to no more than a sentence prescribed by law, and it was within the district court's discretion to decline to mitigate defendant's sentence. *State v. Suskiewich*, 2016-NMCA-004, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-011.

**This section does not prohibit consecutive sentencing** but leaves the issue to be resolved under the common law which gives the court the discretion to order that

sentences be served concurrently or consecutively. *State v. Jensen*, 1998-NMCA-034, 124 N.M. 726, 955 P.2d 195.

**Trial court is without authority to fix lesser sentence than that provided** by statute. *State v. Beachum*, 1970-NMCA-119, 82 N.M. 204, 477 P.2d 1019.

**Imposition of sentence bars increased penalty.** — After imposition of a valid sentence, a court may not increase the penalty. *State v. Crespín*, 1981-NMCA-095, 96 N.M. 640, 633 P.2d 1238.

**Impermissible to increase sentence because state failed to include "mitigation" language in sentence.** — The use of the state's failure to include "mitigation" language in the judgment and sentence in order to later increase the defendant's sentence is impermissible. The proper remedy is to file an amended judgment and sentence containing the appropriate language. *State v. Sisneros*, 1981-NMCA-085, 98 N.M. 279, 648 P.2d 318, *aff'd*, 1984-NMSC-085, 101 N.M. 679, 687 P.2d 736, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Saavedra*, 1988-NMSC-100, 108 N.M. 38, 766 P.2d 298.

**Amendment of sentence to include mandatory parole period.** — Where defendant's initial sentence lacked a mandatory parole period, it was not an illegal enhancement of the sentence for the court to amend the sentence to include the parole period even after the defendant had been released from the penitentiary having served his basic sentence of imprisonment. *State v. Acuna*, 1985-NMCA-083, 103 N.M. 279, 705 P.2d 685.

**Credit toward parole for time served.** — The parole board, not the sentencing court, determines whether credit should be given toward a defendant's mandatory parole period for any time served. *State v. Martínez*, 1989-NMCA-036, 108 N.M. 604, 775 P.2d 1321, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 624, 776 P.2d 846.

**Execution of sentence bars imposition of additional punishment.** — Once a sentence is executed by the payment of a fine, the trial court lacks authority to impose additional punishment upon defendant. *State v. Aragon*, 1979-NMCA-074, 93 N.M. 132, 597 P.2d 317.

**Contradictory judgment renders sentence improper.** — Where the trial court deferred a sentence of imprisonment and imposed a sentence of a fine for the same offense, either the deferral or the fine is subject to being stricken as an improper sentence, and the execution of either part of the sentence renders the remaining part void. *State v. Aragon*, 1979-NMCA-074, 93 N.M. 132, 597 P.2d 317.

**Judges not authorized to limit eligibility for parole.** — The legislature has not authorized judges, in imposing sentence, to limit eligibility for parole, but rather has authorized the state board of probation and parole to grant paroles consistent with eligibility conditions established by the legislature; the judge may express his views

concerning a prospective parole but the final decision on parole shall be of the board. *State v. Hovey*, 1975-NMCA-036, 87 N.M. 398, 534 P.2d 777.

A provision in the trial court's judgment that defendant who pleaded guilty of a fourth-degree felony was not to be considered for parole for a minimum of one year was beyond the court's sentencing authority, was not a valid part of defendant's sentence and did not limit the authority of the state board of probation and parole to consider defendant for parole. *State v. Hovey*, 1975-NMCA-036, 87 N.M. 398, 534 P.2d 777.

**Applicability of parole to indeterminate sentencing.** — The parole provisions of this act apply to statutes such as Section 66-3-505 NMSA 1978 (now Section 30-16D-4 NMSA 1978) which prescribe an indeterminate period of imprisonment, and trial court did not lack authority to impose the statutory term of parole of one year in addition to discretionary two years confinement for transferring stolen vehicle. *State v. Baker*, 1993-NMCA-131, 116 N.M. 526, 864 P.2d 1277.

**Refusal to grant leniency.** — The sentencing court's imposition of the basic sentence for a fourth-degree felony and failure to suspend the sentence on the basis that the defendant refused to name his drug source did not constitute an increase, enhancement, or aggravation of the sentence imposed. *State v. Sosa*, 1996-NMSC-057, 122 N.M. 446, 926 P.2d 299.

**Factors that Earned Meritorious Deduction Act** allows judge to find in order to limit credit under Section 33-2-34 L(4)(n) NMSA 1978 (now Section 33-2-34L(4)(o) NMSA 1978) do not have to be found by the jury beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Montoya*, 2005-NMCA-078, 137 N.M. 713, 114 P.3d 393, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-006, 137 N.M. 766, 115 P.3d 229.

### III. SPECIFIC SENTENCES.

**Failure to instruct jury to find whether crimes resulted in death** was harmless error where overwhelming evidence was that defendant participated in armed robbery of victim, victim was beaten in head with metal pipe and suffered fractured skull, died soon thereafter of his injuries, and there was no evidence of another cause of death, nor did defendant dispute that armed robbery resulted in victim's death. *State v. McDonald*, 2004-NMSC-033, 136 N.M. 417, 99 P.3d 667.

**Sentences served concurrently unless trial court or legislature requires consecutive sentences.** — The trial court has discretion to require sentences to be served consecutively, but if this is not done, and there is no legislation covering the situation, the sentences are to be served concurrently. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Proper to enhance sentence under both habitual offender and firearm enhancement provisions.** — It is not improper to enhance a sentence under the

general habitual offender statute if it has already been enhanced under the firearm enhancement statute. *State v. Reaves*, 1982-NMCA-169, 99 N.M. 73, 653 P.2d 904.

**Multiple enhancements permitted.** — In the absence of the type of "dual use" (i.e., when the same fact is used both as an element of the crime and a subsequent enhancement or as the basis for two separate enhancements) discussed in *State v. Keith*, 1985-NMCA-012, 102 N.M. 462, 697 P.2d 145, cert. denied, 102 N.M. 492, 697 P.2d 492 and its progeny, the legislature has authorized both enhancements under the basic sentencing statute and on the finding of aggravating circumstances. *State v. McDonald*, 2003-NMCA-123, 134 N.M. 486, 79 P.3d 830, *aff'd in part, rev'd in part*, 2004-NMSC-033, 136 N.M. 417, 99 P.3d 667.

**Enhanced sentences cannot be served concurrently.** — An additional one-year sentence for the use of a firearm and an additional one-year sentence as an habitual offender cannot be served concurrently. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Enhanced sentences invalidated.** — Where defendant's basic sentences imposed under this section were increased under Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 based on the district court's findings of aggravating circumstances, and not based on a jury's findings and under a burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the enhancements are invalidated. *State v. Frawley*, 2005-NMCA-017, 137 N.M. 18, 106 P.3d 580, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-002, 137 N.M. 265, 110 P.3d 73, *overruled by State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 521, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Proper aggravated battery sentence not made erroneous by superfluous reference to another offense.** — Having stated his reason for altering the basic sentence for felony aggravated battery, the altered sentence is not made erroneous by the court's superfluous reference to another offense. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**The district court erred by failing to comply with the criminal sentencing act for a third-degree felony for a sexual offense against a child.** — Where defendant was convicted of attempt to commit second-degree criminal sexual contact of a minor (CSCM), a third degree felony, and where the district court imposed a basic sentence of three years, defendant's basic sentence was an illegal sentence, because the Criminal Sentencing Act mandates that a basic sentence for a third-degree felony shall be three years imprisonment, unless the third-degree felony is a sexual offense against a child, in which case the basic sentence shall be six years imprisonment. Defendant's crime, although incomplete, was a sexual offense against a child. *State v. Notah*, 2022-NMCA-005, cert. denied.

**Imprisonment for noncompliance with parole matters** is not a term of imprisonment which can be imposed by sentence, as such imprisonment results only after sentence has been imposed. *State v. Gonzales*, 1981-NMCA-086, 96 N.M. 556, 632 P.2d 1194.

**When multiple parole periods commence.** — The New Mexico Criminal Sentencing Act (Sections 31-18-12 to 31-18-21 NMSA 1978) requires that in the case of consecutive sentencing, the parole period of each offense commence immediately after the period of imprisonment for that offense, and such parole time will run concurrently with the running of any subsequent basic sentence then being served. *Brock v. Sullivan*, 1987-NMSC-013, 105 N.M. 412, 733 P.2d 860.

The defendant, convicted of a fourth-degree felony and a misdemeanor, was sentenced consecutively to 18 months imprisonment for the felony and 364 days for the misdemeanor. The court erred in requiring him to serve his parole period after the completion of the entire sentence, 18 months and 364 days, instead of allowing him to begin his parole after the term for the felony had expired and concurrently with the term for the misdemeanor. *Gillespie v. State*, 1988-NMSC-068, 107 N.M. 455, 760 P.2d 147.

**Where defendant was convicted of five counts of forgery in one case and seven felonies in a subsequent case,** and was sentenced to consecutive terms of imprisonment, the parole period for defendant's first sentence, since it is deemed part of the sentence, commenced immediately after the period of imprisonment for the first offense and ran concurrently with the running of the subsequent basic sentence being served which would also require a period of parole following the subsequent sentence. *State v. Ortiz*, 2015-NMCA-020, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-001.

**Lesser charge against codefendant provides no basis for relief.** — The fact that defendant was sentenced to the term authorized by law provides no basis for post-conviction relief where defendant asserts that "codefendants" were sentenced for a fourth-degree felony on the basis of "the same identical act," and that the state had reduced the charge to a fourth-degree felony on one codefendant. *State v. Follis*, 1970-NMCA-083, 81 N.M. 690, 472 P.2d 655.

**Sentence upon two charges arising out of same transaction.** — Under former law, which required that the term of imprisonment "shall not exceed the maximum nor be less than the minimum fixed by law," where appellant was sentenced for both rape and assault with intent to commit rape, both charges arose out of the same transaction, were committed at the same time as part of a continuous act, and were inspired by the same criminal intent which was an essential element of each offense, and, accordingly, were susceptible of only one punishment. *State v. Blackwell*, 1966-NMSC-088, 76 N.M. 445, 415 P.2d 563.

**Consecutive and concurrent sentences.** — Where 1969 sentences were expressly made consecutive to 1967 sentences, and eight sentences in 1969 were also expressly made consecutive, these nine consecutive sentences were validly imposed. *Deats v. State*, 1972-NMCA-155, 84 N.M. 405, 503 P.2d 1183.

**Period of parole is to be in addition to basic sentence** and is considered a part of the sentence of the convicted person. *State v. Johnson*, 1980-NMCA-083, 94 N.M. 636, 614 P.2d 1085, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 674, 615 P.2d 991.

**There is no restriction placed upon period of parole** except that it be for a reasonable period of time consistent with the needs of the individual. *State v. Johnson*, 1980-NMCA-083, 94 N.M. 636, 614 P.2d 1085, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 674, 615 P.2d 991.

**Homicide by vehicle.** — Even though Section 66-8-101 NMSA 1978 does not include the language "resulting in the death of a human being," the crime of homicide by vehicle is subject to the six-year sentence authorized by Subsection A(4). *State v. Guerro*, 1999-NMCA-026, 126 N.M. 699, 974 P.2d 669, cert. denied, 126 N.M. 533, 972 P.2d 352.

**Issuing a worthless check over \$25.00.** — The offense of issuing a worthless check over \$25.00 is a "felony" but could not constitute a "fourth degree felony" because the minimum sentence imposed for issuing worthless checks is less than the stated sentence for fourth degree felonies. *State v. Muzio*, 1987-NMCA-006, 105 N.M. 352, 732 P.2d 879, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 358, 732 P.2d 1381.

**Voluntary manslaughter with firearm enhancement.** — Upon conviction of voluntary manslaughter, with firearm enhancement, imposition of a three-year sentence under 30-2-3 NMSA 1978, plus an additional three-year sentence under this section, and an additional one-year firearm enhancement, did not result in multiple punishments for the same offense in violation of double jeopardy. *State v. Alvarado*, 1997-NMCA-027, 123 N.M. 187, 936 P.2d 869, cert. denied, 123 N.M. 168, 936 P.2d 337.

**District judge may not alter judgment after issuance of commitment.** — In the absence of an adjudication by the supreme court to the contrary, it is the opinion that a district judge is without authority to change, alter or amend a judgment after issuance of commitment to the penitentiary. 1959 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-122.

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "Criminal Procedure - Preventive Detention in New Mexico," see 4 N.M.L. Rev. 247 (1974).

For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For article, "New Mexico Antitrust Law," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 339 (1979).

For article, "Sufficiency of Provocation for Voluntary Manslaughter in New Mexico: Problems in Theory and Practice," see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 747 (1982).

For comment, "The Constitution is Constitutional - A Reply to The Constitutionality of Pretrial Detention Without Bail in New Mexico," see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 145 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal law, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 323 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1982-83: Criminal Procedure," see 14 N.M.L. Rev. 109 (1984).

For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

For comment, "An Equal Protection Challenge to First Degree Depraved Mind Murder Under the New Mexico Constitution", see 19 N.M.L. Rev. 511 (1989).

For article, "Unintentional homicides caused by risk-creating conduct: Problems in distinguishing between depraved mind murder, second degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and noncriminal homicide in New Mexico," 20 N.M.L. Rev. 55 (1990).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 825, 828, 944, 949.

Right to credit on state sentence for time served under sentence of court of separate jurisdiction where state court fails to specify in that regard, 90 A.L.R.3d 408.

Sentencing: permissibility of sentence to a fine only, under statutory provision for imprisonment or imprisonment and fine, 35 A.L.R.4th 192.

Validity, construction, and application of concurrent-sentence doctrine - state cases, 56 A.L.R.5th 385.

### **31-18-15.1. Alteration of basic sentence; mitigating or aggravating circumstances; procedure.**

A. The court shall hold a sentencing hearing to determine if mitigating or aggravating circumstances exist and take whatever evidence or statements it deems will aid it in reaching a decision to alter a basic sentence. The judge may alter the basic sentence as prescribed in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 upon:

(1) a finding by the judge of any mitigating circumstances surrounding the offense or concerning the offender; or

(2) a finding by a jury or by the judge beyond a reasonable doubt of any aggravating circumstances surrounding the offense or concerning the offender.

B. When the determination of guilt or innocence for the underlying offense is made by a jury, the original trial jury shall determine whether aggravating circumstances exist. If the offender waives a jury trial for the underlying offense, the offender retains the right to a jury determination of aggravating circumstances. If the offender waives a jury determination of aggravating circumstances, the basic sentence may be altered upon a



finding by the judge beyond a reasonable doubt of any aggravating circumstances surrounding the offense or concerning the offender.

C. For the purpose of this section, the following shall not be considered aggravating circumstances:

- (1) the use of a firearm, as provided in Section 31-18-16 NMSA 1978;
- (2) a prior felony conviction, as provided in Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978;
- (3) the commission of a crime motivated by hate, as provided in the Hate Crimes Act [31-18B-1 NMSA 1978]; or
- (4) any evidence relating to the proof of an essential element of the offense.

D. Not less than five days prior to trial or a sentencing proceeding pursuant to a plea agreement, the state shall give notice that it intends to seek an increase to an offender's basic sentence based upon aggravating circumstances. The notice shall state the aggravating circumstances upon which the sentence increase is sought.

E. Presentation of evidence or statements regarding an alleged aggravating circumstance shall be made as soon as practicable following the determination of guilt or innocence.

F. If the judge determines to alter the basic sentence, the judge shall issue a brief statement of reasons for the alteration and incorporate that statement in the record of the case.

G. The amount of the alteration of the basic sentence for noncapital felonies shall be determined by the judge. However, in no case shall the alteration exceed one-third of the basic sentence; provided that when the offender is a serious youthful offender or a youthful offender, the judge may reduce the sentence by more than one-third of the basic sentence.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-18-15.1, enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 152, § 2; 1993, ch. 77, § 6; 2009, ch. 163, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2009 amendment**, effective July 1, 2009, in Subsection A, in the first sentence, after "reaching a decision", added "to alter a basic sentence"; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection A, after "any mitigating" deleted "or aggravating" and after "concerning the offender", deleted "If the court determines to alter the basic sentence, it shall issue a brief statement of reasons for the alteration and incorporate that statement in the record of the case"; added Paragraph (2) of Subsection A; deleted former Subsection B, which

provided that the judge shall not consider the use of a firearm or prior felony convictions as aggravating circumstances: and added Subsections B through F.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective July 1, 1993, added the language beginning "provided, that" at the end of Subsection C.

## **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.**

**The trial court has authority under Sections 31-18-15 and 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 to alter the basic sentence of life imprisonment** for noncapital felonies if the court finds any mitigating circumstances surrounding the offense or concerning the offender. *State v. Juan*, 2010-NMSC-041, 148 N.M. 747, 242 P.3d 314.

**Method for calculating one-third of a basic sentence of life imprisonment.** — The thirty-year term for parole eligibility is the proper numerical standard by which to measure the trial court's authority to alter a basic sentence of life imprisonment under Sections 31-18-15 and 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978. Because the trial court's alteration cannot exceed one-third of the basic sentence, the trial court lacks authority to reduce a defendant's parole eligibility by more than ten years. *State v. Juan*, 2010-NMSC-041, 148 N.M. 747, 242 P.3d 314.

**Consideration of mitigating circumstances in alteration of basic life sentence.** — Where defendant was convicted of child abuse resulting in the death of a child under twelve years of age which carried a basic sentence of life imprisonment, the trial court had authority to reduce defendant's parole eligibility by up to ten years, resulting in a sentence of twenty years of imprisonment before the possibility of parole, and the court improperly failed to consider mitigating evidence at defendant's sentencing hearing. *State v. Juan*, 2010-NMSC-041, 148 N.M. 747, 242 P.3d 314.

**The trial court has authority to alter the basic sentence of all noncapital felonies.** — Sections 31-18-15 and 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 explicitly grant the trial court the authority to alter the basic sentence for all noncapital felonies, including those that carry a basic life sentence of life imprisonment. *State v. Montoya*, 2015-NMSC-010.

Where defendant was convicted of intentional child abuse resulting in the death of a child under twelve, which carried a basic sentence of life imprisonment, and where the district court believed that the law required a mandatory life sentence, the trial court abused its discretion when it misunderstood its authority and obligation to consider mitigating circumstances. *State v. Montoya*, 2015-NMSC-010.

**A basic sentence of life imprisonment is subject to mitigation.** — Unlike a capital felony, a basic sentence of life imprisonment for a noncapital felony is not a mandatory life sentence and is subject to mitigation. *State v. Cabezuela*, 2015-NMSC-016.

Where defendant was convicted of intentional child abuse resulting in the death of a child under twelve, defendant was found guilty of a noncapital felony, and as a result,

the life sentence was basic, not mandatory, and the district court was required to consider mitigation evidence before issuing a final sentence. *State v. Cabezuela*, 2015-NMSC-016.

**This section is facially unconstitutional.** *State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Duty to consider mitigating circumstances.** — The district court has a duty to consider mitigating factors in sentencing. Failure to do so, whether based on a misapprehension of the authority given by statute or a belief that a formal motion was required, is an abuse of discretion. *State v. Sotelo*, 2013-NMCA-028, 296 P.3d 1232, cert. denied, 2013-NMCERT-001.

Where defendant was convicted of kidnapping; at defendant's sentencing hearing, defense counsel argued that the district court had discretion to suspend a portion of defendant's sentence; the district court determined that under Section 31-20-3 NMSA 1978, the court did not have authority to suspend or defer sentences for first degree felonies; defense counsel failed to file a motion mitigating circumstances and informed the court that defense counsel agreed that the court did not have authority to suspend or defer sentences for first degree felonies; and the court did not consider any mitigating evidence before sentencing defendant, the court abused its discretion because the court had a duty to consider mitigating factors in sentencing. *State v. Sotelo*, 2013-NMCA-028, 296 P.3d 1232, cert. denied, 2013-NMCERT-001.

**A defendant has a right to a jury determination of the facts** that would support enhancement of this sentence. *State v. King*, 2007-NMCA-130, 142 N.M. 699, 168 P.3d 1123, cert. quashed, 2007-NMCERT-011, 143 N.M. 157, 173 P.3d 764.

**Waiver of right of jury trial.** — Where the defendant was not informed of acts that would constitute sufficient evidence of aggravating circumstances when he entered into a plea agreement, the defendant's waiver of his right to a jury trial in the plea agreement was not a voluntary and intelligent waiver of his right to a jury trial on the sentence enhancement factors. *State v. King*, 2007-NMCA-130, 142 N.M. 699, 168 P.3d 1123, cert. quashed, 2007-NMCERT-011, 143 N.M. 157, 173 P.3d 764.

**Sentence enhancement.** — The enhancement of defendant's basic sentence by the court pursuant to Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 violated defendant's right to an impartial jury because the enhancement should have been based on findings by a jury using the reasonable doubt standard. *State v. Bounds*, 2007-NMCA-062, 141 N.M. 651, 159 P.3d 1136, cert. quashed, 2008-NMCERT-001, 143 N.M. 399, 176 P.3d 1131.

**Section constitutional.** — This section does not violate the doctrine of separation of powers. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**This section is constitutional.** *State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 521, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by* *State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**This section is not unconstitutionally vague.** *State v. Segotta*, 1983-NMSC-092, 100 N.M. 498, 672 P.2d 1129.

There is no double jeopardy in considering the circumstances of both the felony and the offender in determining whether the basic sentence should be altered. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

The sentence enhancements under this section are constitutional in light of *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296, 124 S. Ct. 2531 (2004) and *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220, 125 S. Ct. 738 (2005). *State v. Jernigan*, 2006-NMSC-003, 139 N.M. 1, 127 P.3d 537.

**No due process concern where sentence not altered.** — Where the trial court did not alter the defendant's basic sentence upward or downward as a result of aggravating circumstances, there is no need to consider whether the defendant's sentencing invokes due process concerns relating to the presentation of those aggravating circumstances. *State v. Gardner*, 2003-NMCA-107, 134 N.M. 294, 76 P.3d 47, cert. denied, 134 N.M. 179, 74 P.3d 1071.

**Legislature establishes criminal penalties and determines court's sentencing authority.** — The legislature establishes criminal penalties; the trial court's authority to sentence is that which has been provided by law. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature did not intend to confer a right to a basic sentence but rather to limit the trial court's discretion to punish within a range by taking into consideration a wide range of circumstances, and to provide for meaningful appellate review. *State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 521, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by* *State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Multiple enhancements permitted.** — In the absence of the type of "dual use" (i.e., when the same fact is used both as an element of the crime and a subsequent enhancement or as the basis for two separate enhancements) discussed in *State v. Keith*, 1985-NMCA-012, 102 N.M. 462, 697 P.2d 145, cert. denied, 102 N.M. 492, 697 P.2d 492 and its progeny, the legislature has authorized both enhancements under the basic sentencing statute and on the finding of aggravating circumstances. *State v. McDonald*, 2003-NMCA-123, 134 N.M. 486, 79 P.3d 830, *aff'd*, 2004-NMSC-033, 136 N.M. 417, 99 P.3d 667.

**State v. Wilson, 2001-NMCA-032, 130 N.M. 319, 24 P.3d 351 can no longer be considered controlling authority** regarding sentencing enhancements of basic sentences. *State v. Frawley*, 2005-NMCA-017, 137 N.M. 18, 106 P.3d 580, *overruled by*

*State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 521, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by* 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Section concerns sentences for felony convictions.** — This section concerns only the alteration of the basic sentences for felony convictions. There is no rule or statute in the district or magistrate courts specifically requiring the court to provide defendants in misdemeanor cases the right to speak before sentence is pronounced. *State v. Stenz*, 1990-NMSC-026, 109 N.M. 536, 787 P.2d 455, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 562, 787 P.2d 842.

**Application to youthful offenders.** — The basic sentences prescribed by Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 are "mandatory" within the meaning of Section 32A-2-20D NMSA 1978, while the alterations in the basic sentences allowed by this section are discretionary and, therefore, circumscribed by the Children's Code (Section 32A-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.); thus, the maximum sentence that may be imposed upon a youthful offender convicted of a non-capital felony is the basic sentence, plus, if applicable, the enhancements prescribed by Sections 31-18-16 and 31-18-16.1 NMSA 1978. *State v. Guerra*, 2001-NMCA-031, 130 N.M. 302, 24 P.3d 334, cert. denied *sub nom. State v. Ruby G.*, 130 N.M. 459, 26 P.3d 103.

**Offender not subject to both felony DWI provision and aggravation statute.** — The maximum sentence for felony DWI under Section 66-8-102(G) NMSA 1978 cannot be enhanced by the aggravation provisions of this section. *State v. Coyazo*, 2001-NMCA-018, 130 N.M. 428, 25 P.3d 267, cert. denied, 130 N.M. 254, 23 P.3d 929.

**Aggravated battery provision and this section not in conflict.** — Section 30-3-5 NMSA 1978 (aggravated battery) and this section do not provide punishment for the same offense, and these sections are not in conflict. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**Relation to Section 31-18-16 NMSA 1978.** — The defendant was charged with the use of a firearm in the murder of a police officer, and the jury found that he did use a firearm in committing that crime. Section 31-18-16 NMSA 1978 provided a separate and distinct basis (use of a firearm) for further altering his basic sentence in addition to the alteration for aggravating circumstances permitted by this section: the language and requirements of each statute were totally independent of the other. *State v. Hall*, 1987-NMCA-145, 107 N.M. 17, 751 P.2d 701, cert. denied, 107 N.M. 16, 751 P.2d 700.

## **II. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

**Failure to preserve issue.** — Where the district court altered defendant's sentence; during the pendency of defendant's appeal, the supreme court held that sentence alteration, based on a judge's finding, is unconstitutional; and defendant raised the constitutionality of the alteration of defendant's sentence for the first time on appeal, defendant failed to preserve the issue. *State v. Clements*, 2009-NMCA-085, 146 N.M. 745, 215 P.3d 54, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-007, 147 N.M. 362, 223 P.3d 359.

**Submission of 192 supportive letters for victim had not rendered the sentencing proceeding unfair.** *State v. Aker*, 2005-NMCA-063, 137 N.M. 561, 113 P.3d 384, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-005, 137 N.M. 522, 113 P.3d 345.

**Crime circumstances and offender background.** — This section provides for broad inquiry into the circumstances of the crime and the background of the offender. *Reyes v. Quintana*, 853 F.2d 784 (10th Cir. 1988).

**Increasing sentence based on consideration of element of offense.** — Where defendant noted that physical injury is an element of the crime of second degree criminal sexual penetration under Section 30-9-11B(2) NMSA 1978, and he contended the trial court's consideration of the physical injury suffered by the victim in increasing the basic sentence pursuant to this section exposed him to double jeopardy, the court's consideration of circumstances surrounding an element of the offense did not expose defendant to double jeopardy. *State v. Bernal*, 1987-NMCA-075, 106 N.M. 117, 739 P.2d 986, cert. denied, 106 N.M. 81, 738 P.2d 1326.

**Notice of state's intent to seek aggravation.** — A defendant must be given notice of the state's intention to seek aggravation and of the aggravating circumstances on which it intends to rely, unless the circumstance was itself an element of the underlying offense or a fact used to establish such an element. While the court may rely upon aggravating circumstances not urged by the state, the court should also provide notice to the defendant of those circumstances that were not established at trial under the foregoing exception. *Caristo v. Sullivan*, 1991-NMSC-088, 112 N.M. 623, 818 P.2d 401.

Defendant was not prejudiced by late filing of the state's written notice where it reserved its right to seek aggravation in a plea agreement and filed written notice of its intent to do so in open court during the sentencing hearing one month later, and where defendant was on notice of the aggravating factors because they were among the circumstances forming the basis of the charges on which he was indicted. *State v. Tortolito*, 1997-NMCA-128, 124 N.M. 368, 950 P.2d 811, cert. denied, 124 N.M. 311, 950 P.2d 284.

**Intent of writing requirement.** — The writing requirement of Subsection A of this section was intended to limit the judge's sentencing discretion by imposing a standard of reasonableness, rather than creating a right in defendants to be sentenced to the basic sentence. *State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 521, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by* 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Statement of reasons for alteration.** — Appellate review would have been easier if the trial court had filed, as part of the court file, a written statement of its reasons for alteration of a basic sentence, but a taped statement preserved for review was part of the appellate record because it was included in the transcript. *State v. Bernal*, 1987-NMCA-075, 106 N.M. 117, 739 P.2d 986, cert. denied, 106 N.M. 81, 738 P.2d 1326.

The factors the trial judge stated were permissible considerations, and his statement was sufficient under subsection A, where the court, by its statement after evidence and argument, indicated that it considered: (1) testimony of a psychologist that defendant could be a "power" rapist, that defendant's drinking triggered violent and aggressive behavior, and that the court had no guarantee or expectation that his alcohol abuse could be controlled, and (2) evidence that defendant's action was "brutal" in nature, and the court emphasized it had a duty to protect society and that it could not risk defendant being unable to control alcohol abuse. *State v. Bernal*, 1987-NMCA-075, 106 N.M. 117, 739 P.2d 986, cert. denied, 106 N.M. 81, 738 P.2d 1326.

**Court must specify aggravating circumstances.** — Case was remanded for a new sentencing hearing on defendant's convictions for kidnapping, criminal sexual penetration, and robbery, where the trial court found the existence of aggravating circumstances, but did not specify what those circumstances were. *State v. McGuire*, 1990-NMSC-067, 110 N.M. 304, 795 P.2d 996.

The preferred practice is for a sentencing judge to note the factors argued in mitigation and indicate whether they are outweighed by any aggravating factors; however, a sentencing judge is not required to make detailed, exhaustive findings or cite every claim or nuance advanced. *State v. Watchman*, 1991-NMCA-010, 111 N.M. 727, 809 P.2d 641, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227, *overruled in part on other grounds by State v. Hosteen*, 1996-NMCA-084, 122 N.M. 228, 923 P.2d 595.

**Presumption as to motive in imposing sentence.** — When a sentencing judge enhances a sentence based upon circumstances factually supported in the record, and those circumstances constitute proper factors to consider under the enhancement statute, this court will not presume improper motive in imposing sentence. *Reyes v. Quintana*, 853 F.2d 784 (10th Cir. 1988).

Judge's increase of the sentence of a defendant charged with first degree murder, based on defendant's pursuit of the victim, is not tantamount to basing the increase on a finding of deliberate intention to kill, an element of first degree murder, and is not violative of the double jeopardy clause. *Reyes v. Quintana*, 853 F.2d 784 (10th Cir. 1988).

**Circumstances surrounding each element of offense may be considered.** — The elements of an offense do no more than establish the offense. The circumstances surrounding the offense, including the circumstances surrounding each of the elements of the offense, may be considered under this section. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**Sentencing hearing is mandatory.** *State v. Tomlinson*, 1982-NMCA-025, 98 N.M. 337, 648 P.2d 795, *aff'd*, 98 N.M. 213, 647 P.2d 415.

**The Criminal Sentencing Act does not require bifurcation.** — Where defendant was charged with two counts of criminal sexual penetration (CSP), and where defendant

claimed that he was denied his right to a fair trial because the Criminal Sentencing Act requires a determination of a defendant's guilt or innocence before the jury can consider whether the crime included aggravating circumstances, and that a sentencing hearing is a separate and distinct proceeding from trial, requiring bifurcation, defendant was not denied a fair trial, because while a sentencing hearing is mandatory under the Criminal Sentencing Act, it does not necessarily require a separate proceeding as long as defendant is given the opportunity to present mitigating considerations and the district court is given the opportunity to hear whatever evidence or statements it deems will aid it in reaching a decision. *State v. Apodaca*, 2021-NMCA-001, cert. granted.

**Defendant must be given opportunity to speak before sentence pronounced. —**

This section extends the common-law doctrine of allocutus to noncapital felonies, as enumerated in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978, and the trial judge must give the defendant an opportunity to speak before he pronounces sentence; failure to do so renders the sentence invalid. *Tomlinson v. State*, 1982-NMSC-074, 98 N.M. 213, 647 P.2d 415.

The district judge must give a defendant an opportunity to speak before sentence is rendered. *State v. Pothier*, 1986-NMSC-039, 104 N.M. 363, 721 P.2d 1294.

**"Statement" before trial court for the purpose of this section is presentence report.** *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**Statutory compliance where evidence taken, reasoning articulated and defendant given chance to comment. —** Where, without the assistance of counsel, the trial court takes evidence it deems would aid it, articulates its reasoning and gives defense counsel a chance to comment, this section is complied with. *State v. Tomlinson*, 1982-NMCA-025, 98 N.M. 337, 648 P.2d 795, *aff'd*, 1982-NMSC-074, 98 N.M. 213, 647 P.2d 415.

**Defendant's right to allocution** was not denied when the trial court refused to grant a continuance for sentencing until her psychologist could testify; the court gave her the opportunity to make a proffer as to the expert's testimony, which she did, and she did not allege that the expert's testimony would be different from that given at trial. *State v. Setser*, 1997-NMSC-004, 122 N.M. 794, 932 P.2d 484.

**Denial of right to allocution rendered sentence invalid. —** Where defendant and the state entered into a plea and disposition agreement in which defendant agreed to plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance in two cases, and where the plea and disposition agreement contained no agreement as to sentencing, but where the state did not oppose the sentences in the two cases being suspended and running concurrently, and where, at the conclusion of the sentencing hearing, the district court sentenced defendant within the statutory maximum punishment, and where, on appeal, defendant claimed that his cases should be remanded for resentencing because the district court did not afford him the opportunity to allocute prior to sentencing, and where



the state claimed that by entering into a plea and disposition agreement, defendant waived his right to raise the allocution violation on appeal, defendant's sentence was not authorized by statute, because the Criminal Sentencing Act plainly mandates that the opportunity for allocution be provided at every felony sentencing proceeding, and that a court's failure to afford this right renders the sentence unauthorized by statute, a jurisdictional defect that may be raised on appeal notwithstanding the entry of a valid guilty plea and appellate waiver. *State v. Wing*, 2022-NMCA-016, cert. denied.

**Impermissible to increase sentence if state failed to include "mitigation" language in sentence.** — The use of the state's failure to include "mitigation" language in the judgment and sentence in order to later increase the defendant's sentence is impermissible. The proper remedy is to file an amended judgment and sentence containing the appropriate language. *State v. Sisneros*, 1981-NMCA-085, 98 N.M. 279, 648 P.2d 318, *aff'd*, 1984-NMSC-085, 101 N.M. 679, 687 P.2d 736, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Saavedra*, 1988-NMSC-100, 108 N.M. 38, 766 P.2d 298.

**Proper aggravated battery sentence not made erroneous by superfluous reference to another offense.** — Having stated his reason for altering the basic sentence for felony aggravated battery, the altered sentence is not made erroneous by the court's superfluous reference to another offense. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**Sentences served concurrently unless trial court or legislature requires consecutive sentences.** — The trial court has discretion to require sentences to be served consecutively, but if this is not done, and there is no legislation covering the situation, the sentences are to be served concurrently. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

### III. AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS.

**Enhanced sentences invalidated.** — Where defendant's basic sentences imposed under Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 were increased under this section based on the district court's findings of aggravating circumstances, and not based on a jury's findings and under a burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the enhancements are invalidated. *State v. Frawley*, 2005-NMCA-017, 137 N.M. 18, 106 P.3d 580, *overruled by State v. Lopez*, 2005-NMSC-036, 138 N.M. 521, 123 P.3d 754, *overruled by State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Use of contemporaneous crime.** — A trial court, in considering enhancement, cannot consider the elements of a separate but contemporaneous conviction as an aggravating factor; however, the trial court is free to consider the circumstances surrounding the offense, as long as the court does not rely solely on the elements of the statute necessary to define the crime. *State v. Fuentes*, 1994-NMCA-158, 119 N.M. 104, 888 P.2d 986, cert. denied, 119 N.M. 168, 889 P.2d 203 (1995).

**Use of firearm as permissible aggravating factor.** — Because Subsection B (now C) prohibits only the basic use of a firearm from being used as an aggravator, there was no error in the trial court's use of other circumstances involving the type of firearm with its potential for use to create generalized fear and indiscriminate harm. *State v. Roper*, 2001-NMCA-093, 131 N.M. 189, 34 P.3d 133, cert. quashed, 131 N.M. 619, 41 P.3d 345.

**District court improperly aggravated defendant's sentence.** — Where defendant was convicted of aggravated burglary with a deadly weapon, conspiracy, three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and three counts of false imprisonment based on evidence that he and two other individuals, armed with guns, entered a home to confront another individual about a romantic entanglement and held three teenagers against their will in anticipation of confronting the romantic rival, and where, at sentencing, the district court applied firearm enhancements, found aggravated circumstances and ultimately sentenced defendant to thirty years in prison, the district court improperly aggravated defendant's sentence, because NMSA 1978, § 31-18-15.1(C)(1) explicitly prohibits the district court from aggravating a sentence based on "the use of a firearm, as provided in Section 31-18-16," and therefore a finding that the defendant "was armed" was not an appropriate basis for aggravation under the circumstances. *State v. Vasquez*, 2024-NMCA-020.

**Amount of time spent planning murder.** — Use, as an aggravating factor, of the amount of time that defendant spent planning the murder was not inappropriate on the basis that the court was, in substance, punishing him for having engaged in a conspiracy. *State v. Castillo-Sanchez*, 1999-NMCA-085, 127 N.M. 540, 984 P.2d 787, cert. denied, 127 N.M. 390, 981 P.2d 1208.

**Aggravating factors for fraud.** — Although several of the aggravating factors considered by the court in a fraud case were proper, consideration "that the money is apparently gone or has been spent", without more, was a neutral factor and, on remand for resentencing, should not be considered unless the court can spell out why this is an aggravating factor. *State v. Whitaker*, 1990-NMCA-014, 110 N.M. 486, 797 P.2d 275, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 631, 788 P.2d 931.

**Prolonged wait for victim, accusatory statement and deliberateness properly considered aggravating circumstances.** — The defendant's prolonged wait for the victim, her accusatory statement before she shot the victim and her deliberateness may properly be considered as aggravating and may properly add an additional year to the sentence for aggravated battery. *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**Consideration of false testimony.** — A trial judge at sentencing may consider whether the defendant's trial testimony contained willful and material falsehoods; however, the consideration of false testimony is justified only under circumstances guaranteeing its probative value to sentencing for the underlying offense and is subject to minimum

safeguards required by due process. *State v. James*, 1989-NMCA-089, 109 N.M. 278, 784 P.2d 1021, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 262, 784 P.2d 1005.

**Age of child victim as aggravating factor.** — Where the defendant was charged with rape of a child, criminal sexual contact of a minor, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, the court properly considered the minority of the victims as an aggravating circumstance even though it was an essential element of each crime. *State v. Cawley*, 1990-NMSC-088, 110 N.M. 705, 799 P.2d 574.

**Lack of remorse** arguably is a circumstance "concerning the offender," and, thus, is a permissible factor in sentencing. *Swafford v. State*, 1991-NMSC-043, 112 N.M. 3, 810 P.2d 1223.

Because the court did not express concern about suspected perjury, and because the court considered the defendant's lack of remorse over a long period of time in a variety of situations, the trial court did not err by using lack of remorse as an aggravating circumstance. *State v. Wilson*, 1993-NMCA-074, 117 N.M. 11, 868 P.2d 656, cert. quashed, 119 N.M. 311, 889 P.2d 1233 (1995).

**Future dangerousness.** — Trial court had sufficient basis to aggravate defendant's sentence based on both his lack of remorse and future dangerousness to the victim and an eye witness as based on psychologist's report and testimony describing defendant's conduct. *State v. Fike*, 2002-NMCA-027, 131 N.M. 676, 41 P.3d 944, cert. denied, 131 N.M. 737, 42 P.3d 842, *overruled by State v. Frawley*, 2007-NMSC-057, 143 N.M. 7, 172 P.3d 144.

**Events surrounding crime and nature of defendant's threat to society.** — Findings that the defendant had numerous opportunities to avoid the auto collision and did not put on his brakes at all before striking the victim's car provided an adequate basis for aggravation of the defendant's sentences for vehicular homicide. *State v. Landgraf*, 1996-NMCA-024, 121 N.M. 445, 913 P.2d 252, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 375, 911 P.2d 883.

**Impermissible aggravating factor.** — While the victim's blood relationship to defendant arguably was a circumstance surrounding the offense of criminal sexual penetration, it was error for the court to consider such relationship as an aggravating factor at sentencing on a criminal sexual penetration count after defendant had also been convicted of incest. *Swafford v. State*, 1991-NMSC-043, 112 N.M. 3, 810 P.2d 1223.

This section does not by its own terms permit the trial judge to consider the elements of either the offense for which the defendant was sentenced or a separate, but contemporaneous, conviction as an aggravating factor. *Swafford v. State*, 1991-NMSC-043, 112 N.M. 3, 810 P.2d 1223.

**Harm to wife to force alibi testimony.** — There is no direct or circumstantial evidence that would support consideration of harm to the defendant's wife as an aggravating circumstance. The evidence in the record required speculation about the defendant's role in inducing the alibi and the exculpatory letters, and the evidence involved conduct not directly related to the defendant's dangerousness or candidacy for rehabilitation. *State v. Wilson*, 1993-NMCA-074, 117 N.M. 11, 868 P.2d 656, cert. quashed, 119 N.M. 311, 889 P.2d 1233 (1995).

**Defendant's cooperation with authorities.** — A sentencing judge may take into account as a mitigating factor a defendant's voluntary cooperation with authorities. However, a sentence may not be increased based upon a defendant's failure to cooperate. *State v. Callaway*, 1989-NMCA-094, 109 N.M. 564, 787 P.2d 1247, *rev'd on other grounds*, 1990-NMSC-010, 109 N.M. 416, 785 P.2d 1035, cert. denied, 496 U.S. 912, 110 S. Ct. 2603, 110 L. Ed. 2d 283 (1990).

Trial court's offer to cut defendant's sentence in half if he provided information pertaining to another individual involved in the crime was a permissible extension of an offer of leniency to the defendant. *State v. Callaway*, 1989-NMCA-094, 109 N.M. 564, 787 P.2d 1247, *rev'd on other grounds*, 1990-NMSC-010, 109 N.M. 416, 785 P.2d 1035, cert. denied, 496 U.S. 912, 110 S. Ct. 2603, 110 L. Ed. 2d 283 (1990).

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Sufficiency of Provocation for Voluntary Manslaughter in New Mexico: Problems in Theory and Practice," see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 747 (1982).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

For article, "The Capital Defendant's Right to Make a Personal Plea for Mercy: Common Law Allocution and Constitutional Mitigation," see 15 N.M.L. Rev. 41 (1985).

For article, "Unintentional homicides caused by risk-creating conduct: Problems in distinguishing between depraved mind murder, second degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and noncriminal homicide in New Mexico," 20 N.M.L. Rev. 55 (1990).

For annual survey of New Mexico Criminal Procedure, see 20 N.M.L. Rev. 285 (1990).

For survey of 1990-91 criminal procedure and evidence, see 22 N.M.L. Rev. 713 (1992).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Power of court to increase severity of unlawful sentence - modern status, 28 A.L.R.4th 147.

Computation of incarceration time under work-release or "hardship" sentences, 28 A.L.R.4th 1265.

Defendant's right to credit for time spent in halfway house, rehabilitation center or similar restrictive environment as a condition of pretrial release, 29 A.L.R.4th 240.

Admissibility of expert testimony as to appropriate punishment for convicted defendant, 47 A.L.R.4th 1069.

What constitutes unusually "vulnerable" victim under sentencing guideline § 3A1.1 permitting increase in offense level, 114 A.L.R. Fed. 355.

Downward departure from United States Sentencing Guidelines (USSG §§ 1A1.1 et seq.) based on extraordinary family circumstances, 145 A.L.R. Fed. 559.

Downward departure from United States Sentencing Guidelines (USSG §§ 1A1.1 et seq.) based on vulnerability to abuse in prison, 155 A.L.R. Fed. 327.

Downward departure from United States Sentencing Guidelines (U.S.S.G. § 1A1.1 et seq.) based on aberrant behavior, 164 A.L.R. Fed. 61.

### **31-18-15.2. Definitions.**

As used in the Criminal Sentencing Act:

A. "serious youthful offender" means an individual fifteen to eighteen years of age who is charged with and indicted or bound over for trial for first degree murder; and

B. "youthful offender" means a delinquent child subject to adult or juvenile sanctions who is:

(1) fourteen to eighteen years of age at the time of the offense and who is adjudicated for at least one of the following offenses:

(a) second degree murder, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

(b) assault with intent to commit a violent felony, as provided in Section 30-3-3 NMSA 1978;

(c) kidnapping, as provided in Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978;

(d) aggravated battery, as provided in Subsection C of Section 30-3-5 NMSA 1978;

(e) aggravated battery upon a peace officer, as provided in Subsection C of Section 30-22-25 NMSA 1978;

(f) shooting at a dwelling or occupied building or shooting at or from a motor vehicle, as provided in Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

- (g) dangerous use of explosives, as provided in Section 30-7-5 NMSA 1978;
- (h) criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;
- (i) robbery, as provided in Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978;
- (j) aggravated burglary, as provided in Section 30-16-4 NMSA 1978;
- (k) aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978; or
- (l) abuse of a child that results in great bodily harm or death to the child, as provided in Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

(2) fourteen to eighteen years of age at the time of the offense and adjudicated for any felony offense and who has had three prior, separate felony adjudications within a three-year time period immediately preceding the instant offense. The felony adjudications relied upon as prior adjudications shall not have arisen out of the same transaction or occurrence or series of events related in time and location. Successful completion of consent decrees is not considered a prior adjudication for the purposes of this paragraph; or

(3) fourteen years of age and adjudicated for first degree murder, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978.

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 77, § 1; 1994, ch. 18, § 2; 1995, ch. 205, § 1; 1996, ch. 85, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1996 amendment**, effective July 1, 1996, substituted "fifteen to eighteen" for "sixteen or seventeen" in Subsection A; substituted "fourteen" for "fifteen" at the beginning of Paragraphs B(1), (2) and (3); deleted "which results in great bodily harm to another person" in Subparagraph B(1)(f) preceding "as provided"; added Subparagraph b(1)(l); and substituted "three-year" for "two-year" in Paragraph B(2).

**The 1995 amendment**, effective June 16, 1995, inserted "Subsection C of" in Subdivision B(1)(d), and added Subdivision B(1)(e) and redesignated the remaining subdivisions accordingly.

**The 1994 amendment**, effective July 1, 1994, inserted Subparagraph B(1)(e), and redesignated former Subparagraphs B(1)(e) to B(1)(i) as Subparagraphs B(1)(f) to B(1)(j).

### **31-18-15.3. Serious youthful offender; disposition.**

A. An alleged serious youthful offender may be detained in any of the following places, prior to arraignment in metropolitan, magistrate or district court:

(1) a detention facility for delinquent children, licensed by the children, youth and families department;

(2) any other suitable place, other than a facility for the care and rehabilitation of delinquent children, that meets standards for detention facilities, as set forth in the Children's Code [Chapter 32A NMSA 1978] and federal law; or

(3) a county jail, if a facility described in Paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection is not appropriate.

B. When an alleged serious youthful offender is detained in a juvenile detention facility prior to trial, the time spent in the juvenile detention facility shall count toward completion of any sentence imposed.

C. At arraignment, when a metropolitan or district court judge or a magistrate determines that an alleged serious youthful offender should remain in custody, the alleged serious youthful offender may be detained in an adult or juvenile detention facility, subject to the facility's accreditation and the provisions of applicable federal law.

D. When an alleged serious youthful offender is found guilty of first degree murder, the court shall sentence the offender pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Sentencing Act; provided that a serious youthful offender given an adult sentence shall not be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole. The court may sentence the offender to less than, but not exceeding, the mandatory term for an adult. The determination of guilt becomes a conviction for purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act.

E. Prior to the sentencing of an alleged serious youthful offender who is convicted of first degree murder, adult probation services shall prepare a presentence report and submit the report to the court and the parties five days prior to the sentencing hearing.

F. When the alleged serious youthful offender is convicted of a lesser offense than first degree murder, the court shall provide for disposition of the offender pursuant to the provisions of Section 32A-2-19 or 32A-2-20 NMSA 1978. When an offender is adjudicated as a delinquent child, the conviction shall not be used as a conviction for purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act.

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 77, § 3; 2023, ch. 24, § 1.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, prohibited the imposition of a sentence of life without the possibility of release or parole on a serious youthful offender given an adult sentence; in Subsection D, added "provided that a serious youthful offender given an adult sentence shall not be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of

release or parole"; and in Subsection F, after "Section", deleted "32-2-19 or 32-2-20" and added "32A-2-19 or 32A-2-20".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2023, ch. 24, § 5 provided that the provisions of Laws 2023, ch. 24 apply retroactively to all offenders currently serving an adult sentence for an offense committed as a child.

**Constitutionality of excluding serious youthful offenders convicted of first-degree felony murder from receiving an amenability hearing.** — Where defendant was charged and convicted of three counts of first-degree felony, murder and conspiracy to commit aggravated burglary, based on evidence that defendant, who was sixteen years old at the time, killed three members of a family with a pickaxe after he and two co-conspirators planned to burglarize the family in order to get money, and where, prior to sentencing, defendant filed a motion arguing that the constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment and the constitutional guarantee of equal protection require an amenability hearing in conjunction with the court's sentencing, defendant's constitutional rights were not violated by being sentenced without an amenability hearing, because cruel and unusual punishment jurisprudence does not guarantee an amenability hearing to juveniles simply because they are juveniles, and defendant failed to show that the legislature's statutory distinction is unsupported by a firm rationale or evidence in the record. *State v. Ortiz*, 2021-NMSC-029.

**Pre-sentence report is mandatory.** — The district court does not have jurisdiction to sentence a youthful offender who has been convicted of first degree murder until a pre-sentence report has been prepared by adult probation services and the report has been submitted to the district court and the parties five days prior to the sentencing hearing. *State v. Gutierrez*, 2011-NMSC-024, 150 N.M. 232, 258 P.3d 1024.

**Amenability to treatment.** — Subsection F of this section gives the district court the discretion to impose an adult sentence as indicated in Section 32A-2-20 NMSA 1978 based on a finding that a child is not amenable to treatment. If the district court finds the child is amenable to treatment, then the district court should impose a juvenile disposition in accordance with 32A-2-19 NMSA 1978. *State v. Muniz*, 2003-NMSC-021, 134 N.M. 152, 74 P.3d 86, *superceded by statute*, *State v. Jones*, 2010-NMSC-012, 148 N.M. 1, 229 P.3d 474.

**Children initially charged with first degree murder,** but found guilty of lesser crimes, may be sentenced as adults under Subsection F of this section if the district court finds that circumstances warrant such a sentence, even when those children are found guilty of crimes that would otherwise warrant only a juvenile disposition. *State v. Muniz*, 2003-NMSC-021, 134 N.M. 152, 74 P.3d 86, *superceded by statute*, *State v. Jones*, 2010-NMSC-012, 148 N.M. 1, 229 P.3d 474.

**Application to delinquent offenders.** — The presentence confinement credit provided for in Sections 31-18-15.3 and 31-20-12 NMSA 1978 applies only to serious youthful offenders sentenced as adults, and not to a child adjudicated as a delinquent offender



for a lesser-included offense. *State v. Nanco*, 2012-NMCA-109, 288 P.3d 527, cert. granted, 2012-NMCERT-010.

**Presentence confinement credit does not apply to delinquent offenders.** — Where the child, who was fifteen years old, was charged with committing first degree murder and two counts of tampering with evidence, and the jury determined that the child had committed the delinquent acts of voluntary manslaughter and one count with tampering with evidence, the child was not entitled to presentence confinement credit for the twenty-five months the child was detained in a juvenile detention facility before the district court adjudicated the child a delinquent offender. *State v. Nanco*, 2012-NMCA-109, 288 P.3d 527, cert. granted, 2012-NMCERT-010.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "State v. Muniz: Authorizing Adult Sentencing of Juveniles Absent a Conviction that Authorizes an Adult Sentence", see 35 N.M.L. Rev. 229 (2005).

### **31-18-15.4. Felonies; public officials; enhancement of sentences.**

A. When a separate finding of fact by the trier of fact shows beyond a reasonable doubt that an offender is a public official and that the felony conviction relates to, arises out of or is in connection with the offender's holding of an elected office, the basic sentence may be increased by an additional fine not to exceed the value of the salary and fringe benefits paid to the offender, by virtue of holding an elected public office, after the commission of the first act that was a basis for the felony conviction.

B. As used in this section, "public official" means a person elected to an office in an election covered by the Campaign Reporting Act [1-19-25 to 1-19-36 NMSA 1978] or a person appointed to an office that is subject to an election covered by that act.

**History:** Laws 2012, ch. 3, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2012, ch. 3 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 16, 2012, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-18-16. Use, brandishing or discharge of firearm; alteration of basic sentence; suspension and deferral limited.**

A. When a separate finding of fact by the court or jury shows that a firearm was used in relation to a drug transaction or during the commission of aggravated burglary pursuant to Section 30-16-4 NMSA 1978 or a serious violent offense, the basic sentence of imprisonment prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 shall be increased by one year, except that when the offender is a serious youthful

offender or a youthful offender who received an adult sentence, the sentence imposed by this subsection may be increased by one year.

B. When a separate finding of fact by the court or jury shows that a firearm was brandished in the commission of a noncapital felony, the basic sentence of imprisonment prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 shall be increased by three years, except that when the offender is a serious youthful offender or a youthful offender that received an adult sentence, the sentence imposed by this subsection may be increased by one year.

C. When a separate finding of fact by the court or jury shows that a firearm was discharged in the commission of a noncapital felony, the basic sentence of imprisonment prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 shall be increased by five years, except that when the offender is a serious youthful offender or a youthful offender who received an adult sentence, the sentence imposed by this subsection may be increased by three years.

D. For a second or subsequent offense, when a separate finding of fact by the court or jury shows that a firearm was used, brandished, or discharged in relation to a drug transaction or during the commission of aggravated burglary pursuant to Section 30-16-4 NMSA 1978 or a serious violent offense, the sentence shall be increased by five years, except that when the offender is a serious youthful offender or a youthful offender, the sentence imposed by this section may be increased by three years.

E. If the case is tried before a jury and if a prima facie case has been established showing that a firearm was used, brandished or discharged in relation to a drug transaction or during the commission of aggravated burglary pursuant to Section 30-16-4 NMSA 1978 or a serious violent offense, the court shall submit the issue to the jury by special interrogatory. If the case is tried by the court, the court shall decide the issue and shall make a separate finding of fact thereon.

F. When a separate finding of fact by the court or jury shows that a firearm was used, brandished or discharged in relation to a drug transaction or during the commission of aggravated burglary pursuant to Section 30-16-4 NMSA 1978 or a serious violent offense, the firearm is subject to seizure and forfeiture as an instrumentality pursuant to the provisions of the Forfeiture Act [Chapter 31, Article 27 NMSA 1978].

G. As used in this section:

(1) "brandished" means displaying or making a firearm known to another person while the firearm is present on the person of the offending party with intent to intimidate or injure a person;

(2) "in relation to a drug transaction" means participating or attempting to participate in the trafficking of a controlled substance pursuant to Section 30-31-20

NMSA 1978, distribution of a controlled substance to a minor pursuant to Section 30-31-21 NMSA 1978 or distribution of a controlled or counterfeit substance pursuant to Section 30-31-22 NMSA 1978 as a seller, purported seller or as an accomplice; and

(3) "serious violent offense" means an offense enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection L of Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-29, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 5; 1979, ch. 152, § 3; 1993, ch. 77, § 7; 2020, ch. 54, § 3; 2022, ch. 56, § 30.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2022 amendment**, effective May 18, 2022, provided for a sentencing enhancement when a firearm is used during the commission of a drug transaction or serious violent offense, and provided that if a firearm is used during the commission of a drug transaction or serious violent offense, the firearm is subject to seizure; added a new Subsection A and redesignated former Subsection A as Subsection B; deleted former Subsection B, added new Subsections C and D and redesignated former Subsection C as Subsection E; in Subsection E, after "showing that a firearm was", added "used", after "brandished", deleted "in the commission of the offense" and added "or discharged in relation to a drug transaction or during the commission of aggravated burglary pursuant to Section 30-16-4 NMSA 1978 or a serious violent offense", and after "tried by the court", deleted "and if a prima facie case has been established showing that a firearm was brandished in the commission of the offense"; added a new Subsection F and redesignated former Subsection D as Subsection G; and in Subsection G, added Paragraphs G(2) and G(3).

**The 2020 amendment**, effective July 1, 2020, increased the sentence enhancements for brandishing of a firearm in the commission of a noncapital felony, and defined "brandished" as used in this section; in the section heading, and throughout the section, substituted "brandished" for "used"; in Subsection A, after "shall be increased by", deleted "one year and the sentence imposed by this subsection shall be the first served" and added "three years, except"; in Subsection B, after "shall be increased by", deleted "three" and added "five", and after "years", deleted "and the sentence imposed by this subsection shall be the first three years served, and shall not be suspended or deferred; provided" and added "except"; and added Subsection D.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective July 1, 1993, added the provisos at the end of Subsections A and B.

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

**Intent of statute** is to deter the use of firearms in committing felonies. *State v. Trujillo*, 1978-NMCA-041, 91 N.M. 641, 578 P.2d 342, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 751, 580 P.2d 972.

**Section directed at sentencing only.** — This section is, by its own terms and in actual application, directed at sentencing only. *Cordova v. Romero*, 614 F.2d 1267 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 851, 101 S. Ct. 142, 66 L. Ed. 2d 63 (1980).

**This section does not create new class of crimes;** rather, it provides for additional consequences for felonies committed by use of a firearm. *Cordova v. Romero*, 614 F.2d 1267 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 851, 101 S. Ct. 142, 66 L. Ed. 2d 63 (1980).

**There is no repugnancy between 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 and this section.** —

Subsection B of this section does not conflict with Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 when it provides that the first year of the statutory sentence shall not be suspended. The two statutes are in harmony; each expresses a separate legislative intent. *State v. Wilkins*, 1975-NMCA-069, 88 N.M. 116, 537 P.2d 1012, cert. denied, 88 N.M. 319, 540 P.2d 249.

**Combined use of sections creates no new crime.** — No new crime is created by the combined use of Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 and this section in an indictment. Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 defines robbery with a deadly weapon, the crime of which defendant was convicted. This section specifies various consequences for the defendant if a finding is made that the deadly weapon used in the robbery was, in fact, a firearm, and serves no other purpose in the indictment than to alert the defendant to the possible sentencing consequences following a conviction under Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978. *State v. Sanchez*, 1974-NMCA-144, 87 N.M. 140, 530 P.2d 404.

**Section mandatory.** — The enhancement provisions of this section are mandatory. *State v. Kendall*, 1977-NMCA-002, 90 N.M. 236, 561 P.2d 935, *rev'd on other grounds*, *Kendall v. State*, 1977-NMSC-015, 90 N.M. 191, 561 P.2d 464.

**Sentence enhancement provisions for use of firearm mandatory.** *State v. Pendley*, 1979-NMCA-036, 92 N.M. 658, 593 P.2d 755.

The provisions of this section were mandatory in a robbery case where a special finding was made by the jury that a firearm was used. *State v. Wilkins*, 1975-NMCA-069, 88 N.M. 116, 537 P.2d 1012, cert. denied, 88 N.M. 319, 540 P.2d 249.

**Firearm enhancement statute authorizes multiple punishments for the commission of a noncapital felony with a firearm.** — Where defendant was convicted of two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and where defendant's sentences on these counts were each enhanced by one year, defendant's right to be free from double jeopardy was not violated, because 31-18-16(A) NMSA 1978 authorizes multiple punishments for the commission of a noncapital felony with a firearm, and where a legislature specifically authorizes cumulative punishment under two statutes, regardless of whether those two statutes proscribe the same conduct under Blockburger, a court may impose cumulative punishment under such statutes in a single trial. *State v. Baroz*, 2017-NMSC-030.

**Sentence enhancements for committing aggravated battery and aggravated assault with a firearm.** — Double jeopardy was not violated where the sentences for defendant's aggravated battery and aggravated assault convictions were each increased by the firearm enhancement, because the legislature intended to authorize greater punishment when a firearm is used in the commission of aggravated assault and aggravated battery. *State v. Comitz*, 2019-NMSC-011.

**Firearm enhancements to convictions for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon do not violate double jeopardy.** — Where defendant was convicted of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon for shooting and injuring his son and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon because his wife was standing next to their son at the time of the shooting, defendant's double jeopardy rights were not violated when the district court enhanced defendant's sentence based on the use of a firearm during the commission of the crimes, because the legislature intended to authorize an enhanced punishment when a firearm is used in the commission of a noncapital felony. *State v. Branch*, 2018-NMCA-031, *replacing* 2016-NMCA-071, 387 P.3d 250, cert. denied.

**Firearm enhancements to convictions for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon violate double jeopardy.** — Where defendant was convicted of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon for shooting and injuring his son and for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for assaulting his wife, who was standing next to defendant's son when he was shot, double jeopardy was violated because the firearm enhancements are subsumed within the underlying offenses, and punishment cannot be had for both the enhancements and the enhanced offenses. *State v. Branch*, 2016-NMCA-071, 387 P.3d 250, *replaced by* 2018-NMCA-031, and cert. quashed.

**Application not prohibited by double jeopardy provisions.** — Neither the rules of statutory construction nor the federal and state constitutional provisions against double jeopardy prohibit the application of the firearm enhancement statute to a person convicted of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon when the weapon used was a firearm. *State v. Gonzales*, 1981-NMCA-023, 95 N.M. 636, 624 P.2d 1033, *overruled on other grounds by* *Buzbee v. Donnelly*, 1981-NMSC-097, 96 N.M. 692, 634 P.2d 1244.

**No double jeopardy in aggravated assault application.** — Double jeopardy did not prohibit the trial court from enhancing defendant's sentence for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (Section 30-3-2A NMSA 1978), under this section, since each section contains an element or elements not included in the other and the phrase "a noncapital felony" means "any noncapital felony". *State v. Charlton*, 1992-NMCA-124, 115 N.M. 35, 846 P.2d 341, cert. denied, 114 N.M. 577, 844 P.2d 827.

**Judgment suspending firearm enhancement provision of original sentence void, and later resentencing constitutional.** — Since a judgment purporting to suspend a firearm enhancement provision of an original sentence is void, where the defendant is not sentenced to serve any time of official confinement, he cannot be said to have

served any portion thereof and he cannot be held to have accrued a right to a credit against the enhanced portion of his sentence as later imposed. Double jeopardy does not attach, and a resentencing for the mandatory enhancement provision of this section must stand. *State v. Aguilar*, 1982-NMCA-116, 98 N.M. 510, 650 P.2d 32, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Relation to Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978.** — The defendant was charged with the use of a firearm in the murder of a police officer, and the jury found that he did use a firearm in committing that crime. This section provided a separate and distinct basis (use of a firearm) for further altering his basic sentence in addition to the alteration for aggravating circumstances permitted by Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978: the language and requirements of each statute were totally independent of the other. *State v. Hall*, 1987-NMCA-145, 107 N.M. 17, 751 P.2d 701, cert. denied, 107 N.M. 16, 751 P.2d 700.

**It is solely within province of legislature to establish penalties for criminal behavior.** *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

## II. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

**Punishment to be applied for each felony committed.** — If this section punishes for "use" of a firearm in committing a felony, the punishment is to be applied for each felony committed by using a firearm. *State v. Kendall*, 1977-NMCA-002, 90 N.M. 236, 561 P.2d 935, *rev'd on other grounds*, *Kendall v. State*, 1977-NMSC-015, 90 N.M. 191, 561 P.2d 464.

**Application to some, not all, of crimes charged.** — The trial court did not err in applying this section to two of the crimes which the defendant committed, rather than applying one firearm enhancement sentence to his entire series of crimes. *State v. Espinosa*, 1988-NMSC-050, 107 N.M. 293, 756 P.2d 573.

**Notification to defendant.** — Under this section, the prosecution does not have to formally notify a defendant in a charging instrument of either firearm use or that the state may seek a firearm enhanced sentence. *State v. Badoni*, 2003-NMCA-009, 133 N.M. 257, 62 P.3d 348, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 126, 61 P.3d 835.

**Section requires separate finding of fact that firearm was used.** — Where the jury did not make a separate finding of fact as to use of a firearm, the enhanced sentence under this section was not proper. *State v. Duran*, 1977-NMCA-091, 91 N.M. 35, 570 P.2d 39, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 3, 569 P.2d 413, cert. denied, 435 U.S. 972, 98 S. Ct. 1615, 56 L. Ed. 2d 65 (1978).

**Objection to absence of separate finding not waived.** — Defendant did not waive his objection to the absence of a separate finding of fact by failing to request that the special interrogatory be submitted to the jury, as it was not defendant's obligation to see that his sentence was enhanced. *State v. Duran*, 1977-NMCA-091, 91 N.M. 35, 570

P.2d 39, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 3, 569 P.2d 413, cert. denied, 435 U.S. 972, 98 S. Ct. 1615, 56 L. Ed. 2d 65 (1978).

**Use of firearm must be proved beyond reasonable doubt.** — Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is the traditional burden which our system of criminal justice deems essential, and the due process clause protects the accused against conviction except upon proof beyond a reasonable doubt of every fact necessary to constitute the crime with which he is charged; this standard applies not only to factual determinations of guilt, but also to the factual determination that a firearm was used, because that fact is a predicate for enhancing defendant's sentence. *State v. Kendall*, 1977-NMCA-002, 90 N.M. 236, 561 P.2d 935, *rev'd on other grounds*, *Kendall v. State*, 1977-NMSC-015, 90 N.M. 191, 561 P.2d 464.

**Failure to instruct as to burden of proof.** — Where the burden of proof instruction, by its wording, was applied to a determination of guilt, no reference was made to use of a firearm, and after the guilty verdicts were returned, instructions were given submitting the use of a firearm issue to the jury without a burden of proof instruction, the jury was not instructed on the burden of proof concerning use of a firearm; however, defendant did not complain of the absence of an instruction, he acquiesced in submitting only use instructions after a guilty verdict was returned, the evidence was almost uncontradicted that a firearm was used as to each count, and, accordingly, there was no violation of federal due process because the jury was not instructed that the firearm use must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Kendall*, 1977-NMCA-002, 90 N.M. 236, 561 P.2d 935, *rev'd on other grounds*, *Kendall v. State*, 1977-NMSC-015, 90 N.M. 191, 561 P.2d 464.

**Prior conviction required.** — For there to be a second or subsequent felony within the terms of the statute, there must have been a conviction preceding the commission of the offense to which application of the statute is sought. *State v. Garcia*, 1978-NMSC-039, 91 N.M. 664, 579 P.2d 790.

**Proper to enhance sentences under both habitual offender and firearm enhancement provisions.** — It is not improper to enhance a sentence under the general habitual offender statute if it has already been enhanced under the firearm enhancement statute. *State v. Reaves*, 1982-NMCA-169, 99 N.M. 73, 653 P.2d 904.

**Failure to enhance felony sentences as required.** — Where the defendant was convicted of three counts, the trial court failed to follow the habitual offender statute when it enhanced defendant's total sentence by one year, because the habitual offender statute required the court to enhance each of defendant's current felony sentences by one year. *State v. Bachicha*, 1991-NMCA-014, 111 N.M. 601, 808 P.2d 51, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227.

### **III. SENTENCES.**

**Service of a mandatory sentence under house arrest.** — The mandatory firearm enhancement of a one-year term of imprisonment set forth in Subsection A of Section 31-18-16 NMSA 1978 may be served under house arrest by an electronic monitor under the supervision of state or local law enforcement or correctional officers if the defendant is subject to being punished for a crime of escape for an unauthorized departure from the place of confinement or other non-compliance with the sentencing court's order. *State v. Woods*, 2010-NMCA-017, 148 N.M. 89, 230 P.3d 836, cert. denied, 2010-NMCERT-001, 147 N.M. 673, 227 P.3d 1055.

**Sentence to house arrest.** — Where defendant, who was a state park ranger, fatally shot the victim during a confrontation, and defendant pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter resulting in the death of a human being with a mandatory firearm enhancement, the district court had authority to sentence defendant to house arrest by electronic monitor with global positioning system capability and work release to satisfy the mandatory sentence of imprisonment for one year. *State v. Woods*, 2010-NMCA-017, 148 N.M. 89, 230 P.3d 836, cert. denied, 2010-NMCERT-001, 147 N.M. 673, 227 P.3d 1055.

**Sentences served concurrently unless trial court or legislature requires consecutive sentences.** — The trial court has discretion to require sentences to be served consecutively, but if this is not done, and there is no legislation covering the situation, the sentences are to be served concurrently. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Section does not negate enhanced sentence for accessory.** — This section is worded in terms of a finding of fact "that a firearm was used in the commission" of the crime, but the statutory wording does not limit the enhanced sentence to situations where the defendant was the user of the firearm. Thus, the statute does not negate an enhanced sentence for an accessory when a firearm was used by the principal. *State v. Roque*, 1977-NMCA-094, 91 N.M. 7, 569 P.2d 417, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 4, 569 P.2d 414; *State v. Burdex*, 1983-NMCA-087, 100 N.M. 197, 668 P.2d 313, cert. denied, 100 N.M. 192, 668 P.2d 308.

**Concurrent or consecutive sentences.** — The trial court has authority to order that a sentence be served concurrently or consecutively, and this section made no change in this authority. *State v. Kendall*, 1977-NMCA-002, 90 N.M. 236, 561 P.2d 935, *rev'd on other grounds*, *Kendall v. State*, 1977-NMSC-015, 90 N.M. 191, 561 P.2d 464.

The trial court has the discretion to order that sentences for different offenses be served concurrently or consecutively. *State v. Lopez*, 1983-NMCA-045, 99 N.M. 612, 661 P.2d 890.

**New consecutive sentence following remand allowable where less than maximum possible penalty.** — A new sentence imposed by the trial court following remand does not constitute a punishment for the defendant having previously exercised his rights to appeal where the term of incarceration ordered upon remand is less than the maximum



penalty which can be imposed, despite the fact part of the new sentence is to be served consecutively, rather than concurrently. *State v. Lopez*, 1983-NMCA-045, 99 N.M. 612, 661 P.2d 890.

**Sentences cannot be served concurrently.** — An additional one-year sentence for the use of a firearm and an additional one-year sentence as an habitual offender cannot be served concurrently. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

#### IV. SPECIFIC CASES.

**Use of noncapital felonies to enhance a capital felony.** — Where defendant was convicted of first degree murder, a capital felony, the district court erred in enhancing defendant's sentence for the use of a firearm in the commission of the offense, because the enhancement for the use of a firearm applied only to noncapital felonies. *State v. Serna*, 2013-NMSC-033.

**"Use" of gun properly included within scope of statute.** — The display of a gun in a menacing manner as a means of accomplishing a robbery or the employment of the gun to strike or "pistol whip" the victim is certainly "use" of the gun in the commonly accepted definition of that term. Because either such "use," i.e., the menacing display of or striking the victim with the gun, carries the ever-dangerous potential of a discharge of firearm, both such "uses" are properly included within the scope of the statute. *State v. Trujillo*, 1978-NMCA-041, 91 N.M. 641, 578 P.2d 342, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 751, 580 P.2d 972.

**Shotgun used as club.** — Defendant "used" the firearm within the meaning of the statute when he used the shotgun as a club in committing aggravated battery. *State v. Trujillo*, 1978-NMCA-041, 91 N.M. 641, 578 P.2d 342, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 751, 580 P.2d 972.

**Possession of firearm not "use" of firearm.** — Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony does not constitute "use" of a firearm under this section since the defendant never pulled the firearm or in any way threatened to use it. *State v. Chouinard*, 1979-NMCA-145, 93 N.M. 634, 603 P.2d 744.

**No enhancement for charge of negligent use of firearm.** — Under the facts of this case, the state was required to prove that the defendant negligently used a firearm to commit a noncapital felony and this conduct resulted in the death of a human being. Use of a firearm is thus the same conduct required to enhance defendant's sentence under Subsection A. Because the state would not be required to prove any additional facts in order to have the defendant's sentence enhanced, the firearm enhancement statute is subsumed within the offense of involuntary manslaughter by negligent use of a firearm. *State v. Franklin*, 1993-NMCA-135, 116 N.M. 565, 865 P.2d 1209.

**Conspiracy not susceptible to firearm enforcement.** — Since conspiracy is an initiatory crime which involves no physical act other than communication, it is not conceivable how a firearm could be used in the commission of that offense. Accordingly, the crime of conspiracy is not susceptible to firearm enhancement under this section. *State v. Padilla*, 1994-NMCA-067, 118 N.M. 189, 879 P.2d 1208.

**Law reviews.** — For survey, "Evidence: Prior Crimes and Prior Bad Acts Evidence," see 6 N.M.L. Rev. 405 (1976).

For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal law, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 323 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico Criminal Procedure, see 20 N.M.L. Rev. 285 (1990).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 926.

Validity of statutes prohibiting or restricting parole, probation, or suspension of sentence in cases of violent crimes, 100 A.L.R.3d 431.

Propriety of using single prior felony conviction as basis for offense of possessing weapon by convicted felon and to enhance sentence, 37 A.L.R.4th 1168.

### **31-18-16.1. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 6 repealed 31-18-16.1 NMSA 1978, effective July 1, 2003, relating to noncapital felonies against persons sixty years of age or older or handicapped persons; alteration of basic sentence; suspension and deferral limited. For provisions of former section, see the 2002 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-18-17. Habitual offenders; alteration of basic sentence.**

A. A person convicted of a noncapital felony in this state whether within the Criminal Code [Chapter 30 NMSA 1978] or the Controlled Substances Act [Chapter 30, Article 31 NMSA 1978] or not who has incurred one prior felony conviction that was part of a separate transaction or occurrence or conditional discharge under Section 31-20-13

NMSA 1978 is a habitual offender and his basic sentence shall be increased by one year. The sentence imposed pursuant to this subsection shall not be suspended or deferred, unless the court makes a specific finding that the prior felony conviction and the instant felony conviction are both for nonviolent felony offenses and that justice will not be served by imposing a mandatory sentence of imprisonment and that there are substantial and compelling reasons, stated on the record, for departing from the sentence imposed pursuant to this subsection.

B. A person convicted of a noncapital felony in this state whether within the Criminal Code or the Controlled Substances Act or not who has incurred two prior felony convictions that were parts of separate transactions or occurrences or conditional discharge under Section 31-20-13 NMSA 1978 is a habitual offender and his basic sentence shall be increased by four years. The sentence imposed by this subsection shall not be suspended or deferred.

C. A person convicted of a noncapital felony in this state whether within the Criminal Code or the Controlled Substances Act or not who has incurred three or more prior felony convictions that were parts of separate transactions or occurrences or conditional discharge under Section 31-20-13 NMSA 1978 is a habitual offender and his basic sentence shall be increased by eight years. The sentence imposed by this subsection shall not be suspended or deferred.

D. As used in this section, "prior felony conviction" means:

(1) a conviction, when less than ten years have passed prior to the instant felony conviction since the person completed serving his sentence or period of probation or parole for the prior felony, whichever is later, for a prior felony committed within New Mexico whether within the Criminal Code or not, but not including a conviction for a felony pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978; or

(2) a prior felony, when less than ten years have passed prior to the instant felony conviction since the person completed serving his sentence or period of probation or parole for the prior felony, whichever is later, for which the person was convicted other than an offense triable by court martial if:

(a) the conviction was rendered by a court of another state, the United States, a territory of the United States or the commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(b) the offense was punishable, at the time of conviction, by death or a maximum term of imprisonment of more than one year; or

(c) the offense would have been classified as a felony in this state at the time of conviction.

E. As used in this section, "nonviolent felony offense" means application of force, threatened use of force or a deadly weapon was not used by the offender in the commission of the offense.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-30, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 6; 1979, ch. 158, § 1; 1983, ch. 127, § 1; 1993, ch. 77, § 9; 1993, ch. 283, § 1; 2002, ch. 7, § 1; 2003, ch. 90, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For procedure and sentencing, see 31-18-20 NMSA 1978.

For time period within which habitual criminal offender proceeding must be commenced, see Rule 5-604 NMRA.

**The 2003 amendment**, effective March 28, 2003, inserted "but not including a conviction for a felony pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978" near the end of Paragraph D(1).

**The 2002 amendment**, effective July 1, 2002, deleted former Subsection A defining "prior felony conviction" and redesignated the following subsections accordingly; updated the internal references in Subsections A, B, and C; added the last sentence in present Subsection A; and added Subsections D and E.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, inserted "or conditional discharge under Section 31-20-7 NMSA 1978" in Subsections B through D. This section was also amended by Laws 1993, ch. 77, § 9, effective July 1, 1993. The section was set out as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 283, § 1. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978. Section 31-20-7 was compiled as 31-20-13 to avoid confusion with the repealed 31-20-7 NMSA 1978.

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

**Use of noncapital felonies to enhance a capital felony.** — Where defendant was convicted of first degree murder, a capital felony, the district court erred in enhancing defendant's sentence for being a habitual offender, because the enhancement for being a habitual offender applied only to noncapital felonies. *State v. Serna*, 2013-NMSC-033.

**Enhancement based on parole violation.** — Pursuant to defendant's plea agreement, defendant was convicted of nine property offenses and received basic sentences that ran consecutively, two of the sentences were enhanced based on two prior felony convictions; defendant agreed that the remaining sentences would be subject to habitual offender enhancement upon a violation of law or a violation of a condition of parole or probation; defendant violated the conditions of parole for one of the offenses that had been fully enhanced under the plea agreement; the district court found that defendant was an habitual offender and enhanced each of the seven sentences that had not been enhanced under the plea agreement; and there was nothing in the plea

agreement that provided that a parole violation applied only to the offense underlying the parole, the district court properly enhanced defendant's sentences for the seven convictions that had not been enhanced under the plea agreement based on the parole violation. *State v. Triggs*, 2012-NMCA-068, 281 P.3d 1256.

**Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978 does not apply for a first degree murder conviction.** *State v. Paiz*, 2011-NMSC-008, 149 N.M. 412, 249 P.3d 1235.

**Proof of prior conviction.** — Where defendant raised the issue at the time of sentencing and the plea agreement did not satisfy the elements for a prior felony conviction, the state must make its prima facie showing that a prior conviction meets the definition of "prior felony conviction" under Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978. The state has the burden of proving identity, conviction, and timing. *State v. Simmons*, 2006-NMSC-044, 140 N.M. 311, 142 P.3d 899.

**Ten year limitation.** — The ten-year limitation in Section 31-18-17D NMSA 1978 does not apply to the robbery statute. *State v. Torres*, 2006-NMCA-106, 140 N.M. 230, 141 P.3d 1284, cert. denied, 2006-NMCERT-008.

**Conviction beyond ten-year limitation.** — Where defendant was convicted of first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder, the trial court erred in enhancing defendant's sentence pursuant to the habitual offender statute, because more than ten years had elapsed between defendant's discharge on his prior felony conviction and the date of actual conviction of the current offense. *State v. Torres*, 2018-NMSC-013.

**Allocution.** — The right of the defendant to say why sentence should not be pronounced on the defendant before the trial judge pronounces sentence applies to habitual offender sentencing. *State v. Leyba*, 2009-NMCA-030, 145 N.M. 712, 204 P.3d 37, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-002, 145 N.M. 704, 204 P.3d 29.

**The controlling date for calculating the ten-year period from which prior convictions can be used** to enhance the defendant's sentence is the date of the defendant's current felony conviction for which the sentence is being imposed. *State v. Tave*, 2007-NMCA-059, 141 N.M. 571, 158 P.3d 1014, cert. denied, 2007-NMCERT-005, 141 N.M. 762, 161 P.3d 259.

**Constitutional provision inapplicable.** — Because the Habitual Offender Act was not repealed, N.M. Const., art. IV, § 33, does not apply to the 2002 amendment to this section or to the interpretation of the amendment through 12-2A-16 NMSA 1978. *State v. Shay*, 2004-NMCA-077, 136 N.M. 8, 94 P.3d 8, cert. quashed, 2005-NMCERT-002, 137 N.M. 266, 110 P.3d 74.

**Application of 2002 amendment.** — The date a sentence is imposed is the appropriate date to determine whether the 2002 amendment to this section applies to a given case. *State v. Shay*, 2004-NMCA-077, 136 N.M. 8, 94 P.3d 8, cert. quashed, 2005-NMCERT-002, 137 N.M. 266, 110 P.3d 74.

The 2002 amendment to this section does not apply to defendant's sentence for a probation violation when the original sentence was imposed prior to the amendment's effective date under a plea agreement. *State v. Ortega*, 2004-NMCA-080, 135 N.M. 737, 93 P.3d 758, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-006, 135 N.M. 787, 93 P.3d 1292.

Where the district court accepted a plea agreement and entered sentence prior to July 1, 2002, and the sentence included a suspended sentence and probation, but after a probation violation, the district court ordered the basic sentence to be served as well as a habitual offender enhancement for a prior felony conviction that would not have been included for enhancement purposes under the 2002 amendment, because the district court had imposed sentence prior to July 1, 2002, based on the plea agreement, it properly applied this section. *State v. Ortega*, 2004-NMCA-080, 135 N.M. 737, 93 P.3d 758, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-006, 135 N.M. 787, 93 P.3d 1292.

**Effect of 2002 amendment constitutionally precluded.** — N.M. Const., art. IV, § 34 precludes the effect of the 2002 amendment to the habitual offender statute, when a supplemental criminal information is filed before, and defendant is sentenced after, the July 1, 2002 effective date of the amendment. *State v. Stanford*, 2004-NMCA-071, 136 N.M. 14, 94 P.3d 14.

**New rule applied retroactively disqualified prior burglary conviction from being used to enhance sentence.** — Where defendant was charged and convicted of felony burglary in 2010, and where, in 2015, defendant was again charged and convicted of numerous offenses, and where the state sought to enhance defendant's 2015 sentence pursuant to the Habitual Offender Act, § 31-18-17 NMSA 1978, relying on defendant's 2010 felony conviction, and where defendant claimed that his 2010 burglary conviction should not be used to enhance his 2015 sentence, based on the New Mexico supreme court's decision in *State v. Office of Public Defender ex rel. Muqqddin*, 2012-NMSC-029, which held for the first time that the act of penetrating a vehicle's gas tank and removing gas therefrom did not constitute burglary under § 30-16-3 NMSA 1978, the district court erred in determining defendant to be a habitual offender as alleged by the State and enhancing defendant's sentence in the 2015 case, because *Muqqddin* announced a new rule that altered the range of conduct or the class of persons that the law punishes, and should therefore be applied retroactively. *State v. Wood*, 2022-NMCA-009.

**It is solely within province of legislature to establish penalties for criminal behavior.** *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Application to Controlled Substances Act.** — In 1983 the habitual offender statute was amended to include persons convicted of narcotics offenses, overruling that part of *State v. Lujan*, 1966-NMSC-051, 76 N.M. 111, 412 P.2d 405, which held that the Habitual Offender Act did not apply to persons convicted under the Controlled Substances Act (Section 30-31-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.). *Minner v. Kerby*, 30 F.3d 1311 (10th Cir. 1994).

Although the habitual offender statute applies to a prior felony conviction under the Controlled Substances Act, Sections 30-31-1 NMSA 1978 et seq., it does not apply if there is a conditional discharge under Section 30-31-28 NMSA 1978. *State v. Fairres*, 2003-NMCA-152, 134 N.M. 668, 81 P.3d 611, cert. denied, 2003-NMCERT-003, 135 N.M. 51, 84 P.3d 668.

**The Habitual Offender Act is applicable to convictions of felony battery against a household member.** — Where defendant pleaded guilty to battery against a household member after battering the mother of his child, and where this was defendant's third conviction of battery against a household member, and where the district court enhanced defendant's conviction to a fourth degree felony under § 30-3-17(A) NMSA 1978, and where defendant had previously been convicted of a separate felony, the district court enhanced defendant's sentence by one year under the Habitual Offender Act, § 31-18-17 NMSA 1978, the district court did not err in applying the Habitual Offender Act, because the plain language of § 30-3-17(A) NMSA 1978 and § 31-18-17 NMSA 1978 does not preclude their simultaneous application. *State v. Barela*, 2021-NMSC-001, *aff'g* 2019-NMCA-005, 458 P.3d 501.

**Application to felony battery against a household member.** — Where defendant, a three-time domestic violence offender, pleaded no contest to, and was convicted of, felony battery against a household member pursuant to 30-3-17 NMSA 1978, the district court did not err in enhancing defendant's sentence by one year, pursuant to 31-18-17(A) NMSA 1978, based on a prior conviction for false imprisonment, because contrary to defendant's argument, the felony battery against a household member statute is not self-enhancing, and based on the plain language of the statutes at issue, the one-year habitual offender enhancement of defendant's fourth degree felony battery on a household member sentence was proper as a matter of law. *State v. Barela*, 2019-NMCA-005, cert. granted.

**Intent of habitual criminal provisions.** — Object of habitual offender statute is to inhibit repetition of criminal acts by individuals against the peace and dignity of the state. It is designed to protect society against habitual offenders. *State v. Baldonado*, 1968-NMCA-025, 79 N.M. 175, 441 P.2d 215.

It is inherent in the habitual criminal statutes that, after punishment is imposed for the commission of a crime, the increased penalty is held in terrorem over the criminal for the purpose of effecting his reformation and preventing further and subsequent offenses by him, so that for the purpose of this section, each felony must have been committed after conviction for a preceding felony. *State v. Montoya*, 1979-NMCA-044, 92 N.M. 734, 594 P.2d 1190, *aff'd*, 1980-NMSC-093, 94 N.M. 704, 616 P.2d 417; *State v. Linam*, 1979-NMSC-004, 93 N.M. 307, 600 P.2d 253; *State v. Rogers*, 1979-NMSC-085, 93 N.M. 519, 602 P.2d 616.

The intent of habitual offender laws is to provide an increased penalty in order to deter commission of a subsequent offense. It is the opportunity to reform under threat of a

more severe penalty which serves to deter. *State v. Linam*, 1979-NMSC-004, 93 N.M. 307, 600 P.2d 253, cert. denied, 444 U.S. 846, 100 S. Ct. 91, 62 L. Ed. 2d 59 (1979).

**This section is not an ex post facto law** since it is procedural in nature. It does not punish criminals for earlier offenses, but merely increases the penalty for the repetition of criminal conduct. *State v. Oglesby*, 1981-NMCA-070, 96 N.M. 352, 630 P.2d 304.

**Enhanced punishment not prohibited as double jeopardy.** — Since defendant's first conviction, standing alone, was not the cause of the enhanced sentence of which he complained, defendant's enhanced punishment was not prohibited as double jeopardy. *State v. Gonzales*, 1972-NMCA-130, 84 N.M. 275, 502 P.2d 300, cert. denied, 84 N.M. 271, 502 P.2d 296.

The contention that the habitual offender statute violates double jeopardy is without merit. *State v. Olivares*, 1980-NMCA-165, 95 N.M. 222, 620 P.2d 380.

Because the habitual offender proceeding is a sentencing procedure and not a trial of an offense, there is no double jeopardy. *State v. James*, 1980-NMSC-082, 94 N.M. 604, 614 P.2d 16.

Since the law in New Mexico is that an habitual proceeding only involves sentencing and not the trial of any crime, double jeopardy does not attach to proceedings under this section. *State v. Garcia*, 1980-NMSC-132, 95 N.M. 246, 620 P.2d 1271.

The imposition of an enhanced sentence after defendant has already begun serving his sentence on the underlying felony conviction is not violative of constitutional double jeopardy provisions. *State v. Oglesby*, 1981-NMCA-070, 96 N.M. 352, 630 P.2d 304.

Habitual offender enhancement of an escape conviction does not constitute double jeopardy. *State v. Najar*, 1994-NMCA-098, 118 N.M. 230, 880 P.2d 327, cert. denied, 118 N.M. 90, 879 P.2d 91.

New Mexico's habitual offender statute does not multiply punishments for a prior crime, but simply increases the punishment for a new crime. Because sentences enhanced under habitual offender statutes are not punishment for the prior offense, they do not normally raise double jeopardy issues. *Yparrea v. Dorsey*, 64 F.3d 577 (10th Cir. 1995).

When a defendant with two prior felonies was convicted of a third felony and, under a plea agreement, was sentenced as a second offender subject to resentencing as a third offender if he violated the terms of his probation, the enhancement of his sentence as a third offender when he was resentenced following his violation of probation did not violate double jeopardy. *State v. Freed*, 1996-NMCA-044, 121 N.M. 562, 915 P.2d 325, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 644, 916 P.2d 844.

Defendant, a three-time felony offender, had no reasonable expectation of finality in a three-year probationary sentence for a larceny conviction; therefore, it was not a



violation of his double jeopardy rights for the state to seek a subsequent conviction of defendant, during the probationary period, under the habitual offender laws. *State v. Villalobos*, 1998-NMSC-036, 126 N.M. 255, 968 P.2d 766.

**No reasonable expectation of finality.** — Where defendant pleaded no contest to aggravated battery causing great bodily harm and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, receiving a three-year sentence on the battery charge and a one and one-half-year sentence on the assault charge, and where the trial judge suspended three years of defendant's total sentence and ordered defendant to be placed on supervised probation for three years following release from custody, and where defendant, after being released from prison, violated the conditions of his probation, the district court did not err in enhancing defendant's aggravated battery conviction, because defendant did not have a reasonable expectation of finality as to the aggravated battery charge, because defendant would have expected to serve a three-year period of probation and be subject to additional enhancement of the sentence imposed for the aggravated battery during the entire period of probation. *State v. Yazzie*, 2018-NMCA-001, cert. denied.

**Habitual offender enhancement statute prior to 2002.** — Where defendant pleaded no contest and was sentenced for aggravated battery and aggravated assault prior to July 1, 2002, and where, under the judgment and sentence, an eight year habitual offender enhancement was held in abeyance only to be imposed upon a subsequent violation of probation, and where defendant violated his probation in 2013, the district court had continuing jurisdiction to impose the enhancement under the habitual offender statute when defendant violated probation in 2013 for prior convictions occurring in 1992 and earlier, because prior to 2002, the imposition of the habitual offender statute was mandatory in all cases in which there was a prior felony conviction, regardless of the date of the prior conviction. *State v. Yazzie*, 2018-NMCA-001, cert. denied.

**Insufficient evidence is not a bar to retrial of a defendant's habitual offender status.** — Following defendant's conviction for battery on a peace officer, where the state filed a supplemental criminal information alleging that defendant was a habitual offender and seeking enhancement of defendant's sentence, and where the state failed to introduce a certified copy of his fingerprint card from the current case, leading the district court to rule that the state's evidence was not sufficient to prove that defendant was the person convicted of the prior felonies as alleged in the supplemental criminal information and to deny the state's request for sentencing enhancement, but where the district court granted the state's request for a second sentencing hearing to address defendant's habitual offender status, during which the district court found that defendant was a habitual offender, the district court did not err in allowing the retrial of defendant's habitual offender status, because sentencing decisions favorable to the defendant cannot be analogized to an acquittal, and insufficient evidence is never a bar to the retrial of a defendant's status as a habitual offender. *State v. Salas*, 2017-NMCA-057, cert. denied.

**To enhance a defendant's sentence, due process is required.** — In order to subject a defendant to a statutory sentencing enhancement, due process requires that the defendant be given notice, that enhancement of sentence is sought by a pleading filed by the state, and an opportunity to be heard before an increased penalty can be imposed. *State v. Salas*, 2017-NMCA-057, cert. denied.

**Defendant was not denied due process in his sentence enhancement.** — Where defendant was convicted of battery on a peace officer and where the State filed a supplemental criminal information alleging that defendant was a habitual offender subject to sentence enhancement, requested a special setting for the purpose of conducting a habitual offender hearing, certifying service to defense counsel the same day, and where defendant's motion opposing retrial of his habitual offender status indicated that defendant had actual notice of a subsequent sentencing hearing, defendant was not deprived of an opportunity to be heard, and the state's procedural steps constituted adequate notice. *State v. Salas*, 2017-NMCA-057, cert. denied.

**Multiple uses of prior convictions do not violate double jeopardy.** — Where defendant's prior felony convictions were used to establish defendant's status as a habitual offender for sentencing for attempted murder and to serve as the predicate felony for defendant's conviction of felon in possession of a firearm, the double jeopardy clause was not violated. *State v. Tafoya*, 2012-NMSC-030, 285 P.3d 604.

**Delay in filing charge not, in itself, prejudicial.** — A due process issue based on a delay in filing a charge involves prejudice that deprives the defendant of a fair trial on the delayed charge. The delay, in itself, does not establish prejudice. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Supplemental habitual offender charge not dismissed where original sentence not completely served.** — Where, at the time a supplemental information is filed, the defendant has not completed serving his original sentence, the filing delay, in relation to time served, does not require a dismissal of an habitual offender charge. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**No dismissal for delay even where prosecutor originally knew of prior conviction.** — Where, before the defendant is convicted for a felony, the prosecutor knows of a prior felony conviction, this knowledge does not require the dismissal of a latter habitual offender charge because of a filing delay. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Delay in enhancement sentencing constitutional.** — Even if the habitual offender proceeding in defendant's case was part of his burglary prosecution, delay of his enhancement sentencing for at least 15 months after he pleaded guilty did not violate his right to a speedy trial. *Perez v. Sullivan*, 793 F.2d 249 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 479 U.S. 936, 107 S. Ct. 413, 93 L. Ed. 2d 364 (1986).

**Habitual criminal information does not charge a new offense.** — Defendant was not denied due process where, at defendant's sentencing for robbery, the state filed a supplemental habitual offender information charging defendant with a conviction for a petty larceny offense that had occurred more than three years prior to the sentencing for the robbery conviction. *Martinez v. Romero*, 626 F.2d 807 (10th Cir. 1980) (Decided under former law).

**Prosecutorial discretion.** — A certain measure of discretion is inevitable in the performance of the prosecutorial function and the conscious exercise of some selectivity in enforcement is not in itself a federal constitutional violation. *Martinez v. Romero*, 626 F.2d 807 (10th Cir. 1980).

**When sentence completely served, enhancement improper.** — Double jeopardy considerations preclude the enhancement of a defendant's sentence after the defendant has completely served that underlying sentence, no matter when the habitual proceedings were initiated. *State v. Gaddy*, 1990-NMCA-055, 110 N.M. 120, 792 P.2d 1163.

**Jurisdiction to enhance sentence prior to expiration of parole.** — A parole term is part of a sentence for purposes of a court's sentencing authority; thus, since the defendant had completely served an underlying sentence as of the date of an underlying enhancement proceeding but was still subject to a mandatory one-year parole, the trial court had jurisdiction to enhance his sentence as an habitual offender. *State v. Roybal*, 1995-NMCA-097, 120 N.M. 507, 903 P.2d 249, cert. denied, 120 N.M. 498, 903 P.2d 240.

**Not cruel and unusual punishment.** — Although the New Mexico supreme court has held that habitual criminality is a status rather than an offense, the defendant was not convicted of being an habitual criminal but of the commission of a criminal act; he was, therefore, appropriately punished for the commission of that crime by a substituted enhanced sentence as prescribed by statute, and his punishment was not cruel and unusual punishment. *State v. Gonzales*, 1972-NMCA-130, 84 N.M. 275, 502 P.2d 300, cert. denied, 84 N.M. 271, 502 P.2d 296.

**Specific term may be cruel and unusual punishment.** — In extremely limited circumstances, a trial court may determine that a mandatory prison term is constitutionally impermissible under U.S. Const., amend. VIII, and N.M. Const., art. II, § 13. *State v. Arrington*, 1993-NMCA-055, 115 N.M. 559, 855 P.2d 133.

Mandatory incarceration which would have been life-threatening to defendant because her serious medical needs would not have been handled adequately under customary prison practices and because there was no showing that the prison would make special provisions for defendant would have constituted cruel and unusual punishment, allowing the trial court to order defendant to serve the unsuspended portion of her sentence in the custody of her parents. *State v. Arrington*, 1993-NMCA-055, 115 N.M. 559, 855 P.2d 133.

**Uneven enforcement in actual practice does not make statute unconstitutional.** —

That there may, in actual practice, be uneven enforcement of the habitual offender statute does not make the law unconstitutional. *State v. Sedillo*, 1971-NMCA-003, 82 N.M. 287, 480 P.2d 401.

The allegation of a "consistent and invariable administrative practice," in not enforcing the law with respect to habitual offenders uniformly, does not bring a case within the purview of the equal protection clause of the constitution. *State v. Baldonado*, 1968-NMCA-025, 79 N.M. 175, 441 P.2d 215.

**Construction of the phrase "substantial and compelling".** — A district court's justification for permitting a defendant to avoid an otherwise mandatory sentence of imprisonment must be weighty, and not ethereal, in order to be "substantial," and whether reasons are "compelling" depend upon the overall facts of a given case, including the particular criminal behavior the prosecution is designed to address, the history of a given defendant's efforts to comply with what is required of him or her in a law-abiding society, and the court's considerations of the factors in the defendant's life that lend themselves to a possibility of successful rehabilitation in a non-incarcerative environment. *State v. Lindsey*, 2017-NMCA-048.

**Court did not abuse its discretion in determining that there were substantial and compelling reasons for suspending defendant's sentence.** — Where defendant pled no contest to residential burglary and larceny, and where the district court imposed a five-year sentence of imprisonment, which included two mandatory one-year habitual offender enhancements, the district court did not abuse its discretion in determining that there were substantial and compelling reasons to suspend the mandatory habitual offender portion of defendant's sentence where evidence was presented that defendant had obtained steady employment, which would enable him to pay restitution according to the terms of his prior probation, that defendant was doing well on probation, as reported by his probation officer, and that defendant had demonstrated the existence of a supportive family and his commitment to it. *State v. Lindsey*, 2017-NMCA-048.

**Terms of habitual offender statute are mandatory,** and a district attorney or judge, or both, may not nullify the statutes by ignoring them. *State v. McCraw*, 1955-NMSC-050, 59 N.M. 348, 284 P.2d 670.

**Mandatory provisions.** — The provisions of the Habitual Offender Act are mandatory. *State v. Davis*, 1986-NMSC-031, 104 N.M. 229, 719 P.2d 807.

**Act must be interpreted narrowly.** — The habitual offender statute is highly penal in nature, and its application must be interpreted narrowly. *State v. Lujan*, 1966-NMSC-051, 76 N.M. 111, 412 P.2d 405.

**Habitual criminality is a status,** not an offense. *State v. Cruz*, 1971-NMCA-047, 82 N.M. 522, 484 P.2d 364, cert. denied, 92 N.M. 180, 585 P.2d 324 (1978).

**This section creates no new offense**, but merely provides a proceeding by which to determine the penalty to be imposed on one previously convicted in New Mexico of a felony. *Lott v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-038, 76 N.M. 76, 412 P.2d 249.

**Increase in penalty not creation of new offense.** — The habitual offender statute does not make the conviction of prior felonies the subject of punishment, as such, as a separate offense. It only provides that proof of the conviction of prior felonies increases the penalty to be imposed upon conviction of a subsequent felony in New Mexico. The amount by which such penalty is required to be increased depends upon the number of prior convictions. *French v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-236, 74 N.M. 593, 396 P.2d 423.

The filing of habitual criminal information does not create a new criminal case nor constitute a separate offense. Proof of the conviction of prior felonies merely increases the penalty to be imposed upon conviction of a subsequent felony. *Martinez v. Romero*, 626 F.2d 807 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 1019, 101 S. Ct. 585, 66 L. Ed. 2d 481 (1980).

**Filing of habitual criminal information does not create new criminal case** nor constitute a separate offense. Proof of the conviction of prior felonies merely increases the penalty to be imposed upon conviction of a subsequent felony in New Mexico. *State v. Knight*, 1965-NMSC-058, 75 N.M. 197, 402 P.2d 380.

**Federal felony convictions arising from the same transaction.** — Where defendant was convicted of possession of a firearm by a felon in violation of Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978; defendant had a prior 2005 state felony conviction; and defendant had been convicted in 1991 of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841, and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1), the district court did not err when it used one federal felony conviction to form the predicate felony for the felon in possession charge and the other federal conviction and the 2005 state felony conviction to form the basis for enhancement because the federal felony convictions were separate and distinct felony offenses. *State v. May*, 2010-NMCA-071, 148 N.M. 854, 242 P.3d 421, cert. denied, 2010-NMCERT-006, 148 N.M. 582, 241 P.3d 180.

## **II. PRIOR FELONY CONVICTION.**

**Federal felony convictions arising from the same transaction.** — Where defendant was convicted of possession of a firearm by a felon in violation of Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978; defendant had a prior 2005 state felony conviction; and defendant had been convicted in 1991 of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841, and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1), the district court did not err when it used one federal felony conviction to form the predicate felony for the felon in possession charge and the other federal conviction and the 2005 state felony conviction to form the basis for enhancement because the federal felony convictions were separate and distinct felony

offenses. *State v. May*, 2010-NMCA-071, 148 N.M. 854, 242 P.3d 421, cert. denied, 2010-NMCERT-006, 148 N.M. 582, 241 P.3d 180.

**Sufficient evidence of prior conviction.** — Where a Texas judgment and sentence report had no birth date, no social security number, no identifying information about the convicted person and stated only that the convicted person's name was "Jesse Charles Clements", as opposed to "Jesse Clements", as defendant was known in defendant's New Mexico convictions, the report was insufficient to identify defendant as the convicted person. *State v. Clements*, 2009-NMCA-085, 146 N.M. 745, 215 P.3d 54, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-007, 147 N.M. 362, 223 P.3d 359.

**Sufficient evidence to prove defendant was the person convicted of prior felonies.** — Following defendant's conviction for battery on a peace officer, where the district court admitted certified copies of three fingerprint cards, which corresponded to arrests in 2004, 2008, and 2011 and which contained defendant's name, birth date, and social security number, and where the district court also admitted certified copies of judgment and sentencing documents, which indicated that defendant had qualifying convictions, and took judicial notice of a defendant's current conviction, the admitted evidence was sufficient to support a finding that defendant was a habitual offender. *State v. Salas*, 2017-NMCA-057, cert. denied.

**Minor discrepancies in documents used to prove prior conviction.** — Minor discrepancies in copies of the judgment and sentence used to prove an earlier felony conviction do not require a finding of insufficiency of the evidence when the fact of the earlier conviction is not otherwise contested. *State v. Bailey*, 2008-NMCA-084, 144 N.M. 279, 186 P.3d 908, cert. denied, 2008-NMCERT-005, 144 N.M. 331, 187 P.3d 677.

**Out-of-state felony convictions qualified as prior felony convictions for purposes of New Mexico habitual offender statute.** — Where defendant was convicted of four counts of battery against a household member and one count of false imprisonment perpetrated against his then-wife, and where the district court sentenced defendant consecutively for each conviction and enhanced defendant's sentence for false imprisonment, the only felony conviction, by eight years under the New Mexico habitual offender statute, and where defendant claimed that two of the three California convictions the district court relied on to enhance his sentence failed to meet the definition of a prior felony conviction for purposes of New Mexico's habitual offender statute, the district court did not err in finding that defendant's 2006 felony conviction qualified as a prior felony conviction, because substantial un rebutted evidence in the record supported the district court's finding that defendant completed his parole for his 2006 conviction less than ten years prior to the instant conviction and defendant failed to present any evidence supporting his claimed invalidity of the state's evidence, and defendant's 2011 felony conviction qualified as a prior felony conviction despite the discharge granted by the California court, because the determination of guilt is the defining factor under New Mexico's habitual offender statute. *State v. Johnson*, 2024-NMCA-015.

**A prior out-of-state misdemeanor conviction may be used** for the purposes of sentence enhancement when the conviction was either punishable by a maximum of more than one year imprisonment in the state in which it was committed or classified as a felony in New Mexico at the time of conviction. *State v. Young*, 2007-NMSC-058, 143 N.M. 1, 172 P.3d 138.

**Prior out-of-state misdemeanor convictions can be used** to enhance a sentence if the offense was either punishable by a maximum of more than one year imprisonment in the state in which it was committed or would have been classified as a felony in New Mexico at the time of conviction. *State v. Moya*, 2007-NMSC-027, 141 N.M. 817, 161 P.3d 862, *overruling State v. Moya*, 2006-NMCA-103, 140 N.M. 275, 142 P.3d 43.

**Mistaken identity.** — Where the district court inadvertently relied, in part, on the criminal record of defendant's brother to enhance defendant's sentence, the enhancement of defendant's sentence was not supported by substantial evidence. *State v. Contreras*, 2007-NMCA-045, 141 N.M. 434, 156 P.3d 725, cert. quashed, 2007-NMCERT-011, 143 N.M.N. 157, 173 P.3d 764.

**Consecutive sentences.** — Where defendant was sentenced to serve consecutive sentences on two underlying felonies, defendant has a reasonable expectation of finality in the sentence imposed for each underlying felony and when defendant completed serving his sentence on the first felony, that sentence was not subject to being enhanced, although defendant remained incarcerated on the second felony. *State v. Lovato*, 2007-NMCA-049, 141 N.M. 508, 157 P.3d 73, cert. denied, 2007-NMCERT-004, 141 N.M. 568, 158 P.3d 458.

**Plea agreement silent on enhancement.** — Where defendant's plea agreement was silent on the issue of habitual-offender proceedings and notwithstanding numerous opportunities to do so, defendant failed to object to being charged as a habitual offender, the evidence showed that defendant never had any expectation of finality in his original sentence that was imposed pursuant to the plea agreement and defendant's enhanced sentence did not violate defendant's double jeopardy rights. *State v. Trujillo*, 2007-NMSC-017, 141 N.M. 451, 157 P.3d 16.

**Discretion of district court.** — In 2002, the legislature amended this section to allow the district court some discretion in imposing the habitual enhancement to cases in which there is one prior felony conviction. *State v. Shay*, 2004-NMCA-077, 136 N.M. 8, 94 P.3d 8, cert. quashed, 2005-NMCERT-002, 137 N.M. 266, 110 P.3d 74.

**Legislature limited definition of "prior felony conviction"** in its 2003 amendment to the habitual offender statute. *State v. Shay*, 2004-NMCA-077, 136 N.M. 8, 94 P.3d 8, cert. quashed, 2005-NMCERT-002, 137 N.M. 266, 110 P.3d 74.

Applying 12-2A-16C NMSA 1978 to the 2002 amendment to this section, the 2002 amendment effectively reduces the potential enhanced penalties for violating felony statutes by narrowing the definition of "prior felony conviction". *State v. Shay*, 2004-

NMCA-077, 136 N.M. 8, 94 P.3d 8, cert. quashed, 2005-NMCERT-002, 137 N.M. 266, 110 P.3d 74.

**Prior conviction must be separate transaction.** — Each prior felony conviction must be part of a "separate transaction or occurrence". *State v. Peppers*, 1990-NMCA-057, 110 N.M. 393, 796 P.2d 614, 110 N.M. 260, 794 P.2d 734.

**Meaning of "convicted".** — "Convicted", as ordinarily used in legal phraseology as indicating a particular phase of a criminal prosecution, includes the establishing of guilt whether by accused's admission in open court by plea of guilty to the charges presented, or by a verdict or finding of a court or jury. *State v. Larranaga*, 1967-NMSC-047, 77 N.M. 528, 424 P.2d 804.

A plea of guilty constituted a legal conviction within the meaning of this section, even though the plea had not been reduced to a written judgment and sentence at the time the subsequent offense was committed. *State v. Castillo*, 1987-NMCA-036, 105 N.M. 623, 735 P.2d 540, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 618, 735 P.2d 535.

If defendant pleads guilty in criminal proceeding in another state where no adjudication of guilt entered, and if the courts of that state did not consider such an action to be a "conviction", then that proceeding may not be considered a conviction for the purposes of the Habitual Offender Act. *State v. Burk*, 1984-NMCA-043, 101 N.M. 263, 680 P.2d 980.

**"Conviction" does not include imposition of sentence.** — The "conviction" to which the habitual offender statute refers is simply a finding of guilt and does not include the imposition of a sentence. *State v. Larranaga*, 1967-NMSC-047, 77 N.M. 528, 424 P.2d 804.

The habitual offender statute did not make imposition of sentence upon the previous convictions a prerequisite to the enhancement of punishment upon the fourth conviction. The conviction is the finding of guilt. Sentence is not an element of the conviction but rather a declaration of its consequences. *State v. Larranaga*, 1967-NMSC-047, 77 N.M. 528, 424 P.2d 804.

**Deferred sentence for previous conviction of no consequence.** — Habitual offender proceedings are based by statute on prior felony convictions. Since it is not necessary to impose sentence in order to constitute a violation, a deferred sentence for a previous conviction is of no consequence. *Padilla v. State*, 1977-NMSC-063, 90 N.M. 664, 568 P.2d 190.

**A criminal sentence that was originally deferred** may be enhanced in a later habitual offender proceeding. *State v. Davis*, 1986-NMSC-031, 104 N.M. 229, 719 P.2d 807.



**Conviction, not sentence, is polestar.** — For purposes of enhancement "conviction" is the polestar, not the sentence imposed. *State v. Davis*, 1986-NMSC-031, 104 N.M. 229, 719 P.2d 807.

**Section contemplates valid convictions** which have not been vacated. *State v. Moser*, 1967-NMSC-163, 78 N.M. 212, 430 P.2d 106, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Orona*, 1982-NMSC-002, 97 N.M. 232, 638 P.2d 1077.

**Probation violation is not a crime** and does not trigger an enhancement as a habitual offender. *State v. Ortega*, 2004-NMCA-080, 135 N.M. 737, 93 P.3d 758, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-006, 135 N.M. 788, 93 P.3d 1292.

**Question of constitutionality of prior trial and conviction may be raised.** — Question of the adequacy of representation so as to meet the requirements of due process in a prior trial and conviction in another state may be raised as an issue under the habitual criminal statute. *State v. Dalrymple*, 1965-NMSC-124, 75 N.M. 514, 407 P.2d 356.

**Uncounseled convictions.** — A prior uncounseled misdemeanor conviction can be used to enhance a subsequent conviction if the prior conviction did not result in a sentence of imprisonment or, if it did result in a sentence of imprisonment, the right to counsel had been validly waived. *State v. Hosteen*, 1997-NMSC-063, 124 N.M. 402, 951 P.2d 619.

Defendant's assertion that two prior felony convictions could not be used against him in prosecution under habitual criminal statute because they were constitutionally defective due to the absence of counsel at his preliminary examination in both convictions was without merit where the record showed that in each of the two prior felony convictions defendant entered pleas of guilty, that in each of the guilty pleas defendant had the advice of counsel, and no claim was made that the pleas were involuntary, defendant's claimed defect was waived when he pleaded guilty in the two prior felony proceedings. *State v. Lopez*, 1973-NMCA-014, 84 N.M. 600, 506 P.2d 344.

**Prior conviction, not prior sentence, is dispositive for repeat offender status.** — Where defendant was convicted of drug charges in New Mexico; the New Mexico court deferred defendant's sentence for a two-year probationary period; the deferred sentence was a final judgment subject to appeal; and after defendant successfully completed the probation, defendant was entitled to have the New Mexico charges dismissed, the deferred sentence was a prior conviction for purposes of sentence enhancement. *United States v. Meraz*, 998 F.2d 182 (10th Cir. 1993).

**Collateral attack on prior conviction.** — A defendant may collaterally attack the validity of a prior conviction where the state seeks to utilize the prior conviction as a basis for sentence enhancement under this section. *State v. Valdez*, 1988-NMCA-074, 107 N.M. 642, 763 P.2d 76.

**Double use of prior felony.** — Where the defendants were convicted of the charge of felon in possession of a firearm contrary to Section 30-7-16 NMSA 1978, and the defendants were also sentenced as habitual offenders in accordance with this section, the trial court erred in sentencing the defendants as habitual offenders when the same prior felony convictions were relied upon to convict the defendants of the underlying offense of felon in possession of a firearm. *State v. Haddenham*, 1990-NMCA-048, 110 N.M. 149, 793 P.2d 279, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 183, 793 P.2d 865.

If a prior felony conviction is already taken into account in determining the punishment for the specific crime, the legislature did not intend that prior felony conviction also to be used in establishing that defendant was a habitual offender. *State v. Peppers*, 1990-NMCA-057, 110 N.M. 393, 796 P.2d 614, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 260, 794 P.2d 734.

Where defendant's prior convictions for cocaine trafficking and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute resulted from a single arrest, the court did not make an impermissible "double use" of the prior convictions by utilizing the prior cocaine trafficking conviction to enhance the defendant's present cocaine trafficking conviction to a first degree felony pursuant to Section 30-31-20B(2) NMSA 1978, and then using the other prior conviction for possession of marijuana to enhance defendant's sentence under the general habitual-offender statute, Section 31-18-17C NMSA 1978. *State v. Hubbard*, 1992-NMCA-014, 113 N.M. 538, 828 P.2d 971, cert. denied, 113 N.M. 352, 826 P.2d 573.

Where a trial court convicted defendant of one count of a second offense of trafficking a controlled substance and one count of conspiracy to commit that offense, and in sentencing defendant, the trial court used defendant's prior convictions twice to increase the punishment, the prior trafficking conviction could not be used to set defendant's underlying conspiracy to commit trafficking conviction as a second degree felony, and then be used to enhance defendant's sentence under the habitual offender statute. *State v. Lacey*, 2002-NMCA-032, 131 N.M. 684, 41 P.3d 952, cert. denied, 131 N.M. 737, 42 P.3d 842.

**Proper reading of Subsection D(2).** — Under the definition of "prior felony conviction", a prior felony conviction requires conformance with the provisions of Subsection A(2)(a) and (b) (now D(2)(a) and (b)) or conformance with Subsection A(2)(a) and (c) (now D(2)(a) and (c)) and should be read as though the word "and" was inserted between subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Subsection A(2) (now D(2)). *State v. Harris*, 1984-NMCA-003, 101 N.M. 12, 677 P.2d 625.

**Habitual criminal status not conviction, but enhanced sentence.** — The habitual criminal status is not a conviction of a distinct crime. Indeed, a conviction on the merits has occurred and the crime convicted of is unrelated to the habitual criminal provisions, which produce not a judgment of guilt of the offense, but rather an enhanced sentence. *Linam v. Griffin*, 685 F.2d 369 (10th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1211, 103 S. Ct. 1207, 75 L. Ed. 2d 447 (1983).

A habitual offender proceeding is a sentencing procedure and not a trial of an offense. *Perez v. Sullivan*, 793 F.2d 249 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 479 U.S. 936, 107 S. Ct. 413, 93 L. Ed. 2d 364 (1986).

**Habitual offender sentence of five-time shoplifting felon proper.** — A sentence of eight years' imprisonment, imposed under the habitual offender statute against a defendant convicted for the fifth time on felony shoplifting charges, was not so disproportionate as to require reversal as cruel and unusual punishment under the New Mexico Constitution, notwithstanding facts that three of the convictions were over 15 years old, and the latest charge was only \$3 over the minimum threshold for felony shoplifting. *State v. Rueda*, 1999-NMCA-033, 126 N.M. 738, 975 P.2d 351, cert. denied, 127 N.M. 391, 981 P.2d 1209.

**Felony must be committed subsequent to prior conviction.** — The felony for which a defendant is being punished must be one committed subsequent to the dates of the convictions relied on to effect an increase of the penalty. *State v. Linam*, 1979-NMSC-004, 93 N.M. 307, 600 P.2d 253, cert. denied, 444 U.S. 846, 100 S. Ct. 91, 62 L. Ed. 2d 59 (1979).

The repeal of former Section 31-18-5 NMSA 1978 and the enactment of this section do not affect the holding in *State v. Linam*, 1979-NMSC-004, 93 N.M. 307, 600 P.2d 253, cert. denied, 444 U.S. 846, 100 S. Ct. 91, 62 L. Ed. 2d 59, that, for purposes of an enhanced sentence, the felony for which a defendant is being sentenced must have been committed after conviction for a preceding felony. *Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**Remand following appeal allowed, to obtain evidence on date of prior crime.** — The double jeopardy clause of the fifth amendment does not bar a remand following an appeal, directed at obtaining evidence as to the dates of the prior commission of crimes in order to satisfy the interpretation of the New Mexico habitual criminal statute that there be proof that each felony was committed after a conviction for the preceding felony. *Linam v. Griffin*, 685 F.2d 369 (10th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1211, 103 S. Ct. 1207, 75 L. Ed. 2d 447 (1983).

**Sentence for each of multiple current convictions to be enhanced.** — The reference to "a" felony in this section does not change the requirement that the sentence for each of multiple current felony convictions be enhanced. *State v. Harris*, 1984-NMCA-003, 101 N.M. 12, 677 P.2d 625.

**Basic sentence.** — In choosing the term "basic sentence" the legislature referred to the sentence to be enhanced. If a person with a prior felony conviction is convicted of multiple felonies, then there are several basic sentences. Thus, there may be multiple enhancements. *State v. Howard*, 1989-NMCA-029, 108 N.M. 560, 775 P.2d 762, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 433, 773 P.2d 1240.

**Supplemental recidivist information not duplicitous.** — A supplemental information which gave defendant notice that his three prior felony convictions would provide the basis for enhancing his sentence was not a joinder of offenses and, therefore, not void for duplicity. *State v. Harris*, 1984-NMCA-003, 101 N.M. 12, 677 P.2d 625.

**Sentences served concurrently unless trial court or legislature requires consecutive sentences.** — The trial court has discretion to require sentences to be served consecutively, but if this is not done, and there is no legislation covering the situation, the sentences are to be served concurrently. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**The district court has discretion to order that enhanced sentences for multiple offenses be served concurrently.** *State v. Triggs*, 2012-NMCA-068, 281 P.3d 1256.

**Enhanced sentences for multiple offenses may be served concurrently.** — Pursuant to defendant's plea agreement, defendant was convicted of nine property offenses and received basic sentences that ran consecutively, two of the sentences were enhanced based on two prior felony convictions; defendant agreed that the remaining sentences would be subject to habitual offender enhancement upon a violation of law or a violation of a condition of parole or probation; defendant violated the conditions of parole for one of the offenses that had been fully enhanced under the plea agreement; the district court found that defendant was an habitual offender and enhanced each of the seven sentences that had not been enhanced under the plea agreement; and there was nothing in the plea agreement that required the district court to run the enhancements consecutively, the district court had the discretion to order that the enhanced sentences be served concurrently. *State v. Triggs*, 2012-NMCA-068, 281 P.3d 1256.

**Sentences under multiple enhancement provisions.** — It is not improper to enhance a sentence under the general habitual offender statute if it has already been enhanced under the firearm enhancement statute. *State v. Reaves*, 1982-NMCA-169, 99 N.M. 73, 653 P.2d 904.

The state was not prevented from using distinct felonies obtained in the same judgment and sentence for the separate purposes of enhancement under the felon in possession statute and the general habitual offender statute. *State v. Calvillo*, 1991-NMCA-038, 112 N.M. 140, 812 P.2d 794, cert. denied, 112 N.M. 77, 811 P.2d 575.

Prior fourth-degree-felony DWI conviction, pursuant to Subsection G of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978, could not be used to enhance the sentences, pursuant to this section, of defendants convicted of a non-DWI felony. *State v. Begay*, 2001-NMSC-002, 130 N.M. 61, 17 P.3d 434.

Defendants convicted of the offense of felony DWI under Subsection G of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978 are not subject to sentence enhancement under both the felony DWI

provision and this section. *State v. Anaya*, 1997-NMSC-010, 123 N.M. 14, 933 P.2d 223; *State v. Gonzales*, 1997-NMSC-050, 124 N.M. 171, 947 P.2d 128.

A prior armed robbery conviction may not be considered for enhancement under both the armed robbery statute and the habitual offender provision; accordingly, in the case of a defendant who has one prior burglary, one prior armed robbery, and one current armed robbery, the sentence for the current offense, discounting any reduction for mitigating circumstances, should be that for a second armed robbery, under Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978, plus a one-year enhancement for the prior burglary under the habitual offender provisions. *State v. Keith*, 1985-NMCA-012, 102 N.M. 462, 697 P.2d 145, cert. denied, 102 N.M. 492, 697 P.2d 492.

**Sentences cannot be served concurrently.** — An additional one-year sentence for the use of a firearm and an additional one-year sentence as an habitual offender cannot be served concurrently. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Proper to enhance failure-to-appear charge.** — Defendant's conviction for vehicular homicide could be used to enhance his failure-to-appear sentence, because the two acts - failure to appear at sentencing and vehicular homicide - were far from contemporaneous, and the state did not have to prove vehicular homicide as an element of the failure-to-appear offense. *State v. Peppers*, 1990-NMCA-057, 110 N.M. 393, 796 P.2d 614, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 260, 794 P.2d 734.

**Multiple convictions at one trial.** — Where a conviction on two or more counts arising out of acts committed in the course of a single transaction has been entered, the convictions should count as one for the purpose of sentencing under an habitual offender statute. On the other hand, where multiple convictions are obtained for crimes unrelated to one another, no prohibition has been found to prevent counting each conviction separately in habitual offender proceedings. *State v. Sanchez*, 1975-NMCA-014, 87 N.M. 256, 531 P.2d 1229.

If, under this section, multiple prior convictions arose out of a unified course of events, the multiple convictions count as one conviction in the habitual offender proceedings; but, if the defendant had a prior felony conviction, the trial court could properly enhance each of three subsequent felony convictions as a second felony conviction. *State v. Baker*, 1977-NMCA-033, 90 N.M. 291, 562 P.2d 1145.

**Nature of punishment of prior conviction.** — Where 17-year-old defendant was convicted in South Carolina of burglary and larceny, because the court found him amenable to treatment and placed him on probation as a "youthful offender" whose sentence was rehabilitative in nature his prior conviction did not satisfy the provisions of this section. *State v. Smith*, 2000-NMCA-101, 129 N.M. 738, 13 P.3d 470.

**Conviction in another state.** — Defendant's conviction by a Texas court constituted a "prior felony conviction" for purposes of the New Mexico habitual-offender statute, even

though defendant had been placed on probation after his conviction, the indictment was set aside by a Texas court after completion of probation, and the conviction could not be considered under the Texas habitual-offender statute. *State v. Edmondson*, 1991-NMCA-069, 112 N.M. 654, 818 P.2d 855, cert. quashed, 112 N.M. 641, 818 P.2d 419.

Where, contrary to defendant's assertion, the evidence does not indicate that Section 18-4-502, Colorado Statutes, was not a felony in Colorado either at the time defendant committed the offense or at the time of his conviction, Colorado conviction was a felony covered by this section. *State v. Sandoval*, 2004-NMCA-046, 135 N.M. 420, 89 P.3d 92, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-006, 135 N.M. 789, 93 P.3d 1292.

**Use of prior conviction that is not felony offense in New Mexico.** — Whether or not the Colorado felony is a felony in New Mexico, the felony conviction may be used if it was punishable by imprisonment of more than one year. *State v. Wilson*, 1993-NMCA-074, 117 N.M. 11, 868 P.2d 656, cert. quashed, 119 N.M. 311, 889 P.2d 1233 (1995).

**Prior convictions which are not felonies under laws of New Mexico will not support increased penalty** for a felony conviction in New Mexico. *State v. Knight*, 1965-NMSC-058, 75 N.M. 197, 402 P.2d 380; *State v. Silas*, 1979-NMSC-008, 92 N.M. 434, 589 P.2d 674; *State v. Montoya*, 1979-NMCA-044, 92 N.M. 734, 594 P.2d 1190, *aff'd*, 1980-NMSC-093, 94 N.M. 704, 616 P.2d 417.

**Prior federal felony convictions.** — Where prior federal convictions for transporting stolen automobiles across state lines were not felonies in New Mexico, an increased penalty for a forgery felony conviction in New Mexico as a habitual criminal is improper. *State v. Knight*, 1965-NMSC-058, 75 N.M. 197, 402 P.2d 380.

**Presumption as to law of sister state.** — When previous conviction is charged to be an offense which is designated by name by the law of New Mexico as one falling within the required category, it is presumed that the conviction in the other state carried with it all the essentials of the crime in New Mexico, as the law of a sister state is presumed to be the same as that of the forum, absent proof to the contrary. *State v. Lott*, 1963-NMSC-219, 73 N.M. 280, 387 P.2d 855.

**Prior felony need not be such on date of prosecution as habitual criminal.** — The habitual offender statute contains no provision requiring the prior felony to be such an offense on the date of subsequent prosecution as an habitual criminal. The date of the conviction in the foreign state is the time to be considered in determining whether the offense charged as the prior conviction would have been a felony in this state. *State v. Lott*, 1963-NMSC-219, 73 N.M. 280, 387 P.2d 855.

**Amendment or repeal of statute subsequent to conviction under it.** — If defendant's violation of a statute was a felony at the time, changes in or repeal of the statute subsequent to that time do not preclude the use of that conviction in prosecutions under the habitual offender statute. *State v. Darrah*, 1966-NMSC-171, 76 N.M. 671, 417 P.2d 805.

**Effect of executive pardon.** — An executive pardon of the offense which provokes the court into imposing a life sentence under the habitual offender statute is unavailing to deny the court authority to employ the same felony convictions again for purpose of imposing a sentence under the habitual offender statute, if subsequent to his pardon the prisoner commits another felony. *Shankle v. Woodruff*, 1958-NMSC-054, 64 N.M. 88, 324 P.2d 1017.

**Effect of pardoned offenses.** — The governor has the power to pardon habitual offender sentences, but the pardoned offense may nevertheless be used to enhance future sentences for future crimes. *State v. Mondragon*, 1988-NMCA-027, 107 N.M. 421, 759 P.2d 1003, cert. denied, 107 N.M. 267, 755 P.2d 605.

**"Purchase" of heroin is felony for purposes of section.** — Where a federal conviction is had in New Mexico upon a purchase of heroin in New Mexico, the "purchase" of heroin necessarily includes the actual or constructive "possession" of heroin, and actual or constructive possession of heroin is a felony under the laws of New Mexico for purposes of this section. *State v. Montoya*, 1980-NMSC-093, 94 N.M. 704, 616 P.2d 417.

**Effect of additional convictions on habitual offender statute.** — Prosecution under the habitual offender statute is not barred upon any conviction in addition to fourth felony conviction, and such additional conviction may be prosecuted for the purpose of enhancing sentence at any time, otherwise lawful, as if it were the fourth felony conviction. *State v. Sanchez*, 1975-NMCA-014, 87 N.M. 256, 531 P.2d 1229.

**Alternative methods of showing prior convictions.** — If a state adopts the policy of imposing heavier punishment for repeated offending, there is manifest propriety in guarding against the escape from this penalty of those whose previous conviction was not suitably made known to the court at the time of their trial. It is to prevent such a frustration of its policy that provision is made for alternative methods, either by alleging the fact of prior conviction in the indictment and showing it upon the trial, or by a subsequent proceeding in which the identity of the prisoner may be ascertained and he may be sentenced to the full punishment fixed by law. *State v. Gonzales*, 1972-NMCA-130, 84 N.M. 275, 502 P.2d 300, cert. denied, 84 N.M. 271, 502 P.2d 296.

**Enhanced sentence may be imposed though maximum for felony served.** — Under this section, imposition of enhanced sentence was proper even though maximum sentence for felony conviction which had given rise to it had been completely served. *Lott v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-038, 76 N.M. 76, 412 P.2d 249.

**Nolo contendere plea as basis for conviction.** — A plea of nolo contendere, accepted and recorded in open court, may provide a proper sentence for conviction which may be used to enhance a sentence under this habitual criminal statute. *State v. Marquez*, 1986-NMCA-119, 105 N.M. 269, 731 P.2d 965, cert. denied, 105 N.M. 211, 730 P.2d 1193.

**Chronologically, factually separate felonies properly used for enhancement. —**

Since the facts and elements of defendant's 1986 predicate felony of receiving stolen property and his 1988 felony conviction for felon in possession of a firearm were both separate in time and involved different facts from those underlying his felony convictions in the case under adjudication, they were properly used as separate felonies for purposes of enhancing defendant's later felony convictions under this section. *State v. Yparrea*, 1992-NMCA-128, 114 N.M. 805, 845 P.2d 1259, cert. denied, 114 N.M. 720, 845 P.2d 814 (1993).

**Federal conviction as prior conviction. —** For a federal conviction to be considered as a prior conviction under the habitual offender statute, the conviction must be for a crime which if committed within this state would be a felony. *State v. Garcia*, 1978-NMCA-109, 92 N.M. 730, 594 P.2d 1186, cert. denied, 92 N.M. 532, 591 P.2d 286; *State v. Montoya*, 1979-NMCA-044, 92 N.M. 734, 594 P.2d 1190, *aff'd*, 1980-NMSC-093, 94 N.M. 704, 616 P.2d 417.

### **III. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

**The state is not required to make a prima facie showing of defendant's past convictions before the sentencing hearing.** *State v. Godoy*, 2012-NMCA-084, 284 P.3d 410, cert. denied, 2012-NMCERT-007.

Where, eight days after defendant was convicted of possession of cocaine, the state filed a supplemental information alleging that defendant was a habitual offender subject to sentence enhancement; four days later, the state served notice of intent to seek an enhanced sentence and demanded that defendant give notice of defendant's intention to challenge the validity of any prior convictions; defendant did not file a notice that defendant would challenge the validity of prior convictions; at the arraignment on the supplemental information, defense counsel denied the allegations of the previous convictions and told the court that there would be issues with some of the alleged convictions; at the sentencing hearing, the state presented authenticated copies of the previous convictions; defendant did not contest the convictions; and defendant claimed that the trial court failed to provide defendant with adequate process because the state failed to make a prima facie showing of defendant's prior convictions before the sentencing hearing and that defendant did not have a fair opportunity at the sentencing hearing to review and rebut the evidence of the prior convictions, the enhancement of defendant's sentence complied with statutory requirements and was proper because the state provided adequate notice to defendant of its intent and then proved the existence of the prior convictions by a preponderance of the evidence at the sentencing hearing. *State v. Godoy*, 2012-NMCA-084, 284 P.3d 410, cert. denied, 2012-NMCERT-007.

**Violation of plea and disposition agreement. —** Where the defendant entered into a plea and disposition agreement in which the state agreed not to bring habitual offender proceedings "if and only if" the defendant completed at least one year of inpatient alcohol treatment and successfully completed probation without a violation; the defendant violated probation one month after beginning to serve probation and



knowingly and voluntarily admitted to the probation violation; the state did not bring habitual offender proceedings based on the probation violation and the district court placed the defendant on a second probation; the defendant violated probation a second time; and the state initiated habitual offender proceedings before the district court held a hearing on the second violation of probation, the district court was authorized to enhance the defendant's sentence. *State v. Leyba*, 2009-NMCA-030, 145 N.M. 712, 204 P.3d 37, cert. denied, 2009-NMCERT-002, 145 N.M. 704, 204 P.3d 29.

**New rule setting order of proof to operate prospectively only.** — The new rule of law in *State v. Linam*, 1979-NMSC-004, 93 N.M. 307, 600 P.2d 253, decided on January 11, 1979, setting forth the order of proof required in habitual offender sentencing, was intended to operate prospectively only. *State v. Valenzuela*, 1980-NMSC-047, 94 N.M. 340, 610 P.2d 744, *overruled in part by Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**Burden of proof.** — Federal law requires that the state prove a prior conviction by a preponderance of evidence. *State v. Smith*, 2000-NMSC-005, 128 N.M. 588, 995 P.2d 1030.

**State required to prove specific sequence of commissions and convictions.** — In order to justify imposition of the enhanced sentence the state is required to prove a specific sequence of "commissions" and "convictions." *State v. Valenzuela*, 1979-NMCA-072, 94 N.M. 285, 609 P.2d 1241, *aff'd*, 1980-NMSC-047, 94 N.M. 340, 610 P.2d 744, *overruled in part by Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**Unless waived by the terms of the plea agreement.** — Defendant waived his right to contest the evidence of the prior convictions by agreeing to the terms of the plea agreement. *State v. Sanchez*, 2001-NMCA-060, 130 N.M. 602, 28 P.3d 1143, cert denied, 130 N.M. 713, 30 P.3d 1147.

**Date of commission of offense essential element in prosecution.** — To establish the date of the commission of the offense giving rise to the habitual offender proceeding is an essential element in such a prosecution. *State v. Valenzuela*, 1979-NMCA-072, 94 N.M. 285, 609 P.2d 1241, *aff'd*, 1980-NMSC-047, 94 N.M. 340, 610 P.2d 744, *overruled in part by Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

Where there is no proof as to the date of commission of the second felony by defendant, an enhanced habitual offender sentence cannot stand. *State v. Valenzuela*, 1980-NMSC-047, 94 N.M. 340, 610 P.2d 744, *overruled in part by Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**Defendant's introduction to jury does not interfere with its duty of determining identity.** — The introduction of the defendant to the jury by his name in no way interferes with the jury's duty of determining whether the named and identified defendant is the same person who was convicted of the crimes for which he is being

charged in the supplemental information. *State v. Olivares*, 1980-NMCA-165, 95 N.M. 222, 620 P.2d 380.

**An unrelated plea agreement** containing an admission of the defendant's identity in prior convictions was admissible for purposes of a habitual offender proceeding. *State v. Roybal*, 1995-NMCA-097, 120 N.M. 507, 903 P.2d 249, cert. denied, 120 N.M. 498, 903 P.2d 240.

**State must present some evidence to carry burden of validly obtained pleas.** — Although it is settled law that the absence of the record of the guilty plea proceedings does not establish the invalidity of the pleas, the state must present some evidence in order to carry its burden of persuasion that the pleas were validly obtained. *State v. Garcia*, 1980-NMSC-132, 95 N.M. 246, 620 P.2d 1271.

**Where state's exhibits establish prima facie case establishing valid guilty plea,** the defendant must then produce evidence that supports the asserted invalidity of these pleas. *State v. Garcia*, 1980-NMSC-132, 95 N.M. 246, 620 P.2d 1271.

**Where defendant claims a prior guilty plea was invalid,** the state makes a prima facie case establishing a valid guilty plea upon proof that the defendant has been convicted of a crime. *State v. Garcia*, 1980-NMSC-132, 95 N.M. 246, 620 P.2d 1271.

**When validity of prior convictions becomes proper issue.** — Until the defendant raises an issue as to the validity of prior convictions, "validity" is not an issue in the case. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Conditional discharge used to enhance sentence.** — Even though a prior conditional discharge could not be used for enhancement purposes at the time the defendant was originally sentenced, since he had agreed to such use and that he would not challenge it on appeal, the trial court did not err in using the conditional discharge to enhance the defendant's sentence. *State v. Handa*, 1995-NMCA-042, 120 N.M. 38, 897 P.2d 225, cert. denied, 119 N.M. 771, 895 P.2d 671.

Use of the defendant's prior conditional discharge to prove that he was a felon in order to convict him of the crime of felon in possession of a firearm and to enhance his sentence for underlying assault convictions did not violate his double jeopardy rights. *State v. Handa*, 1995-NMCA-042, 120 N.M. 38, 897 P.2d 225, cert. denied, 119 N.M. 771, 895 P.2d 671.

**Guilty pleas, disputed by vague evidence, accepted.** — Once the state's exhibits establish a prima facie case that a defendant has previously pled guilty to felonies, the defendant is entitled to bring forth contrary evidence, but it is his burden to do so. Based on the defendant's vague and somewhat inconsistent recollections about whether he had the advice of counsel before he pled guilty to previous crimes, the judge did not abuse her discretion in accepting those convictions as the basis for the habitual

offender enhancements. *State v. Duncan*, 1994-NMCA-030, 117 N.M. 407, 872 P.2d 380, cert. denied, 117 N.M. 524, 873 P.2d 270.

**Asserted invalidity of prior convictions is a defense** to the habitual offender charge. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Burdens of production of evidence and of persuasion distinguished.** — Where defendant's claim of invalidity is raised as a defense to a habitual offender charge, defendant must provide evidence in support of his defense. Once he does so, he is not required to persuade the fact finder concerning his defense; rather, the state has the burden of persuasion because it is the state, not defendant, who must prove a case. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Validity of prior guilty pleas is issue to be decided by court** in a habitual offender proceeding. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Where record in habitual offender proceeding is silent as to invalidity**, there is no basis for holding the prior convictions invalid. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Burden not on state when "record is silent".** — A trial court errs in placing an affirmative burden on the state when the "record is silent" concerning the validity of prior guilty pleas. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Double jeopardy defense waived by plea agreement.** — The defendant waived his double jeopardy defense by entering a plea agreement which provided that the state could pursue additional habitual offender proceedings to enhance the defendant's sentence in the event his probation was revoked or he otherwise failed to fulfill his obligations under the agreement, and Section 30-1-10 NMSA 1978, precluding waiver of a double jeopardy defense, did not apply to prevent waiver in such case. *Montoya v. New Mexico*, 55 F.3d 1496 (10th Cir. 1995).

**The district court properly retained jurisdiction to apply habitual offender enhancement following defendant's violation of probation.** — Where defendant pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence and conspiracy to commit tampering with evidence, and where, under the plea agreement, defendant admitted her identity in two prior felonies and the state agreed to seek habitual offender enhancement for only one prior felony and to hold the other in abeyance, and where defendant was sentenced to thirty-six months in prison with a one-year habitual offender enhancement for each charge, for a total of five years of incarceration, and where the district court suspended three years of defendant's incarceration and instead imposed three years of probation to begin after her release from her two-year prison sentence relating to her habitual

offender enhancements, and where defendant, after her release from prison and during her probationary period, violated probation multiple times, prompting the state to file a petition to revoke defendant's probation on three occasions, and where the district court revoked defendant's probation following the state's third petition and enhanced defendant's sentences by three years each based on the prior felony that was held in abeyance in the plea agreement, the district court did not err in enhancing defendant's sentence, because the district court resolved any ambiguities present in the plea agreement by informing defendant of the potential consequences if she violated probation. Defendant, therefore, should have reasonably expected that she faced an additional eight years of incarceration if she violated probation and that each count was subject to a habitual offender enhancement throughout her entire probationary period. *State v. Banghart-Portillo*, 2022-NMSC-021, *aff'g* A-1-CA-36917, mem. op. (N.M. Ct. App. Oct. 24, 2018) (nonprecedential).

**Sentence enhancement based on violation of plea agreement.** — Since the defendant violated the terms of a plea agreement providing that the state could pursue additional habitual offender proceedings to enhance the defendant's sentence in the event his probation was revoked or he otherwise failed to fulfill his obligations under the agreement, the imposition of additional sentence enhancements did not constitute an impermissible multiple punishment. *Montoya v. New Mexico*, 55 F.3d 1496 (10th Cir. 1995).

Since the plea agreement provided that the state would pursue additional enhancement if the defendant violated conditions of his probation, when the defendant violated the probation, additional enhancement was authorized based, not on the probation violation, but on the prior felonies. *State v. Freed*, 1996-NMCA-044, 121 N.M. 562, 915 P.2d 325, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 644, 916 P.2d 844.

**Statutory scheme does not delegate legislative responsibility to prosecution.** — In no sense does the habitual offender statutory scheme delegate to the prosecution the legislative responsibility to fix criminal penalties. *Martinez v. Romero*, 626 F.2d 807 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 1019, 101 S. Ct. 585, 66 L. Ed. 2d 481 (1980).

**Subsection B only prohibits suspending or deferring one-year sentence imposed by subsection,** and does not affect the trial court's discretion to suspend or defer the basic sentence imposed. *State v. Russell*, 1980-NMCA-074, 94 N.M. 544, 612 P.2d 1355.

**Credit for time served.** — When the defendant who had served one year of an enhanced sentence was subject to a second four-year enhancement, the court was required to give credit for the time served, and giving credit did not convert the second enhancement into an unauthorized three-year sentence. *State v. Freed*, 1996-NMCA-044, 121 N.M. 562, 915 P.2d 325, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 644, 916 P.2d 844.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "State v. Muniz: Authorizing Adult Sentencing of Juveniles Absent a Conviction that Authorizes an Adult Sentence," see 35 N.M.L. Rev. 229 (2005).

For comment, "Definite Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For note, "Negligent Hiring and Retention - Availability of Action Limited By Foreseeability Requirement," see 10 N.M.L. Rev. 491 (1980).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 271 (1982).

For comment, "The Constitution is Constitutional - A Reply to The Constitutionality of Pretrial Detention Without Bail in New Mexico," see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 145 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal law, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 323 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

For annual survey of New Mexico criminal law, see 16 N.M.L. Rev. 9 (1986).

For annual survey of criminal procedure in New Mexico, see 18 N.M.L. Rev. 345 (1988).

For annual survey of New Mexico Criminal Procedure, see 20 N.M.L. Rev. 285 (1990).

For survey of 1990-91 criminal procedure and evidence, see 22 N.M.L. Rev. 713 (1992).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Constitutionality and construction of statute enhanced penalty for second or subsequent offenses, 58 A.L.R. 20, 82 A.L.R. 345, 116 A.L.R. 209, 132 A.L.R. 91, 139 A.L.R. 673.

Effect, as to prior offenses, of amendment increasing punishment for crime, 167 A.L.R. 845.

What constitutes former "conviction" within statute enhancing penalty for second or subsequent offenses, 5 A.L.R.2d 1080.

Propriety, under statute enhancing punishment for second or subsequent offense, of restricting new trial to issue of status as habitual criminal, 79 A.L.R.2d 826.

Form and sufficiency of allegations as to time, place, or court of prior offenses or convictions, under habitual criminal act or statute enhancing punishment for repeated offenses, 80 A.L.R.2d 1196.

Right of court in imposing sentence to consider other offenses committed by defendant in absence of statute in that regard, 96 A.L.R.2d 768.

Adequacy of defense counsel's representation of criminal client regarding prior convictions, 14 A.L.R.4th 227.

Propriety of using single prior felony conviction as basis for offense of possessing weapon by convicted felon and to enhance sentence, 37 A.L.R.4th 1168.

Chronological or procedural sequence of former convictions as affecting enhancement of penalty under habitual offender statutes, 7 A.L.R.5th 263.

Use of prior military conviction to establish repeat offender status, 11 A.L.R.5th 218.

Imposition of enhanced sentence under recidivist statute as cruel and unusual punishment, 27 A.L.R. Fed. 110.

### **31-18-18. Habitual offenders; duty of public officers to report.**

Whenever it becomes known to any warden or prison official or any prison, probation, parole or police officer or other peace officer that any person charged with or convicted of a noncapital felony is or may be a habitual offender, it is his duty to promptly report the facts to the district attorney of the proper district, who shall then file an information.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-31, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 7.

### **31-18-19. Habitual offender; duty of district attorney to prosecute.**

If at any time, either after sentence or conviction, it appears that a person convicted of a noncapital felony is or may be a habitual offender, it is the duty of the district attorney of the district in which the present conviction was obtained to file an information charging that person as a habitual offender.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-32, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 8.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For general consideration of the habitual offender statute, see notes to 31-18-17 NMSA 1978.

For procedure and sentence, see 31-18-20 NMSA 1978.

**Habitual offender statute is mandatory and gives district attorney no discretion** as to whether he will invoke the habitual criminal provision. *State v. Sedillo*, 1971-NMCA-003, 82 N.M. 287, 480 P.2d 401.

**Habitual offender statute is mandatory.** — The district attorney had a duty to prosecute defendant as an habitual offender if his conviction brought him within the statute. *State v. Cruz*, 1971-NMCA-047, 82 N.M. 522, 484 P.2d 364.

The provisions of this act have been construed as mandatory. *State v. Baldonado*, 1968-NMCA-025, 79 N.M. 175, 441 P.2d 215.

The provisions of the habitual criminal statute are mandatory. *State v. Santillanes*, 1982-NMCA-118, 98 N.M. 448, 649 P.2d 516.

The provisions of the Habitual Offender Act are mandatory, and the district attorney has an affirmative duty to prosecute habitual offenders. *State v. Davis*, 1986-NMSC-031, 104 N.M. 229, 719 P.2d 807.

**Discretion to seek or not seek enhanced sentencing.** — Despite the mandatory tone of this section, the prosecutor has discretion to seek or not to seek enhanced sentencing. *March v. State*, 1989-NMSC-065, 109 N.M. 110, 782 P.2d 82.

**No vindictiveness in actions of district attorney's office in seeking habitual offender enhancements.** — The prosecution has a statutory duty, at any time, either after sentence or conviction, if it appears that a person convicted of a noncapital felony is or may be a habitual offender, to file an information charging that person as a habitual offender. *State v. Duncan*, 1994-NMCA-030, 117 N.M. 407, 872 P.2d 380, cert. denied, 117 N.M. 524, 873 P.2d 270.

**Enhanced sentence proper even though probation completed, where maximum statutory sentencing period unexpired.** — Under this section, the imposition of an enhanced sentence is proper even though a defendant has completed a period of probation, where the maximum period for which he could have been sentenced for the offense has not yet expired. *State v. Santillanes*, 1982-NMCA-118, 98 N.M. 448, 649 P.2d 516.

**Statutory scheme does not delegate legislative responsibility to prosecution.** — In no sense does the habitual offender statutory scheme delegate to the prosecution the legislative responsibility to fix criminal penalties. *Martínez v. Romero*, 626 F.2d 807 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 1019, 101 S. Ct. 585, 66 L. Ed. 2d 481 (1980).

**Specific statute controls over 39-1-1 NMSA 1978.** — As the provisions of the habitual offender statute are mandatory, the specific provision of filing charges "at any time" in the statute controls over the general provision of Section 39-1-1 NMSA 1978, which gives a trial court jurisdiction over its final judgment in a nonjury trial for 30 days after

entry of final judgment. *State v. Padilla*, 1978-NMCA-060, 92 N.M. 19, 582 P.2d 396, cert. denied, 92 N.M. 180, 585 P.2d 324.

**State's filing information violated expectation of finality in sentencing.** — State's filing information as to enhanced sentencing after defendant's earning of meritorious deductions brought his service of sentence to an end violated his objectively reasonable expectation of finality in sentencing for double jeopardy purposes. *March v. State*, 1989-NMSC-065, 109 N.M. 110, 782 P.2d 82.

**Defendant's expectation of "final" sentencing.** — Defendant, a three-time felony offender, had no reasonable expectation of finality in a three-year probationary sentence for a larceny conviction; therefore, it was not a violation of his double jeopardy rights for the state to seek a subsequent conviction of defendant, during the probationary period, under the habitual offender laws. *State v. Villalobos*, 1998-NMSC-036, 126 N.M. 255, 968 P.2d 766.

**District attorney's or judge's knowledge of prior convictions.** — Knowledge by the district attorney of prior convictions, and even knowledge by the judge, does not bar a prosecution under the habitual offender statute, the setting aside of a former sentence and the imposition of a new one. *State v. McCraw*, 1955-NMSC-050, 59 N.M. 348, 284 P.2d 670.

**Prosecution's knowledge of prior felony conviction.** — Where, before the defendant is convicted for a felony, the prosecutor knows of a prior felony conviction, this knowledge does not require the dismissal of a latter habitual offender charge because of a filing delay. *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Information does not purport to charge criminal offense.** — An information under the habitual offender statutes does not purport to charge a criminal offense, but constitutes only a charge of prior convictions by defendant, which, if true, operates to enhance the penalty to be imposed. *State v. Silva*, 1967-NMCA-008, 78 N.M. 286, 430 P.2d 783.

**Charging by supplemental information.** — The state did not violate its own procedures, and thus did not violate due process, by charging appellant as an habitual offender by supplemental information, since the supplemental information did not charge an offense, but rather a status, that of habitual offender. *Minner v. Kerby*, 30 F.3d 1311 (10th Cir. 1994).

**Charging by information sufficient.** — Defendant had no right, either under New Mexico law or under the United States Constitution, to a grand jury indictment as to his habitual offender status. *Minner v. Kerby*, 30 F.3d 1311 (10th Cir. 1994).

**Pleading prior convictions in information.** — The controlling statute made no requirement that prior convictions be pleaded in the information itself. *Shankle v. Woodruff*, 1958-NMSC-054, 64 N.M. 88, 324 P.2d 1017.



**Courts in which defendant was previously convicted need not be named.** — The habitual offender statutes do not require that the court or courts in which a defendant has been previously convicted be named. *State v. Silva*, 1967-NMCA-008, 78 N.M. 286, 430 P.2d 783.

**Information not insufficient because of improper grammatical construction.** — Assuming the meaning to be plain, information or indictment is not rendered insufficient because of improper grammatical construction. *State v. Silva*, 1967-NMCA-008, 78 N.M. 286, 430 P.2d 783.

**Objection to information not grounds for release on habeas corpus.** — Objection to the information charging prior conviction sufficient to invoke the Habitual Criminal Act might have been made the basis of a timely appeal, but was not grounds for release on habeas corpus. *Shankle v. Woodruff*, 1958-NMSC-054, 64 N.M. 88, 324 P.2d 1017.

**The provisions of the habitual criminal statute are mandatory.** 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-23.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Duty and discretion of district or prosecuting attorney as regards prosecution for criminal offenses, 155 A.L.R. 10.

### **31-18-20. Habitual offenders; proceedings for prosecution.**

A. The court wherein a person has been convicted of a noncapital felony and where that person has been charged as a habitual offender under the provisions of Section 31-18-19 NMSA 1978 shall bring the defendant before it, whether he is confined in prison or not. The court shall inform him of:

- (1) the allegations of the information; and
- (2) his right to be tried as to the truth thereof according to law.

B. The court shall require the defendant to say whether or not he is the same person as charged in the information. If the defendant denies being the same person or refuses to answer or remains silent, his plea or the fact of his silence shall be entered in the record and the court shall then conduct a hearing to determine if the offender is the same person.

C. If the court finds that the defendant is the same person and that he was in fact convicted of the previous crime or crimes as charged, the court shall sentence him to the punishment as prescribed in Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-33, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 9; 1983, ch. 127, § 2.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For general consideration of the habitual offender statute, see notes to 31-18-17 NMSA 1978.

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

**Purpose of former law.** — Former section was enacted to give a person convicted of a felony in this state charged with being an habitual criminal the right to a separate trial before a jury and to require the state to prove in such separate proceedings the identity of the accused as the person alleged to have been convicted of the former crimes. *Lott v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-037, 75 N.M. 102, 401 P.2d 93.

**Habitual offender statute creates no new offense**, but merely provides a proceeding whereby one previously convicted of a felony or felonies may be given an enhanced sentence upon subsequent conviction in this state for another felony. *State v. Bonner*, 1970-NMCA-047, 81 N.M. 471, 468 P.2d 636.

**Habitual offender statute provides for an enhanced sentence.** — The habitual criminal status is not a conviction of a distinct crime. Indeed, a conviction on the merits has occurred and the crime convicted of is unrelated to the habitual criminal provisions, which produce not a judgment of guilt of the offense, but rather an enhanced sentence. *Linam v. Griffin*, 685 F.2d 369 (10th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1211, 103 S. Ct. 1207, 75 L. Ed. 2d 447 (1983).

**Habitual criminal proceeding not constitutional adjudication.** — The habitual criminal proceeding in New Mexico is not the kind of adjudication that is referred to in the fifth amendment double jeopardy clause. *Linam v. Griffin*, 685 F.2d 369 (10th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1211, 103 S. Ct. 1207, 75 L. Ed. 2d 447 (1983).

**New Mexico habitual criminal proceeding is a trial on the issue of punishment** and double jeopardy bars a second try if the prosecution fails. *Linam v. Griffin*, 685 F.2d 369 (10th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1211, 103 S. Ct. 1207, 75 L. Ed. 2d 447 (1983) (concurring opinion).

**Proceeding not trial for purposes of determining competency.** — The habitual offender proceeding is not a trial in the constitutional sense for purposes of making a determination as to competency and Rule 35(b) N.M.R. Crim. P. (now Rule 5-602B NMRA) does not apply to such proceedings. *State v. Nelson*, 1981-NMSC-100, 96 N.M. 654, 634 P.2d 676.

**Where record in habitual offender proceeding is silent as to invalidity,** there is no basis for holding the prior convictions invalid. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**No jeopardy attaches in habitual proceeding.** — A habitual proceeding involves only sentencing, not trial of an offense, therefore jeopardy does not attach. *State v. Rogers*, 1979-NMSC-085, 93 N.M. 519, 602 P.2d 616.

## **II. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.**

**Burden of persuasion.** — The validity of prior convictions is presumed until a defendant produces evidence reasonably tending to establish their invalidity. If the constitutional invalidity of prior convictions is not adequately shown, the burden of persuasion does not shift, and the State has no obligation to come forward with evidence. *State v. Duarte*, 1996-NMCA-038, 121 N.M. 553, 915 P.2d 309, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 444, 913 P.2d 251.

**Strict compliance required.** — Strict compliance with the procedures set forth in this section is required. *State v. Sanchez*, 1972-NMCA-113, 84 N.M. 163, 500 P.2d 448.

**Burden of proof.** — Federal law requires that the state prove a prior conviction by a preponderance of evidence. *State v. Smith*, 2000-NMSC-005, 128 N.M. 588, 995 P.2d 1030.

**Remand following appeal allowed, to obtain evidence on date of prior crime.** — The double jeopardy clause of the fifth amendment does not bar a remand following an appeal, directed at obtaining evidence as to the dates of the prior commission of crimes in order to satisfy the interpretation of the New Mexico habitual criminal statute that there be proof that each felony was committed after a conviction for the preceding felony. *Linam v. Griffin*, 685 F.2d 369 (10th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1211, 103 S. Ct. 1207, 75 L. Ed. 2d 447 (1983).

**Judge to determine whether offense follows prior felony conviction.** — Whether the commission of an offense was after a conviction for an earlier felony, thus qualifying for an enhanced penalty, may be determined by the trial judge. *Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**Jury issues limited to identity and prior conviction.** — The only questions that must be submitted to a jury upon a defendant's demand under the habitual offender statutes are those of identity and whether the defendant was previously convicted of the specific crime charged in the enhancement proceedings. *Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**Unless defendant raises validity of prior conviction as a defense,** there are two issues to be determined in an habitual offender proceeding: (1) whether there was a prior felony conviction, and (2) whether the defendant is the same person who was

convicted of the prior felony. *State v. Hernandez*, 1981-NMCA-036, 96 N.M. 604, 633 P.2d 712, *rev'd on other grounds*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**There is no need of presentment by grand jury** where the question was simply whether the party had been convicted of an offense, as an indictment is confined to the question whether an offense has been committed. *State v. Gonzales*, 1972-NMCA-130, 84 N.M. 275, 502 P.2d 300, cert. denied, 84 N.M. 271, 502 P.2d 296.

**Allegation of former conviction in indictment not required by constitution.** — Although the state may properly provide for the allegation of the former conviction in the indictment, for a finding by the jury on this point in connection with its verdict as to guilt and thereupon for the imposition of the full sentence prescribed, there is no constitutional mandate which requires the state to adopt this course even where the former conviction is known. *State v. Gonzales*, 1972-NMCA-130, 84 N.M. 275, 502 P.2d 300, cert. denied, 84 N.M. 271, 502 P.2d 296.

**Proof of defendant's identity.** — Where a supplemental information was filed for the purpose of sentencing defendant as an habitual offender, the state was not required to affirmatively prove not only that defendant was the person previously convicted of the crimes listed in the information but also that he was the same person convicted in the underlying case in which the sentencing proceedings were taking place. *State v. Salas*, 1999-NMCA-099, 127 N.M. 686, 986 P.2d 482, cert. denied, 128 N.M. 149, 990 P.2d 823.

**Separate proceeding permissible where only issue is identity.** — The information charging defendant as an habitual offender was filed as a separate cause, and such a separate proceeding is permissible where the only issue is the identity of the accused as the person previously convicted of crimes within the meaning of the habitual offender statute. *State v. Tipton*, 1966-NMSC-202, 77 N.M. 1, 419 P.2d 216.

**Information dismissed where proceedings not commenced within six months of filing.** — Where more than six months had passed since the filing of an information charging defendant under former 31-18-5 NMSA 1978 et seq. with being an habitual offender, the supreme court ordered that it be dismissed with prejudice in accordance with Rule 37(d), N.M.R. Crim. P. (now Rule 5-604D), to the extent that the state was precluded only from filing another such information grounded upon all four of those felonies which were the basis for the information dismissed. *State v. Lopez*, 1976-NMSC-012, 89 N.M. 82, 547 P.2d 565(decided under former law) (now Rule 5-604 NMRA).

**Right to counsel.** — The charge of being a habitual criminal is too serious, and the potential prejudice resulting from the absence of counsel having the legal skill to determine whether there had, in fact, been a previous conviction, is too great, to allow a conviction to stand when it appears a defendant has entered a plea without the assistance of counsel to which he is entitled, or without having effectively waived the

right. *Johnson v. Cox*, 1963-NMSC-058, 72 N.M. 55, 380 P.2d 199, cert. denied, 375 U.S. 855, 84 S. Ct. 117, 11 L. Ed. 2d 82 (1963).

**Duty of trial court to inform defendant of rights.** — Under this section the trial court must inform the defendant of the allegations contained in the information and of his right to be tried as to the truth thereof according to law. Therefore, where there was no showing that the judge or an officer of the court so informed the defendant, defendant's confession of being convicted of another crime was disallowed, and the judgment was reversed. *State v. Bonner*, 1974-NMCA-043, 86 N.M. 314, 523 P.2d 812.

**Trial court not specifically required to inform defendant of enhanced penalty.** — This section does not specifically require the trial court to advise a defendant of the enhanced penalty. *State v. Madrid*, 1972-NMSC-016, 83 N.M. 603, 495 P.2d 383.

**Trial court's failure to caution not considered on appeal.** — Where defendant claimed that the trial court's procedure prior to his admitting the charge of being an habitual offender was defective in that his admission could not legally be accepted because he was not duly cautioned as to his rights, but did not claim that his admission was involuntary, the issue of the trial court's failure to caution defendant would not be heard on appeal, since it was not raised in the trial court. *State v. Jordan*, 1975-NMCA-102, 88 N.M. 230, 539 P.2d 620.

**Right to trial by jury may be waived.** — Right to be tried by a jury is a requirement which may be waived either expressly or by implication. *State v. Knight*, 1965-NMSC-058, 75 N.M. 197, 402 P.2d 380.

**Circumstances showing waiver of jury trial.** — Where appellant was represented by an attorney throughout the proceedings, had ample notice that habitual criminal charges were involved, and, in reply to questions by the court before the guilty plea was accepted to the forgery charges and prior to any examination by the court concerning the habitual criminal information, both appellant and his attorney assured the court that they had previously discussed the habitual criminal information and that they had also thoroughly discussed it with the district attorney, appellant's right to be tried by a jury was waived. *State v. Knight*, 1965-NMSC-058, 75 N.M. 197, 402 P.2d 380.

**Law requires admission or determination of identity.** — Before defendant can be prosecuted under the habitual offender statute, the law requires an admission or a determination of identity. *State v. Sanchez*, 1972-NMCA-113, 84 N.M. 163, 500 P.2d 448.

**An instruction which reads "aka" deprives defendant of jury determination.** — An instruction which read "aka" (also known as) deprived defendant in a habitual offender prosecution of the right to have the jury determine the issue of identity. *State v. Griffin*, 1980-NMCA-015, 94 N.M. 5, 606 P.2d 543.

**Use of aliases in indictments or jury instructions is proper** where there is evidence of the alias and/or the surrounding circumstances reveal no resulting prejudice to the defendant. *State v. Muniz*, 1981-NMSC-014, 95 N.M. 415, 622 P.2d 1035.

**Jury's function of determining identity issue not preempted by instructions.** — Instructions which simply told the jury to determine whether defendant was the same person that was convicted of several offenses that were charged in the indictments under other names did not preempt the jury's function of determining the issue of identity in a prosecution under the habitual offender statute. *State v. Muniz*, 1981-NMSC-014, 95 N.M. 415, 622 P.2d 1035.

**Judicial determination of identity** may not properly be made prior to conviction in the felony case. *Lott v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-037, 75 N.M. 102, 401 P.2d 93.

**Waiver of jury trial does not amount to admission of identity.** — Even though defendant affirmatively waived a jury trial on the question of identity, this did not amount to an admission that he was the same person charged in the supplemental information. *State v. Sanchez*, 1972-NMCA-113, 84 N.M. 163, 500 P.2d 448.

**Statute does not provide jury trial where such trial was waived in original proceedings.** — Where defendant seeks to retry, in an habitual offender proceeding, the question of voluntariness of guilty pleas he made a decade ago, and, although the validity of the prior convictions upon which the habitual offender charge is based is subject to attack, the purpose of the statute is not to provide a defendant with a trial by jury on previous convictions where the defendant waived such a trial in the original criminal proceedings. *State v. Martinez*, 1978-NMSC-083, 92 N.M. 256, 586 P.2d 1085.

**Sequence of crimes and convictions is element of the state's case** and not a defense to be raised and established by the defendant; the state's failure to establish the sequence of the crimes is therefor a failure of proof. *State v. Valenzuela*, 1979-NMCA-072, 94 N.M. 285, 609 P.2d 1241, *aff'd*, 1980-NMSC-047, 94 N.M. 340, 610 P.2d 744, *overruled in part by Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**Determining when subsequent act occurred relevant.** — When a question of the sequence of crimes and convictions is raised, the only relevant determination is the factual question of when the subsequent act occurs. Thus, "sequence" depends upon evidence actually presented to the jury. *State v. Valenzuela*, 1979-NMCA-072, 94 N.M. 285, 609 P.2d 1241, *aff'd*, 1980-NMSC-047, 94 N.M. 340, 610 P.2d 744, *overruled in part by Hernandez v. State*, 1981-NMSC-091, 96 N.M. 585, 633 P.2d 693.

**State must present some evidence to carry burden of validly obtained pleas.** — Although it is settled law that the absence of the record of the guilty plea proceedings does not establish the invalidity of the pleas, the state must present some evidence in order to carry its burden of persuasion that the pleas were validly obtained. *State v. Garcia*, 1980-NMSC-132, 95 N.M. 246, 620 P.2d 1271.

**Where state's exhibits establish prima facie case establishing valid guilty plea,** the defendant must then produce evidence that supports the asserted invalidity of these pleas. *State v. Garcia*, 1980-NMSC-132, 95 N.M. 246, 620 P.2d 1271.

**Where defendant claims a guilty plea was invalid,** the state makes a prima facie case establishing a valid guilty plea upon proof that defendant has been convicted of a crime. *State v. Garcia*, 1980-NMSC-132, 95 N.M. 246, 620 P.2d 1271.

**Issue of whether prior convictions are constitutionally valid is defense** to the habitual offender charge. Defendant was entitled to present evidence in support of this defense. Whether the defense is a matter to be decided by the court or the jury will depend on the issue raised by the defense. *State v. Dawson*, 1977-NMCA-102, 91 N.M. 70, 570 P.2d 608.

**Collateral attack on validity of prior convictions permissible.** — Where defendant's appeal attacks the validity of two prior convictions on grounds: (1) that he did not have a preliminary examination in connection with the two prior convictions, and (2) that the first conviction was for a misdemeanor rather than a felony, such a collateral attack is permissible. *State v. Darrah*, 1966-NMSC-171, 76 N.M. 671, 417 P.2d 805.

**State not required to allege and prove validity of prior conviction.** — This section does not require the state to prove the validity of the prior convictions. The state makes a prima facie case upon proof that defendant has been convicted of a prior felony. *State v. Dawson*, 1977-NMCA-102, 91 N.M. 70, 570 P.2d 608.

**Validity of prior convictions.** — Where defendant moved for a directed verdict, contending that the state had failed to prove an essential element of the habitual offender charge, the assertedly missing essential element being that the prior convictions were valid, the motion was correctly denied. Validity of the prior convictions is a matter of defense. Until defendant raised an issue as to the validity of the prior convictions, validity was not an issue in the case. The state did not have the burden of proving the validity of the prior convictions. *State v. Gallegos*, 1977-NMCA-113, 91 N.M. 107, 570 P.2d 938.

**Evidence of prior convictions prima facie.** — In a habitual offender proceeding, state exhibits showing the prior convictions make a prima facie case as to their prior convictions. *State v. Garcia*, 1978-NMCA-109, 92 N.M. 730, 594 P.2d 1186, cert. denied, 92 N.M. 675, 591 P.2d 286 (1979).

**When validity of prior convictions becomes proper issue.** — Until the defendant raises an issue as to the validity of prior convictions, "validity" is not an issue in the case. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297 (decided under former 31-18-5 NMSA 1978).

**Asserted invalidity of prior convictions is defense to habitual offender charge.**

*State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Defense of invalidity of prior conviction.** — Invalidity of a prior conviction is a defense in a habitual offender proceeding and it is defendant's obligation to present evidence in support of this defense. *State v. Garcia*, 1978-NMCA-109, 92 N.M. 730, 594 P.2d 1186, cert. denied, 92 N.M. 675, 591 P.2d 286 (1979).

**Validity of prior guilty pleas is an issue to be decided by the court** in an habitual offender proceeding. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

The view that all issues of validity are to be decided by the jury in an habitual offender proceeding cannot be subscribed to, particularly where the attack on the prior convictions goes to the validity of defendant's guilty pleas. *State v. Martinez*, 1978-NMSC-083, 92 N.M. 256, 586 P.2d 1085.

**Burden in habitual offender proceeding on defendant** to produce evidence that a guilty plea in a previous proceeding was not voluntary or intelligent. *State v. Garcia*, 1978-NMCA-109, 92 N.M. 730, 594 P.2d 1186, cert. denied, 92 N.M. 675, 591 P.2d 286 (1979).

**State not required to carry burden on validity of plea where record silent.** — A trial court errs in placing an affirmative burden on the state when the "record is silent" concerning the validity of prior guilty pleas. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Burdens of production of evidence and of persuasion distinguished.** — Where defendant's claim of invalidity is raised as a defense to a habitual offender charge, defendant must provide evidence in support of his defense. Once he does so, he is not required to persuade the fact finder concerning his defense; rather, the state has the burden of persuasion because it is the state, not defendant, who must prove a case. *State v. O'Neil*, 1978-NMCA-056, 91 N.M. 727, 580 P.2d 495, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Noncompliance with Rule 21(e), N.M.R. Crim. P. (now Rule 5-303 NMRA) is not basis for attacking validity of guilty pleas** to prior felonies in habitual offender proceedings. *State v. Gallegos*, 1977-NMCA-113, 91 N.M. 107, 570 P.2d 938.

**Judgment of sister state admissible.** — Admission of an Oklahoma judgment of two prior felonies was proper. The judgment was not inadmissible hearsay, and its admission was not a violation of the constitutional right to confront witnesses. *State v. Whiteshield*, 1977-NMCA-103, 91 N.M. 96, 570 P.2d 927, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 4, 569 P.2d 414.



**Effect of filing notice of appeal.** — Where defendant was charged by supplemental information with being the same person who had been convicted of two felonies and who therefore should be sentenced as an habitual offender, and the jury found that the defendant was the same person who committed both offenses, defendant's contention that the trial court lost jurisdiction after the notice of appeal was filed on the second felony conviction and could not hear the issue to be tried on the supplemental information was without merit. The trial court had jurisdiction to impose sentence, since sentencing, in some prescribed statutory form, was a mandatory requirement of the Criminal Code - appeal or no appeal. If the appeal of the second conviction was affirmed the enhanced sentence would stand. In the event of reversal, the conviction and sentence would be vacated. *State v. Lujan*, 1977-NMCA-093, 90 N.M. 778, 568 P.2d 614.

**Claim not made in trial court not considered on appeal.** — Defendant claimed on appeal that the charge against him for being an habitual offender was defective for failure to name a specific subsection of the statute, but since no such claim was made in the trial court, it would not be considered on appeal. *State v. Jordan*, 1975-NMCA-102, 88 N.M. 230, 539 P.2d 620.

**Procedural requirements of this section were met** and record showed that supplemental information, which sought an enhanced sentence, was read in open court with defendant present, that defendant admitted to being the person convicted as charged in the supplemental information, and that this occurred when defendant was represented by counsel who, immediately after the enhanced sentence was imposed, informed the court that defendant desired to appeal and requested that a bond be set pending the outcome of the appeal. *State v. Madrid*, 1972-NMSC-016, 83 N.M. 603, 495 P.2d 383.

### III. SENTENCES.

**Duty of court to impose sentence enhancement.** — The court has an affirmative duty to impose the appropriate level of sentence enhancement once the factual issues of identity and prior convictions are resolved against the respondent. *State v. Davis*, 1986-NMSC-031, 104 N.M. 229, 719 P.2d 807.

**Jurisdiction of trial court to sentence** is not exhausted until sentence is pronounced, and will carry over from term to term. *Pavlich v. State*, 1968-NMSC-147, 79 N.M. 473, 444 P.2d 984.

**Enhanced sentence may be imposed only in last felony case.** — Even though identity is determined in a separate cause, the enhanced sentence may only be imposed in the last case in which the accused was convicted of a felony in this state. *State v. Tipton*, 1966-NMSC-202, 77 N.M. 1, 419 P.2d 216.

**Identity established.** — Regardless of whether the identity is determined in a separate case or in a separate proceeding in the felony case following conviction therein, if such

identity is established, the enhanced sentence required by the Habitual Criminal Act may only be imposed in the felony case. *Lott v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-037, 75 N.M. 102, 401 P.2d 93.

**Sentence imposed in habitual criminal proceeding void.** — Where defendant's identity as the person previously convicted of two felonies was established in a separate proceeding, and the enhanced sentence was also imposed, the sentence was a nullity and the commitment issued therein is void, as the sentence should have been imposed in the last felony case. *State v. Tipton*, 1966-NMSC-202, 77 N.M. 1, 419 P.2d 216.

**Defendant may be returned for imposition of proper sentence.** — Where defendant has been legally convicted, but no judgment or sentence has been imposed, and defendant's identity as an habitual offender has been established and he was sentenced, defendant's restraint is illegal because sentence was imposed in the wrong case. In such a situation, defendant may be returned to the trial court for imposition of a proper sentence. *State v. Tipton*, 1966-NMSC-202, 77 N.M. 1, 419 P.2d 216.

**Murder sentences.** — A sentence in a cause charging violation of the habitual offender statute by a defendant who pleaded guilty to two murder charges is void and he should be remanded for sentencing in the murder cases. *Miller v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-031, 75 N.M. 65, 400 P.2d 480.

**Previous regular sentences vacated and enhanced sentences imposed.** — Where regular sentences were imposed upon defendants prior to the time their status as habitual offenders was determined, the regular sentences are to be vacated and the enhanced sentences are to be imposed. *State v. Baker*, 1977-NMCA-033, 90 N.M. 291, 562 P.2d 1145.

**Correcting and vacating sentence.** — Although the sentence of the court in the felony case was incomplete until the resentencing, as the previous sentence was not vacated and the mandatory statutory increased punishment imposed as required by law, there is no reason, constitutional or otherwise, why the court which imposed sentence may not correct what it did wrongly by vacating the sentence for breaking and entering and imposing the mandatory sentence in place of the one vacated. *State v. Gonzales*, 1972-NMCA-130, 84 N.M. 275, 502 P.2d 300, cert. denied, 84 N.M. 271, 502 P.2d 296.

There is no requirement of law that the punishment for the felony of which accused was convicted be first imposed and then vacated in order to impose the increased punishment prescribed by the habitual offender statute. *Lott v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-037, 75 N.M. 102, 401 P.2d 93.

**Statute does not require that sentence be first imposed** in the felony conviction and then vacated before the increased punishment prescribed by the habitual offender statute may be imposed. *State v. Bonner*, 1970-NMCA-047, 81 N.M. 471, 468 P.2d 636.

**Arrangement of manner in which enhanced sentence will be served.** — In imposing the new enhanced sentences, the trial court's arrangement of the manner in which the new enhanced sentences will be served is not limited by the arrangement for serving the regular sentences which should have been vacated. *State v. Baker*, 1977-NMCA-033, 90 N.M. 291, 562 P.2d 1145.

**Change from suspended sentence to sentence to be served.** — Inasmuch as the trial court had no authority to suspend the enhanced sentence, a change from a suspended sentence to a sentence to be served when sentence as a habitual offender was imposed was proper. *State v. Baker*, 1977-NMCA-033, 90 N.M. 291, 562 P.2d 1145.

**Right to counsel.** — An indigent defendant facing the imposition of penalties under the habitual criminal statutes is entitled to have an attorney appointed to represent him in such hearing. There is no requirement that such appointed attorney be the same attorney that represented the indigent defendant in the proceeding which resulted in the Habitual Criminal Act becoming applicable. This is so even though the habitual criminal proceedings may be filed in the same action. Such being the case, it necessarily follows that the question of identity of the attorney in the two proceedings is of no consequence and that the court may pay him for his services in the initial proceeding and in the habitual criminal proceeding as well. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-27.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1983).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 677 et seq.; 39 Am. Jur. 2d Habitual Criminals, etc. § 29 et seq.

Reasonable doubt: rule of reasonable doubt as applicable to proof of previous conviction for purpose of enhancing punishment, 79 A.L.R. 1337.

Overemphasis in proof of former conviction in connection with habitual criminal law, or unnecessary introduction of evidence in that regard, as prejudicial to accused, 144 A.L.R. 240.

Cross-examination of accused: accused who testifies in his own behalf as subject to cross-examination to show previous conviction in order to enhance punishment, 153 A.L.R. 1159.

Habeas Corpus: invalidity of prior conviction or sentence as ground of habeas corpus where one is sentenced as second offender, 171 A.L.R. 541.

Identity: necessity, character and sufficiency of evidence of identity for purpose of statute as to enhanced punishment in case of prior conviction, 11 A.L.R.2d 870.

Right of court in imposing sentence to consider other offenses committed by defendant in absence of statute in that regard, 96 A.L.R.2d 768.

### **31-18-21. Consecutive sentences; inmates and persons at large.**

A. Whenever an inmate in a penal institution of this state or of any county therein is sentenced for committing any felony while he is an inmate, the sentence imposed shall be consecutive to the sentence being served, and his period of parole shall be that set according to the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978.

B. Any person, who commits a crime while at large under a suspended or deferred sentence or probation or parole, and who is convicted and sentenced therefor, shall serve the sentence consecutive to the remainder of the term, including remaining parole time, under which he was released unless otherwise ordered by the court in sentencing for the new crime.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-34, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 10.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Intent of legislature.** — Construing Subsection A of this section together with the other sentencing statutes in the Criminal Sentencing Act leads to the inescapable conclusion that the legislature intended to impose harsher and more certain punishment on inmates who commit crimes while incarcerated. *State v. Davis*, 2003-NMSC-022, 134 N.M. 172, 74 P.3d 1064.

The legislature intended sentencing courts to stack the sentences of inmates who are convicted of crimes while incarcerated. *State v. Davis*, 2003-NMSC-022, 134 N.M. 172, 74 P.3d 1064.

**Prison disciplinary measures do not bar subsequent prosecution** in a criminal action for violation of a penal statute prohibiting the same act which was the basis of the person's discipline. *Washington v. Rodriguez*, 1971-NMCA-021, 82 N.M. 428, 483 P.2d 309.

**Consecutive sentences proper.** — Court may, at its discretion, impose consecutive sentences. *State v. Frederick*, 1964-NMSC-045, 74 N.M. 42, 390 P.2d 281.

**Modification of sentences in parole revocation.** — In a parole revocation, the court may only modify an existing sentence. When the existing sentence is consecutive to a previous sentence, the court may make the existing sentence concurrent because doing so does not increase the sentence. However, the court may not change a sentence that was originally concurrent to be consecutive because doing so would increase the

sentence. In a first sentence, however, Subsection B of Section 31-18-21 NMSA 1978 is never applicable and the sentence cannot be made concurrent or consecutive with a later sentence as a result of probation violation because for a first sentence there is no concurrent or consecutive status to be modified. To hold otherwise would allow probation revocations for previous convictions to undermine concurrent or consecutive sentences for later convictions. *State v. Rapchack*, 2011-NMCA-116, 150 N.M. 716, 265 P.3d 1289, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-010.

**Subsection B of Section 31-18-21 NMSA 1978 applies to sentences as originally imposed.** The order of probation revocation does not change the character or original order of the sentences. *State v. Rapchack*, 2011-NMCA-116, 150 N.M. 716, 265 P.3d 1289, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-010.

**Modification of multiple sentences in parole revocation.** — Where defendant pleaded guilty to burglary of a vehicle and the first judge suspended defendant's sentence; defendant subsequently pleaded guilty to auto-theft related crimes before a second judge and the second judge suspended defendant's sentence and ordered the sentence to be served consecutive to the sentence in the burglary case; defendant was later arrested for a third crime; in 2008, the second judge revoked defendant's probation in the auto-theft case; in 2009, first judge revoked defendant's probation in the burglary case and ordered that the sentence in the burglary case be served concurrently with the sentence in the auto-theft case; and the first judge later corrected the order to state that the sentence in the burglary case would not run concurrently with the sentence in the auto-theft case, the order making the sentence in the burglary case concurrent with the sentence in the auto-theft case was contrary to law and the first judge had the power to correct the order, because the sentence in the burglary case was the first sentence, the first sentence could not originally have been concurrent with or consecutive to anything and could not be modified to become concurrent or consecutive. *State v. Rapchack*, 2011-NMCA-116, 150 N.M. 716, 265 P.3d 1289, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-010.

**Sentencing judge has no discretion** under this section regarding whether a sentence is to be served consecutively or concurrently. The legislature's use of the word "shall" in Subsection A makes consecutive sentencing mandatory. *State v. Davis*, 2003-NMSC-022, 134 N.M. 172, 74 P.3d 1064.

**Section alters common-law rule.** — The common-law rule is that in the absence of statute two or more sentences are to be served concurrently unless otherwise ordered by the court. This section alters the common-law rule only as to crimes committed while at large under a sentence for a prior crime. *Deats v. State*, 1972-NMCA-155, 84 N.M. 405, 503 P.2d 1183.

**Unless court orders otherwise, section postpones stated beginning date** of new sentence until the prior sentence is completed. *Herring v. State*, 1969-NMCA-117, 81 N.M. 21, 462 P.2d 468.

**Beginning date of sentence.** — Sentence imposed upon defendant while he was on parole from prior sentence ran consecutive to prior sentence although trial court stated beginning date for new sentence but did not order that it run concurrently with prior sentence. *Herring v. State*, 1969-NMCA-117, 81 N.M. 21, 462 P.2d 468.

Although the beginning date of the new sentences imposed following conviction of forgery was stated in the commitment of defendant on parole, that beginning date was postponed by this section where the trial court did not order otherwise; further, the record showed that the court did not intend the sentences for the three forgeries to run concurrently with any other sentence imposed upon defendant. *State v. Upshaw*, 1968-NMCA-070, 79 N.M. 484, 444 P.2d 995.

**Effect of return of defendant to penitentiary before trial.** — Defendant's assertion that the district court lost jurisdiction over him because he was "released" to the penitentiary for parole violation before being tried did not raise any issue of illegality. The parole authorities could revoke defendant's parole and return him to the penitentiary for a parole violation, and this section clearly contemplates the conviction and sentence of a person for a crime committed while at large under parole. *State v. Ford*, 1970-NMCA-061, 81 N.M. 556, 469 P.2d 535.

**"Presentence" confinement credit not allowed.** — This section mandates that a sentence for a felony committed while serving a sentence in a penal institution run consecutive to the prior sentence. It is impossible to grant "presentence" confinement credit concurrent with time served on the prior sentence and comply with this section, which requires that the sentences run consecutively. *State v. Facticeau*, 1990-NMSC-040, 109 N.M. 748, 790 P.2d 1029.

**Discretionary award of presentence confinement credit for offense committed while on probation.** — Since defendant was outside of a penal institution on parole when he committed a second offense (possession of drug paraphernalia), the sentencing judge had discretion under Subsection B to make defendant's sentence run concurrent or consecutive to any sentence defendant was then serving for a parole violation, including the authority to award presentence confinement credit on the facts of the case. *State v. Irvin*, 1992-NMCA-121, 114 N.M. 597, 844 P.2d 847.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "The Proposed New Mexico Criminal Code," see 1 Nat. Resources J. 122 (1961).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Sentencing for new offenses committed while accused was on parole or conditional release as concurrent or consecutive, 116 A.L.R. 811.

## **31-18-22. Special incarceration alternative program.**

A. The corrections department shall develop and implement a special incarceration alternative program for certain adult male and adult female felony offenders pursuant to

this section. The program shall provide substance abuse counseling and treatment, high school equivalency credential preparatory courses, manual labor assignments, physical training and drills, training in decision-making and personal development and pre-release skills training. The programs shall be conducted in a strict disciplinary environment. Emphasis shall be given to rehabilitation of alcohol and substance abusers. The corrections department shall require that program participants complete a structured, ninety-day program.

B. Participation in the program shall be limited to those offenders sentenced on or after July 1, 1990. Offenders ineligible to participate in the program are offenders:

- (1) sentenced to death;
- (2) who have received a life sentence;
- (3) with a record of prior confinement for a felony conviction;
- (4) convicted of murder in the first or second degree, child abuse resulting in death or great bodily harm, criminal sexual penetration in the first or second degree or criminal sexual contact with a minor;
- (5) convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory sentence that cannot be suspended or deferred;
- (6) who have participated in a special incarceration alternative program in the past;
- (7) who are more than thirty years of age at time of sentencing; or
- (8) who do not volunteer to participate in the program and who do not agree to the special conditions of probation for successful program participants.

C. The corrections department shall develop and adopt regulations to provide for the screening of all convicted felons sentenced to the custody of the corrections department. The regulations shall provide that the screening occurs within thirty days of sentencing. Persons deemed suitable under the regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection shall not be denied eligibility for participation in the program solely due to physical disability.

D. If the sentencing court accepts the recommendation of the corrections department that the offender is suitable for participation in a special incarceration alternative program, the court shall resentence the offender to provide that, in the event the offender successfully completes the program, the remainder of the sentence shall be suspended and the offender shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the term. The sentencing court shall be notified in writing by the corrections department of the offender's successful completion of the special incarceration alternative program.

E. The corrections department may contract for the design, construction and lease of a facility to house a special incarceration alternative program with public or private agencies, entities or persons capable of providing financing or construction of such a facility. The facility shall be operated by the corrections department.

F. Appropriate post-institutional treatment shall be made available by the corrections department to the offender.

**History:** Laws 1990, ch. 51, § 1; 2015, ch. 122, § 16.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, replaced the term "general education diploma" with "high school equivalency credential" in the provision relating to special incarceration alternative programs for certain felony offenders in the custody of the corrections department; in Subsection A, after "treatment", deleted "general education diploma" and added "high school equivalency credential".

### **31-18-23. Three violent felony convictions; mandatory life imprisonment; exception.**

A. When a defendant is convicted of a third violent felony, and each violent felony conviction is part of a separate transaction or occurrence, and at least the third violent felony conviction is in New Mexico, the defendant shall, in addition to the sentence imposed for the third violent conviction, be punished by a sentence of life imprisonment. The life imprisonment sentence shall be subject to parole pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978.

B. The sentence of life imprisonment shall be imposed after a sentencing hearing, separate from the trial or guilty plea proceeding resulting in the third violent felony conviction, pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-24 NMSA 1978.

C. For the purpose of this section, a violent felony conviction incurred by a defendant before the defendant reaches the age of eighteen shall not count as a violent felony conviction.

D. When a defendant has a felony conviction from another state, the felony conviction shall be considered a violent felony for the purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act if that crime would be considered a violent felony in New Mexico.

E. As used in the Criminal Sentencing Act:

(1) "great bodily harm" means an injury to the person that creates a high probability of death or that causes serious disfigurement or that results in permanent loss or impairment of the function of any member or organ of the body; and



(2) "violent felony" means:

(a) murder in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

(b) shooting at or from a motor vehicle resulting in great bodily harm, as provided in Subsection B of Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

(c) kidnapping resulting in great bodily harm inflicted upon the victim by the victim's captor, as provided in Subsection B of Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978;

(d) criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Subsection C or D or Paragraph (5) or (6) of Subsection E of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978; and

(e) robbery while armed with a deadly weapon resulting in great bodily harm as provided in Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 and Subsection A of Section 30-1-12 NMSA 1978.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-18-23, enacted by Laws 1994, ch. 24, § 2; 1996, ch. 79, § 3; 2009, ch. 11, § 2.

### ANNOTATIONS

**The 2009 amendment,** effective July 1, 2009, in Subparagraph A, deleted the qualification that a defendant be punished by a sentence of life imprisonment when the sentence for the third violent conviction does not result in death; and in Subparagraph (d) of Paragraph (2) of Subsection E, added the reference to Subsection D of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978.

**The 1996 amendment,** effective July 1, 1996, substituted "sentence" for "punishment" and "when" for "and" in the first sentence of Subsection A, substituted "(5) or (6)" for "(4) or (5)" in Subparagraph E(2)(d), and made a stylistic change in Subparagraph E(2)(e).

**Applicability.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 6 provided that the provisions of this section apply to crimes committed on or after July 1, 2009.

### 31-18-24. Violent felony sentencing procedure.

A. The court shall conduct a separate sentencing proceeding to determine any controverted question of fact regarding whether the defendant has been convicted of three violent felonies. Either party to the action may demand a jury trial.

B. In a jury trial, the sentencing proceeding shall be conducted as soon as practicable by the original trial judge before the original trial jury. In a nonjury trial, the sentencing shall be conducted as soon as practicable by the original trial judge. In the

case of a plea of guilty, the sentencing proceeding shall be conducted as soon as practicable by the original trial judge or by a jury upon demand of the defendant.

C. In a jury sentencing proceeding, the judge shall give appropriate instructions and allow arguments. The jury shall retire to determine the verdict. In a nonjury sentencing proceeding, or upon a plea of guilty where no jury has been demanded, the judge shall allow argument and determine the verdict.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-18-24, enacted by Laws 1994, ch. 24, § 3.

### **31-18-25. Two violent sexual offense convictions; mandatory life imprisonment; exception.**

A. When a defendant is convicted of a second violent sexual offense, and each violent sexual offense conviction is part of a separate transaction or occurrence, and at least the second violent sexual offense conviction is in New Mexico, the defendant shall, in addition to the punishment imposed for the second violent sexual offense conviction, be punished by a sentence of life imprisonment. The life imprisonment sentence shall be subject to parole pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this section, when a defendant is convicted of a second violent sexual offense, and each violent sexual offense conviction is part of a separate transaction or occurrence, and the victim of each violent sexual offense was less than thirteen years of age at the time of the offense, and at least the second violent sexual offense conviction is in New Mexico, the defendant shall be punished by a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

C. The sentence of life imprisonment shall be imposed after a sentencing hearing, separate from the trial or guilty plea proceeding resulting in the second violent sexual offense conviction, pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-26 NMSA 1978.

D. For the purposes of this section, a violent sexual offense conviction incurred by a defendant before the defendant reaches the age of eighteen shall not count as a violent sexual offense conviction.

E. When a defendant has a felony conviction from another state, the felony conviction shall be considered a violent sexual offense for the purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act if the crime would be considered a violent sexual offense in New Mexico.

F. As used in the Criminal Sentencing Act, "violent sexual offense" means:

(1) criminal sexual penetration in the first degree, as provided in Subsection D of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978; or

(2) criminal sexual penetration in the second degree, as provided in Subsection E of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-18-25, enacted by Laws 1996, ch. 79, § 1; 1997, ch. 140, § 1; 2015, ch. 12, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2015 amendment**, effective June 19, 2015, made technical corrections to the Criminal Sentencing Act by providing the correct citations for criminal sexual penetration in the first degree and criminal sexual penetration in the second degree in the NMSA 1978; in Subsection D, after "before", deleted "he" and added "the defendant"; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection F, after "Subsection", deleted "C" and added "D"; in Paragraph (2) of Subsection F, after "Subsection", deleted "D" and added "E".

**The 1997 amendment**, effective July 1, 1997, added Subsection B; redesignated former Subsections B through E as C through F; and rewrote Subsection F.

**Definition of "violent sexual offense".** — In 2004, defendant pleaded guilty to a charge of criminal sexual penetration in the second degree for raping a fourteen-year-old minor; ten years later, defendant was convicted of criminal sexual penetration in the second degree for raping a fifteen-year-old minor; defendant argued that the state could not use 31-18-25(A) NMSA 1978 to sentence defendant to life imprisonment for a second "violent sexual offense" because 31-18-25(F)(2) NMSA 1978 defined "violent sexual offense" by reference to 30-9-11(D) NMSA 1978 which had been amended in 2007 to define criminal sexual penetration in the first degree; and the 2007 amendments moved the definition of criminal sexual penetration in the second degree to Subsection E of 30-9-11 NMSA 1978, but did not change the definition, the reorganization of 30-9-11 NMSA 1978 by the 2007 amendments did not deprive the district court of the authority to impose a life sentence upon defendant because the authority was provided in 31-18-25(A) NMSA 1978 which refers to a second violent sexual offense. *State ex rel. Brandenburg v. Sanchez*, 2014-NMSC-022.

**Multiple enhancements authorized.** — This section authorizes the imposition of multiple enhancements for multiple current convictions. *State v. McClendon*, 2001-NMSC-023, 130 N.M. 551, 28 P.3d 1092.

### **31-18-26. Two violent sexual offense convictions; sentencing procedure.**

A. The court shall conduct a separate sentencing proceeding to determine any controverted question of fact regarding whether the defendant has been convicted of two violent sexual offenses. Either party to the sentencing proceeding may demand a jury sentencing proceeding.

B. A jury sentencing proceeding shall be conducted as soon as practicable by the original trial judge before the original trial jury. A nonjury sentencing proceeding shall be conducted as soon as practicable by the original trial judge. In the case of a plea of guilty, the sentencing proceeding shall be conducted as soon as practicable by the original trial judge or by the original trial jury, upon demand of the defendant.

C. In a jury sentencing proceeding, the judge shall give appropriate instructions and allow arguments. In a nonjury sentencing proceeding, or upon a plea of guilty when the defendant has not demanded a jury, the judge shall allow arguments and determine the verdict.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-18-26, enacted by Laws 1996, ch. 79, § 2.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Construction.** — Although the statutory language "as soon as practicable" in Subsection B means that the life enhancement proceeding must be conducted without undue delay, the legislature did not intend to impose a specific time limitation on the commencement of life enhancement proceedings. *State v. Massengill*, 2003-NMCA-024, 133 N.M. 263, 62 P.3d 354, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 126, 61 P.3d 835.

**Continuance.** — In a prosecution of defendant for criminal sexual penetration and abuse of a child by endangerment, defendant's argument that the trial court erred by granting a continuance of a life enhancement sentencing proceeding was rejected on appeal, where defendant failed to demonstrate that he suffered actual prejudice in connection with the continuance of the life enhancement proceeding or that the delay violated his rights to due process or a speedy trial. *State v. Massengill*, 2003-NMCA-024, 133 N.M. 263, 62 P.3d 354, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 126, 61 P.3d 835.

### **31-18-27. Trafficking of certain amounts of fentanyl; alteration of basic sentence.**

When a separate finding of fact by a court or jury shows that a person is in possession of fentanyl in relation to a crime of trafficking a controlled substance pursuant to Section 30-31-20 NMSA 1978, the basic sentence of imprisonment prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 shall be enhanced by up to:

A. three years, if the person is in possession of between one hundred and five hundred pills, capsules or tablets containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, regardless of its concentration, or between ten and fifty grams of fentanyl powder;

B. five years, if the person is in possession of more than five hundred pills, capsules or tablets containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, regardless of its concentration, or more than fifty grams of fentanyl powder; or

C. five years, if the person has recruited, coordinated, organized, supervised, directed, managed or financed another to commit trafficking fentanyl pursuant to Section 30-31-20 NMSA 1978. The enhancement shall be in addition to, not a replacement of, charging conspiracy to commit trafficking pursuant to Section 30-28-2 NMSA 1978.

**History:** Laws 2025, ch. 4, § 17.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2025, ch. 4 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 20, 2025, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

## **ARTICLE 18A**

### **Sentencing Guidelines (Repealed.)**

#### **31-18A-1 to 31-18A-9. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1994, ch. 19, § 4, repealed 31-18A-1 to 31-18A-9 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 116, §§ 1 to 9, the Sentencing Guidelines Act, effective July 1, 1994. For provisions of former sections, see the 1993 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

## **ARTICLE 18B**

### **Hate Crimes**

#### **31-18B-1. Short title.**

This act [31-18B-1 to 31-18B-5 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Hate Crimes Act".

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 7 made the act effective July 1, 2003.

#### **31-18B-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Hate Crimes Act:

A. "age" means sixty years of age or older;

B. "gender identity" means a person's self-perception, or perception of that person by another, of the person's identity as a male or female based upon the person's appearance, behavior or physical characteristics that are in accord or opposed to the person's physical anatomy, chromosomal sex or sex at birth;

C. "disability" means that the person has a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more of that person's functions, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working;

D. "motivated by hate" means the commission of a crime with the intent to commit the crime because of the actual or perceived race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, handicapped status, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim, whether or not the offender's belief or perception was correct; and

E. "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality, whether actual or perceived.

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 2; 2007, ch. 46, § 37.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2007 amendment**, effective June 15, 2007, made non-substantive language changes.

**31-18B-3. Hate crimes; noncapital felonies, misdemeanors or petty misdemeanors committed because of the victim's actual or perceived race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity; alteration of basic sentence.**

A. When a separate finding of fact by the court or jury shows beyond a reasonable doubt that an offender committed a noncapital felony motivated by hate, the basic sentence of imprisonment prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 may be increased by one year. An increase in the basic sentence of imprisonment pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be in addition to an increase in a basic sentence prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978. A sentence imposed pursuant to the provisions of this subsection may include an alternative sentence that requires community service, treatment, education or any combination thereof. The court may suspend or defer any or all of the sentence or grant a conditional discharge, unless otherwise provided by law.

B. If a finding was entered in a previous case that the offender was convicted for committing a crime that was motivated by hate, and if a separate finding of fact by the court or jury shows beyond a reasonable doubt that in the instant case the offender

committed a noncapital felony that was motivated by hate, the basic sentence of imprisonment prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978 may be increased by two years. An increase in the basic sentence of imprisonment pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be in addition to an increase in a basic sentence prescribed for the offense in Section 31-18-17 NMSA 1978. A sentence imposed pursuant to the provisions of this subsection may include an alternative sentence that requires community service, treatment, education or any combination thereof. The court may suspend or defer any or all of the sentence, or grant a conditional discharge unless otherwise provided by law.

C. If the case is tried before a jury and if a prima facie case has been established showing that in the commission of the offense the offender was motivated by hate, the court shall submit the issue to the jury by special interrogatory. If the case is tried by the court and if a prima facie case has been established showing that in the commission of the offense the offender was motivated by hate, the court shall decide the issue and shall make a separate finding of fact regarding the issue. If the court or jury determines that the offender is guilty of the crime and finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender was motivated by hate, the court shall include that determination in the judgment and sentence.

D. When a petty misdemeanor or a misdemeanor is motivated by hate, the basic sentence of imprisonment prescribed for the offense in Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978 may include an alternative sentence that requires community service, treatment, education or any combination thereof. The court may suspend or defer any or all of the sentence or grant a conditional discharge, unless otherwise provided by law.

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 3; 2007, ch. 46, § 38.

### ANNOTATIONS

**The 2007 amendment,** effective June 15, 2007, made non-substantive language changes.

**Decisions under former 31-18-16.1 NMSA 1978.** — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 31-18-16.1 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 31-18-16.1 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

**It is solely within province of legislature to establish penalties for criminal behavior.** *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Failure to give defendant notice of enhancement.** — Robbery defendant was entitled to notice of the state's intent to seek enhancement under this section, and failure to give him such notice was reversible error. *State v. Smith*, 1990-NMCA-082, 110 N.M. 534, 797 P.2d 984, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 533, 797 P.2d 983.

Where a robbery defendant was not properly notified that the state would seek old-age enhancement of his sentence under this section before he pled and was adjudicated guilty, the state was not precluded from seeking enhancement upon remand of his case for further proceedings. *State v. Smith*, 1990-NMCA-082, 110 N.M. 534, 797 P.2d 984, cert. denied, 110 N.M. 533, 797 P.2d 983.

#### **31-18B-4. Hate crimes; data collection.**

Every district attorney and every state, county and municipal law enforcement agency, to the maximum extent possible, shall provide the federal bureau of investigation with data concerning the commission of a crime motivated by hate, in accordance with guidelines established pursuant to the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act.

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 4.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 7 made the act effective July 1, 2003.

**Cross references.** — For the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act, see notes following 28 U.S.C.S. § 534.

#### **31-18B-5. Hate crimes; law enforcement training.**

A. No later than December 31, 2003, the New Mexico law enforcement academy board shall develop and incorporate into the basic law enforcement training required, pursuant to the Law Enforcement Training Act [Chapter 29, Article 7 NMSA 1978], a course of instruction at least two hours in length concerning the detection, investigation and reporting of a crime motivated by hate.

B. The New Mexico law enforcement academy board shall develop a course of instruction, learning and performance objectives and training standards, in conjunction with appropriate groups and individuals that have an interest in and expertise regarding crimes motivated by hate. The groups and individuals shall include law enforcement agencies, law enforcement academy instructors, experts on crimes motivated by hate and members of the public.

C. In-service law enforcement training, as required pursuant to Section 29-7-7.1 NMSA 1978, shall include at least two hours of instruction that conform with the requirements set forth in Subsection B of this section.

D. Each certified regional law enforcement training facility shall incorporate into its basic law enforcement training and in-service law enforcement training a course of training described in Subsection B of this section that is comparable to or exceeds the



standards of the course of instruction developed by the New Mexico law enforcement academy board.

**History:** Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2003, ch. 384, § 7 made the act effective July 1, 2003.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **Sentencing Authority for Misdemeanors**

#### **31-19-1. Sentencing authority[;] misdemeanors; imprisonment and fines; probation.**

A. Where the defendant has been convicted of a crime constituting a misdemeanor, the judge shall sentence the person to be imprisoned in the county jail for a definite term less than one year or to the payment of a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or to both such imprisonment and fine in the discretion of the judge.

B. Where the defendant has been convicted of a crime constituting a petty misdemeanor, the judge shall sentence the person to be imprisoned in the county jail for a definite term not to exceed six months or to the payment of a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or to both such imprisonment and fine in the discretion of the judge.

C. When the court has deferred or suspended sentence, it shall order the defendant placed on supervised or unsupervised probation for all or some portion of the period of deferment or suspension.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-4, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-4; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-35, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16; 1981, ch. 18, § 1; 1984, ch. 106, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For misdemeanor penalty under Motor Vehicle Code, see 66-8-7 NMSA 1978.

**Section was not applicable** where defendant violated former 64-10-1, 1953 Comp., which was not a Criminal Code misdemeanor. *State v. Sawyers*, 1968-NMCA-051, 79 N.M. 557, 445 P.2d 978.

**Special statute controlling.** — Section 30-1-6 NMSA 1978 and this section refer generally to the sentence for misdemeanors; former 64-10-1, 1953 Comp., provided a

specific sentence for that misdemeanor. If the general statute, standing alone, would include the same matter as the special statute and thus conflict with the special statute, the special statute controls, since it is considered an exception to the general statute. *State v. Sawyers*, 1968-NMCA-051, 79 N.M. 557, 445 P.2d 978.

**Prosecution for violation of 25-3-15 NMSA 1978 regulation of meat inspection board.** — In a prosecution for violation of Section 25-3-15 NMSA 1978, declaring slaughter without inspection and sale of uninspected meat to be misdemeanors, and Section 77-2-22 NMSA 1978, declaring violation of a regulation of the meat inspection board to be a petty misdemeanor, the trial court's sentencing authority for the offense is this section. *State v. Pina*, 1977-NMCA-020, 90 N.M. 181, 561 P.2d 43.

**Confinement for more than one year in custody of corrections department.** — Defendant whose continuous sentence was for more than one year was properly sentenced to the custody of the corrections department rather than the county jail, as the place of confinement, under Sections 31-20-2A and 33-2-39 NMSA 1978, depends on the length of confinement. *State v. Musgrave*, 1984-NMCA-127, 102 N.M. 148, 692 P.2d 534.

**Maximum period of probation.** — The maximum period of probation that may be assessed in misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor cases is the maximum allowable period of incarceration for that crime, irrespective of whether a defendant is sentenced in district court or in a lower tribunal. *State v. Candelaria*, 1991-NMCA-107, 113 N.M. 288, 825 P.2d 221.

**Place of confinement is county jail.** — The place of confinement for misdemeanors under the Criminal Code is the county jail under this section. *State v. Sawyers*, 1968-NMCA-051, 79 N.M. 557, 445 P.2d 978.

**Specific sentence held lawful.** — A sentence of 364 days in a county detention center, suspended with the exception of eighteen days to be served on the defendant's days off from work or on weekends, with the remainder of the sentence to be served on unsupervised probation, is in accord with this section and is therefore appropriate and legal. *State v. Orquiz*, 2003-NMCA-089, 134 N.M. 157, 74 P.3d 91.

**Jury trial in misdemeanor cases.** — Those misdemeanors triable in district court do not provide for a trial by jury unless such crime was of the type which enjoyed and permitted trial by jury at the time of the adoption of N.M. Const., art. II, § 12. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-37.

**Magistrate court may order restitution.** — The magistrate court may, as part of its sentencing power, order a Criminal Code or Motor Vehicle Code violator to make restitution. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-18.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "The New Mexico Children's Code: Some Remaining Problems," see 10 N.M.L. Rev. 341 (1980).

For comment, "The Constitution is Constitutional - A Reply to The Constitutionality of Pretrial Detention Without Bail in New Mexico," see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 145 (1983).

For article, "Unintentional homicides caused by risk-creating conduct: Problems in distinguishing between depraved mind murder, second degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and noncriminal homicide in New Mexico," 20 N.M.L. Rev. 55 (1990).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 27, 29, 825.

Admissibility of expert testimony as to appropriate punishment for convicted defendant, 47 A.L.R.4th 1069.

Appealability of order suspending imposition or execution of sentence, 51 A.L.R.4th 939.

## **ARTICLE 19A**

### **Penalty Assessment**

#### **31-19A-1. Penalty assessment.**

A. Payment of a fine pursuant to a penalty assessment citation shall not be considered a criminal conviction.

B. Whenever a person is issued a penalty assessment under the Criminal Code, the officer shall advise the person of the option either to accept the penalty assessment and pay it to the court or to appear in court. The officer, using a uniform non-traffic citation, shall complete the information section, prepare the penalty assessment and prepare a notice to appear in court specifying the time and place to appear. The citation shall state the address to which the penalty assessment is to be paid if the person accepts the penalty assessment and does not elect to appear in court. The officer shall have the person sign the citation as a promise either to pay the penalty assessment as prescribed or to appear in court as specified, give a copy of the citation to the person and release the person from custody. An officer shall not accept custody of payment of any penalty assessment.

C. The officer may issue a warning notice, but shall fill in the information section of the citation and give a copy to the person after requiring a signature on the warning notice as an acknowledgment of receipt.

D. In order to secure release, the person shall give a written promise to appear in court or to pay the penalty assessment prescribed or acknowledge receipt of a warning notice.

E. The magistrate court or metropolitan court in the county where the alleged violation occurred has jurisdiction for any case arising from a penalty assessment under the Criminal Code.

F. A penalty assessment citation issued by a law enforcement officer shall be submitted to the appropriate magistrate court or metropolitan court within five business days of issuance. If the citation is not submitted within three business days, it may be dismissed with prejudice.

G. A citation with a written promise to appear in court or to pay the penalty assessment is a summons. If a person fails to appear or to pay the penalty assessment by the appearance date, a warrant for failure to appear may be issued.

H. A written promise to appear in court may be complied with by appearance of counsel.

I. When a person issued a penalty assessment elects to appear in court rather than to pay the penalty assessment to the court, no fine imposed upon later conviction shall exceed the penalty assessment established for the particular penalty assessment. A person who elects to appear in court shall pay the costs required by law to be collected by magistrate or metropolitan court judges.

J. Penalty assessments collected by a magistrate court or metropolitan court pursuant to this section shall be transferred to the administrative office of the courts for credit to the magistrate drug court fund.

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 217, § 3.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2019, ch. 217, § 5 made Laws 2019, ch. 217 effective July 1, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** – Laws 2019, ch. 217, § 4 provided that the New Mexico compilation commission shall compile Section 3 [31-19A-1 NMSA 1978] of this act in a new article of Chapter 31 NMSA 1978.

## **ARTICLE 20**

### **Sentencing**

#### **31-20-1. Sentence of corporations.**

The court may sentence any corporation, club, organization or unincorporated association which has been convicted of a crime to pay a fine authorized by the Criminal Code [30-1-1 NMSA 1978].

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-12, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-12; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-36 by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 18B Am. Jur. 2d Corporations § 2146.

Applicability of criminal statute to corporation as affected by character of punishment or penalty imposed, 80 A.L.R.3d 1220.

19 C.J.S. Corporations §§ 736 to 739.

### **31-20-2. Place of imprisonment; commitments.**

A. Persons sentenced to imprisonment for a term of one year or more shall be imprisoned in a corrections facility designated by the corrections department, unless a new trial is granted or a portion of the sentence is suspended so as to provide for imprisonment for not more than eighteen months; then the imprisonment may be in such place of incarceration, other than a corrections facility under the jurisdiction of the corrections department, as the sentencing judge, in his discretion, may prescribe; provided that a sentence of imprisonment for one year or more but not more than eighteen months shall be subject to the provisions of Subsections D and E of this section and shall not be imposed unless the requirements set forth in Subsection D of this section are satisfied.

B. All commitments, judgments and orders of the courts of this state for the imprisonment or release of persons in the penitentiary shall run to the corrections department, but nothing contained in this section shall invalidate or impair the validity of any commitment, judgment or order of any court in this state directed to the secretary of corrections, the warden of the penitentiary of New Mexico or to the penitentiary of New Mexico, and all such commitments, judgments and orders shall be treated and construed as running to the corrections department.

C. There is created within the corrections department an "intake and classification center". The intake and classification center shall have the following duties:

- (1) process all inmates sentenced or committed for purposes of diagnosis to the corrections department;
- (2) classify inmates for housing assignments;
- (3) develop an individualized plan for participation by each inmate in programs, work assignments and special needs;

(4) monitor each inmate's progress during incarceration and reclassify or modify classification assignments as may be necessary, taking into consideration the overall needs of the inmate population, institutional and facility requirements and the individual inmate's needs;

(5) with the approval of the secretary of corrections, may transfer inmates of the penitentiary to an institution under the control of another state if that state has entered into a corrections control agreement with New Mexico; and

(6) with the approval of the secretary of corrections, may transfer inmates to any facility, including the forensic hospital under the jurisdiction of the department of health.

D. A sentence of one year or more but not more than eighteen months and providing for imprisonment in a place of incarceration other than a corrections facility under the jurisdiction of the corrections department pursuant to Subsection A of this section, which shall be known as the local sentencing option, shall not be imposed unless:

(1) the place of incarceration is located within the county in which the crime was committed; and

(2) the governing authority in charge of the place of incarceration has entered into a joint powers agreement with the corrections department setting forth:

(a) the amount of money the corrections department shall pay for offenders sentenced to a term of one year or more but not more than eighteen months and the number of offenders which may be sentenced to such terms; and

(b) any other provisions deemed appropriate and agreed to by the local governing body and the corrections department.

E. If a judge imposes a sentence of one year or more but not more than eighteen months and provides for imprisonment in a place of incarceration other than a corrections facility under the jurisdiction of the corrections department:

(1) the local governing body or its agent shall have the ability to petition that judge when the capacity of the place of incarceration is filled or when any problem develops concerning that offender requesting the judge to issue an order committing the offender to the corrections department for completion of the remainder of his sentence. A hearing on a petition pursuant to this paragraph shall be held within three days of the filing of the petition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the judge shall retain jurisdiction over the offender for the purpose of implementing the local sentencing option; and

(2) the local governing body or its agent shall keep the district judges for the judicial district in which the place of incarceration is located informed as to the capacity for the sentencing of offenders in accordance with the local sentencing option. No judge shall sentence an offender in accordance with the local sentencing option if that sentence will result in exceeding the number of offenders set forth in the joint powers agreement.

F. The corrections department shall file an annual report with the legislature which shall contain the number of joint powers agreements in operation pursuant to this section, copies of those agreements, the number of offenders currently incarcerated pursuant to those agreements and any other relevant information relating to the implementation of this section.

G. The corrections department may enter into contracts with public or private detention facilities for the purpose of housing inmates lawfully committed to the corrections department. Any facility with which the department contracts shall meet or exceed corrections department standards prior to the housing of any inmates within the facility and shall meet certification requirements for prisons within eighteen months of entering into such contracts. The contractor shall adhere to all appropriate corrections department policies and procedures and shall agree to have staff trained at the corrections department training academy.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-13, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-13; 1972, ch. 71, § 3; 1973, ch. 383, § 1; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-37, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16; 1978, ch. 106, § 1; 1981, ch. 9, § 1; 1987, ch. 51, § 1; 1993, ch. 81, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For Interstate Corrections Compact, see 31-5-17 and 31-5-18 NMSA 1978.

For contracts with the United States attorney general for the housing of convicted offenders, see 31-5-19 NMSA 1978.

For judgment of imprisonment for more than one year to be in corrections facility, see 33-2-19 NMSA 1978.

For determination of sentence upon several commitments, see 33-2-39 NMSA 1978.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective July 1, 1993, substituted "contained in this section" for "herein contained" and "secretary of corrections" for "superintendent" in Subsection B; substituted "department of health" for "health and environment department" in Subsection C(6); substituted "this section" for "this act" in two places in Subsection F; and added Subsection G.

**Liability for cost of incarceration in county jail.** — The department of corrections is responsible for the costs of housing parole violators who are incarcerated in a county jail at the request of the department of corrections. *State ex rel., San Miguel Bd of Cnty. Comm'rs v. Williams*, 2007-NMCA-036, 141 N. M. 356, 155 P.3d 761, cert. denied, 2007-NMCERT-003, 141 N.M. 401, 156 P.3d 39.

**The provisions of Subsection D are mandatory,** not discretionary. *State v. Ruiz*, 1989-NMCA-109, 109 N.M. 437, 786 P.2d 51, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 419, 785 P.2d 1038 (1990).

**Once the defendant's plea is accepted and judgment entered, court has four options:** (1) it can sentence the defendant and execute the sentence, committing him to prison; (2) it can commit the defendant for a 60-day diagnostic term; (3) it can sentence the defendant and suspend the execution of the sentence; or (4) it can enter an order deferring the imposition of the sentence. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Rights not created.** — Provisions relating to mechanisms by which corrections officials can arrange to transfer inmates needing psychiatric care to an appropriate facility were not meant to create rights enforceable by inmates against state officials; thus, this section did not create a liberty interest subject to due process protections. *Riddle v. Mondragon*, 83 F.3d 1197 (10th Cir. 1996).

**Order committing defendant to state hospital for indeterminate period not valid sentence.** — An order directing that the defendant be transported to the state hospital for an indeterminate period and then be returned to the district court for sentencing is not a valid sentence permitted by law, nor does it constitute a final judgment and sentence for purposes of an appeal. *State v. Garcia*, 1983-NMCA-017, 99 N.M. 466, 659 P.2d 918.

**Effect of commitment flaws on judgment.** — Valid judgment is not to be nullified by the flaws in the commitment. *Shankle v. Woodruff*, 1958-NMSC-054, 64 N.M. 88, 324 P.2d 1017.

**Effect of misnomer.** — Prisoners were not denied habeas corpus where they were sentenced to the "New Mexico penitentiary" instead of "to the penitentiary of New Mexico" because the misnomer, if one existed, was a clerical error which did not affect any substantial right of the appellants. *Carter v. New Mexico*, 358 F.2d 710 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 385 U.S. 873, 87 S. Ct. 146, 17 L. Ed. 2d 100 (1966).

**Effect of section where one-year maximum sentence.** — Where defendant has a valid maximum sentence of not more than one year, under Section 33-2-19 NMSA 1978 or this section, the proper place of his confinement is the state penitentiary. *State v. Sawyers*, 1968-NMCA-051, 79 N.M. 557, 445 P.2d 978.



**Calculation of sentence.** — Under Section 33-2-19 NMSA 1978, defendant's sentence to one year would be calculated as a sentence of less than one year after crediting his pre-sentence time served; thus, the law did not require the court to sentence him to prison, and his sentence to jail was legal. *State v. Brown*, 1999-NMSC-004, 126 N.M. 642, 974 P.2d 136.

**Transfer from New Mexico to Texas.** — Because a transfer of prisoners from New Mexico to Texas does not affect the duration of a sentence, a transfer must impose an atypical or a significant hardship before it can be held to create a liberty interest under state law. *Jordan v. Bowles*, No. 96-2169, 124 F.3d 217 (Table) (unpublished) (10th Cir. 1997).

**Confinement in county jail held improper.** — District court lacked authority to order defendant confined in the county jail, where defendant's "sentence" was the one-year term imposed by the judgment of the district court, not the 363 days remaining to be served on that sentence after imposition of the sentence. *State v. Ruiz*, 1989-NMCA-109, 109 N.M. 437, 786 P.2d 51, cert. denied, 109 N.M. 419, 785 P.2d 1038 (1990).

**Contracting with counties for housing of inmates.** — Corrections department cannot contract with counties for the housing of inmates committed to the department. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-53.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico criminal procedure, see 16 N.M.L. Rev. 25 (1986).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 24 et seq., 825; 32 Am. Jur. 2d False Imprisonment § 16; 60 Am. Jur. 2d Penal and Correctional Institutions, § 13; 75B Am. Jur. 2d Trial § 1828.

When, under terms of Federal Youth Corrections Act (18 USCS §§ 5005 et seq.), must prisoner serving youth corrections sentence be segregated from adult prison population, 59 A.L.R. Fed. 746.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1589, 1590.

### **31-20-3. Order deferring or suspending sentence; diagnostic commitment.**

Upon entry of a judgment of conviction of any crime not constituting a capital or first degree felony, any court having jurisdiction when it is satisfied that the ends of justice and the best interest of the public as well as the defendant will be served thereby, may either:

- A. enter an order deferring the imposition of sentence;

B. sentence the defendant and enter an order suspending in whole or in part the execution of the sentence; or

C. commit the convicted person, if convicted of a felony and not committed for diagnostic purposes within the twelve-month period immediately preceding that conviction, to the department of corrections [corrections department] for an indeterminate period not to exceed sixty days for purposes of diagnosis, with direction that the court be given a report when the diagnosis is complete as to what disposition appears best when the interest of the public and the individual are evaluated.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-15, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-15; 1971, ch. 204, § 4; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-39, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16; 1985, ch. 159, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Bracketed material.** — The bracketed material in Subsection C was inserted by the compiler, as Laws 1977, ch. 257, § 4, abolished the department of corrections. Laws 1977, ch. 257, § 14, transferred all employees, equipment, etc., of this department to the criminal justice department. Laws 1980, ch. 150, § 3, changed the name of this department to the "corrections and criminal rehabilitations department." Laws 1981, ch. 73, § 1, changed the name of this department to the "corrections department." See 9-3-3 NMSA 1978. The bracketed material is not part of the law.

**Constitutionality.** — Laws 1909, ch. 32, § 1 (repealed), giving court power to suspend sentences, did not encroach upon constitutional power of execution to grant reprieves and pardons. *Ex parte Bates*, 1915-NMSC-060, 20 N.M. 542, 151 P. 698.

**It is solely within province of legislature to establish penalties for criminal behavior.** *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Once the defendant's plea is accepted and judgment entered, court has four options:** (1) it can sentence the defendant and execute the sentence, committing him to prison; (2) it can commit the defendant for a 60-day diagnostic term; (3) it can sentence the defendant and suspend the execution of the sentence; or (4) it can enter an order deferring the imposition of the sentence. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Prior conviction, not prior sentence, is dispositive for repeat offender status.** — Where defendant was convicted of drug charges in New Mexico; the New Mexico court deferred defendant's sentence for a two-year probationary period; the sentence was a final judgment subject to appeal; and after defendant successfully completed the probation, defendant was entitled to have the New Mexico charges dismissed, the deferred sentence was a prior conviction for purposes of sentence enhancement. *United States v. Meraz*, 998 F.2d 182 (10th Cir. 1993).

**Deferred sentence modified to conditional discharge.** — Modification from a deferred sentence to a conditional discharge was an authorized sentence reduction under this section and Rule 5-801 NMRA. *State v. Herbstman*, 1999-NMCA-014, 126 N.M. 683, 974 P.2d 177.

**Mandatory sentencing does not violate doctrine of separation of powers** contained in N.M. Const., art. III, § 1. *State v. Mabry*, 1981-NMSC-067, 96 N.M. 317, 630 P.2d 269.

**Effect of excepting sentencing for capital or first-degree felony.** — The exception of capital or first-degree felonies from the list of the offenses for which the court may defer or suspend all or a portion of a sentence does not make sentencing for capital or first-degree felonies unconstitutional as cruel and unusual punishment. *State v. Garcia*, 1983-NMCA-069, 100 N.M. 120, 666 P.2d 1267, cert. denied, 100 N.M. 192, 668 P.2d 308.

**Sentencing scheme for suspension and deferment is not unconstitutionally vague.** *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Jurisdiction to increase punishment by new sentence.** — A trial court is without power to set aside a valid sentence after the defendant has been committed thereunder, and impose a new or different sentence increasing the punishment. A judgment which attempts to do so is void and the original judgment remains in force. *State v. Baros*, 1968-NMSC-001, 78 N.M. 623, 435 P.2d 1005.

**Suspended or deferred sentence within court's discretion.** — Of the sentencing alternatives available, a suspended or deferred sentence is within the discretion of the trial court. *State v. Madrigal*, 1973-NMCA-116, 85 N.M. 496, 513 P.2d 1278, cert. denied, 85 N.M. 483, 513 P.2d 1265.

**Suspension matter of clemency.** — Suspension of a sentence is a matter of clemency committed to the discretion of the trial court. *Ewing v. State*, 1969-NMCA-080, 80 N.M. 558, 458 P.2d 810.

**Suspension not a matter of right.** — Suspension or deferment of sentence is not a matter of right but is an act of clemency and committed to the discretion of the trial court. *State v. Serrano*, 1966-NMSC-166, 76 N.M. 655, 417 P.2d 795.

**Suspension within court's discretion.** — The suspension of execution of a sentence, or any portion thereof, is not a matter of right in the defendant, but is a matter of clemency committed to the discretion of the sentencing court in the criminal proceedings. *State v. Knight*, 1967-NMSC-241, 78 N.M. 482, 432 P.2d 838.

**No authority to defer until conviction.** — The court has no power or authority to defer a sentence and impose obligations of probation upon a person charged with a crime,

until that person is convicted of the crime. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Express adjudication of guilt not needed.** — An express adjudication of conviction, or finding of guilt, is not necessary if it is apparent from other matters in the record that the court made a judicial determination of conviction or guilt. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Effect of nolo contendere plea.** — Upon the acceptance of the plea of nolo contendere and entry of "judgment and sentence," by which the court deferred sentence and imposed conditions of probation, there was a determination of guilt, or a pronouncement of judgment. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Effect of sentence deferral.** — An order deferring sentence in no way represents a suspension or a final sentence, at least for purposes of jurisdiction. Where deferral is ordered for the purpose of additional evaluation as recommended by department of corrections, a statutory sentence subsequently imposed is not a second sentence, but the first sentence imposed in the case. There is no second sentence raising a double jeopardy issue and no absence of authority in the trial court to impose the statutory sentence. *State v. Wood*, 1974-NMCA-113, 86 N.M. 731, 527 P.2d 494, cert. denied, 86 N.M. 730, 527 P.2d 493.

**No abuse of discretion.** — Trial court did not abuse its discretion by not adopting report of the psychiatrist or in not requesting diagnosis and recommendation from the department of corrections (now corrections department) as pertaining to defendant who pleaded guilty to count of contributing to delinquency of a minor. *State v. Hogan*, 1972-NMCA-037, 83 N.M. 608, 495 P.2d 388.

**Sentence not unjust or improper.** — Where the sentence in this case was in accordance with law, an appellate court cannot say it was unjust or improper in the circumstances because recommendations for a more lenient sentence were not followed or by imposing the statutory sentence on a 17-year-old first offender. *State v. Madrigal*, 1973-NMCA-116, 85 N.M. 496, 513 P.2d 1278, cert. denied, 85 N.M. 483, 513 P.2d 1265.

**Difference between suspension and deferral** is that suspension involves a sentence imposed while deferral does not. With suspension, the sentence having been imposed, the court cannot later alter the sentence upwards. With deferral, no sentence having been imposed, the court may give any sentence it could originally have given. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Invalid grounds of sentence deferral.** — A trial court may not defer sentencing after a conviction on condition that the defendant serve a certain period of time in a county jail

and abide by terms of a probation agreement. *State v. Lopez*, 1982-NMCA-163, 99 N.M. 791, 664 P.2d 989.

**Constitutional to impose three-year sentence when sentencing originally deferred for two years.** — The imposition of a three-year sentence when sentencing was originally deferred for two years does not violate the prohibition on double jeopardy, when the first sentence imposed is when the defendant's probation is revoked. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Suspension order must include any restrictions.** — Restrictions to be imposed upon conduct of person under suspended sentence were to be specified in order of suspension. *Ex parte Selig*, 1924-NMSC-020, 29 N.M. 430, 223 P. 97; *Ex parte Hamm*, 1918-NMSC-058, 24 N.M. 33, 172 P. 190, 1918D L.R.A. 694.

**Effect where good behavior required.** — The words "good behavior," as used in order suspending sentence during good behavior, meant conduct conformable to law, and required no higher standard of conduct than the law demanded. *Ex parte Hamm*, 1918-NMSC-058, 24 N.M. 33, 172 P. 190, 1918D L.R.A. 694.

**Jurisdiction after seven years.** — Where defendant entered plea of nolo contendere to charge of contributing to delinquency of a minor and sentence was deferred until further order of court, lapse of almost seven years time did not deprive court of jurisdiction to impose sentence. *State v. Sorrows*, 1957-NMSC-091, 63 N.M. 277, 317 P.2d 324.

**Reasonable investigation contemplated.** — The statutes permitting the court to suspend or defer a sentence contemplate that reasonable investigation be made by the court in cases where probation is indicated, but no procedure is prescribed for such investigation, nor does the statute specify the character or quantum of evidence necessary to warrant the suspension or deferral of sentence. *State v. Serrano*, 1966-NMSC-166, 76 N.M. 655, 417 P.2d 795.

**Effect of refusal to hear testimony.** — The refusal of the trial court to hear the offered testimony upon application for suspension, or deferral of sentence, does not justify reversal since the statute makes no requirement that the contemplated investigation shall include a trial, or hearing, nor does the statute by implication, or otherwise, grant the defendant the right to introduce testimony in support of his request. *State v. Serrano*, 1966-NMSC-166, 76 N.M. 655, 417 P.2d 795.

**Presumption where no reason for denial given.** — Where defendant's counsel asked the court to place defendant on probation before sentence was imposed, and no reasons were given by the court for denying probation, it is presumed the court considered the question of probation before sentencing defendant to the penitentiary. *State v. Follis*, 1970-NMCA-083, 81 N.M. 690, 472 P.2d 655.

**Credits allowed on unsuspended portion of sentence.** — Good time credits shall be allowed to be deducted from the maximum unsuspended portion of a sentence for purposes of determining entitlement of right to release from imprisonment where other provisions of the law do not circumscribe the minimum imprisonment to be served. *Coutts v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-027, 75 N.M. 761, 411 P.2d 347.

**Additional sentences for firearm use and habitual offender status cannot be served concurrently.** *State v. Mayberry*, 1982-NMCA-061, 97 N.M. 760, 643 P.2d 629.

**Partial suspension with probation authorized.** — A sentencing judge has the authority to suspend a sentence in part and then order probation for all or some of the portion which is suspended. *State v. Sinyard*, 1983-NMCA-150, 100 N.M. 694, 675 P.2d 426, cert. denied, 100 N.M. 689, 675 P.2d 421.

**Court authorized to suspend or defer sentence for second heroin trafficking conviction.** — A life sentence is not mandatory for a second conviction of trafficking in heroin and the court has the authority to suspend or defer the sentence imposed. *State v. Sanchez*, 1982-NMSC-032, 97 N.M. 521, 641 P.2d 1068.

**Order committing defendant to state hospital for indeterminate period not valid sentence.** — An order directing that the defendant be transported to the state hospital for an indeterminate period and then be returned to the district court for sentencing is not a valid sentence permitted by law, nor does it constitute a final judgment and sentence for purposes of an appeal. *State v. Garcia*, 1983-NMCA-017, 99 N.M. 466, 659 P.2d 918.

**The legislature has imposed a 60-day maximum limitation on diagnostic commitments,** and the court is without authority to impose a second diagnostic commitment or an indefinite commitment in the same cause. *State v. Garcia*, 1983-NMCA-017, 99 N.M. 466, 659 P.2d 918.

**Diagnostic commitment not required prior to imposing sentence.** — The court is not required to order a diagnostic commitment prior to imposing sentence. *State v. Watchman*, 1991-NMCA-010, 111 N.M. 727, 809 P.2d 641, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227, *overruled in part on other grounds by State v. Hosteen*, 1996-NMCA-084, 122 N.M. 228, 923 P.2d 595.

**Diagnostic evaluation not merited.** — Where the state argued that a 60-day evaluation was not necessary because the trial court had before it evidence of nine years of psychological evaluations, as well as the testimony of two mental health experts, it was within the court's discretion, based on the information before it, to conclude that a diagnostic evaluation was not merited. *State v. Mireles*, 2004-NMCA-100, 136 N.M. 337, 98 P.3d 727, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-008, 136 N.M. 492, 100 P.3d 197.

**Suspended sentence void.** — A court which is not encompassed in this statute does not have the authority to suspend a sentence and any suspension of a sentence by those courts is void. 1955 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 55-6163.

**Indefinite deferral not allowed.** — In the case of a defendant in a felony case who is convicted or pleads guilty, a district judge may not enter an order stating that the judgment and sentence of the court is "deferred indefinitely." 1960 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-31.

**Requirement to leave jurisdiction void.** — A suspended sentence, whether valid or invalid as to the right of the court to suspend, is absolutely a void sentence when imposed with the condition that the defendant leave and remain away from the jurisdiction. 1955 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 55-6163.

**Sentencing where released person apprehended.** — If the suspension of the sentence is void and the person after sentence is released, the sentence may then be imposed at any time the person is apprehended. The defendant falls into the category of an escaped convict at the time he is released after a void sentence suspension. 1955 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 55-6163.

**Payment of transportation costs for diagnostic evaluation.** — The state is required to pay transportation costs for prisoners committed for diagnostic evaluation under this section. 1972 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 72-20.

**Magistrate court may order restitution.** — The magistrate court may, as part of its sentencing power, order a Criminal Code or Motor Vehicle Code violator to make restitution. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-18.

**Law reviews.** — For article, " 'To Purify the Bar': A Constitutional Approach to Non-Professional Misconduct," see 5 Nat. Resources J. 299 (1965).

For comment, "Criminal Procedure - Preventive Detention in New Mexico," see 4 N.M.L. Rev. 247 (1974).

For article, "Defending the Criminal Alien in New Mexico: Tactics and Strategy to Avoid Deportation," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 45 (1978-79).

For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal law, see 13 N.M.L. Rev. 323 (1983).

For article, "Unintentional homicides caused by risk-creating conduct: Problems in distinguishing between depraved mind murder, second degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and noncriminal homicide in New Mexico," 20 N.M.L. Rev. 55 (1990).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 896 et seq.

Constitutionality of statute conferring on court power to suspend sentence, 26 A.L.R. 399, 101 A.L.R. 402.

Are sentences on different counts to be regarded as for a single term or for separate terms as regards suspension of sentence, 107 A.L.R. 634.

Imposition or enforcement of sentence which has been suspended without authority, 141 A.L.R. 1225.

Loss of jurisdiction by delay in imposing sentence, 98 A.L.R.3d 605.

Admissibility of expert testimony as to appropriate punishment for convicted defendant, 47 A.L.R.4th 1069.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1550 to 1552.

### **31-20-4. Application of order deferring or suspending sentence.**

An order deferring or suspending sentence may be limited to one or more counts or indictments, but, in the absence of express limitation, it shall extend to the entire judgment.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-16, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-16; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-40, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Suspension or deferment not matter of right.** — The suspension or deferment of a sentence is not a matter of right but is an act of clemency within the trial court's discretion. *State v. Follis*, 1970-NMCA-083, 81 N.M. 690, 472 P.2d 655.

**Contradictory judgment renders improper sentence.** — Where the trial court deferred a sentence of imprisonment and imposed sentence of a fine for the same offense, either the deferral or the fine is subject to being stricken as an improper sentence, and the execution of either part of the sentence renders the remaining part void. *State v. Aragon*, 1979-NMCA-074, 93 N.M. 132, 597 P.2d 317.

**When probation requirements ineffective.** — Once a deferred sentence becomes void, the probation requirements are no longer in effect. *State v. Aragon*, 1979-NMCA-074, 93 N.M. 132, 597 P.2d 317.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 898.



### **31-20-5. Placing defendant on probation.**

A. When a person has been convicted of a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment is authorized and when the magistrate, metropolitan or district court has deferred or suspended sentence, it shall order the defendant to be placed on probation for all or some portion of the period of deferment or suspension if the defendant is in need of supervision, guidance or direction that is feasible for the corrections department to furnish. Except for sex offenders as provided in Section 31-20-5.2 NMSA 1978, the total period of probation for district court shall not exceed five years and the total period of probation for the magistrate or metropolitan courts shall be no longer than the maximum allowable incarceration time for the offense or as otherwise provided by law.

B. If a defendant is required to serve a period of probation subsequent to a period of incarceration:

(1) the period of probation shall be served subsequent to any required period of parole, with the time served on parole credited as time served on the period of probation and the conditions of probation imposed by the court deemed as additional conditions of parole; and

(2) in the event that the defendant violates any condition of that parole, the parole board shall cause the defendant to be brought before it pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-21-14 NMSA 1978 and may make any disposition authorized pursuant to that section and, if parole is revoked, the period of parole served in the custody of a correctional facility shall not be credited as time served on probation.

C. A defendant shall automatically be released from probation if the defendant:

- (1) is classified as a minimum level risk by a validated scoring instrument;
- (2) has met all of the obligations of the defendant's probation; and
- (3) has completed one-half or more of the period of probation.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-17, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-17; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-41, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16; 1984, ch. 106, § 2; 1985, ch. 75, § 1; 2003 (1st S.S.), ch. 1, § 6; 2025, ch. 79, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, allowed a minimum risk defendant to be released from probation under certain circumstances; and added Subsection C.

**The 2003 (1st S.S.) amendment**, effective February 3, 2004, substituted "corrections department to furnish. Except for sex offenders as provided in Section 31-20-5.2 NMSA

1978" for "field services division of the corrections department to furnish; provided, however" near the middle of Subsection A.

**Application to multiple sentences.** — Where the defendant was serving two separate sentences for two separate convictions, the defendant's failure to successfully complete parole in one case tolled the time for bringing a probation revocation petition in the second case. *State v. Neal*, 2007-NMCA-086, 142 N.M. 487, 167 P.3d 935.

**Legislative intent.** — Legislature clearly intended in this section to give the sentencing judge authority to withhold the imposition of probation upon suspending a sentence. Probation was not "automatic" where defendant's sentence was suspended and this is further buttressed by the permissive language of Section 31-20-6 NMSA 1978. *State v. Soria*, 1971-NMCA-042, 82 N.M. 509, 484 P.2d 351.

**Probation required.** — This section provides that where a defendant receives a deferred or suspended sentence, the court must order probation. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Deferred or suspended sentence always entails mandatory probation** with conditions attached. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Probation is part of suspended or deferred sentence.** *State v. Baca*, 2005-NMCA-001, 136 N.M. 667, 104 P.3d 533, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-012, 136 N.M. 665, 103 P.3d 1097.

**Difference between suspension and deferral** is that suspension involves a sentence imposed while deferral does not. With suspension, the sentence having been imposed, the court cannot later alter the sentence upwards. With deferral, no sentence having been imposed, the court may give any sentence it could originally have given. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Five-year probation limitation applies in aggregate.** — Both the internal wording of this section and the legislative history suggest that the five-year limitation applies in the aggregate. *State v. Devigne*, 1981-NMCA-088, 96 N.M. 561, 632 P.2d 1199.

The total period of probation that may be imposed on a defendant for convictions that occurred at one trial is five years, even though the aggregate sum of the suspended sentences exceeds five years. *State v. Devigne*, 1981-NMCA-088, 96 N.M. 561, 632 P.2d 1199.

**Sentence which required consecutive five-year terms of probation was illegal.** — Where four different indictments were filed against petitioner charging him with sixteen crimes which occurred between June 1, 2010 and June 3, 2010, and where the district court granted the state's motion to consolidate the four cases for plea and disposition, and where, following petitioner's guilty plea to all sixteen of the original charges, the

district court ordered that the sentences in each case be served consecutively, but suspended the sentences in each case and ordered consecutive five-year terms of probation, and where, following multiple probation violations and multiple revocations and reinstatements of probation, petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus, asserting that he was illegally sentenced and did not receive proper credit calculations, the district court erred in denying the petition for writ of habeas corpus, because the structure of the judgment and sentence in this case required petitioner to serve more than ten years of probation in violation of NMSA 1978, 31-20-5(A), which limits a term of probation to five years. When two or more cases are consolidated for a plea and sentencing, if the district court in its discretion suspends all or part of the sentence, only a single term of probation, not to exceed five years, can be imposed. *Torres v. Santistevan*, 2023-NMSC-021.

**Maximum period of probation that court may impose as sentencing is a total of five years**, regardless of the number of convictions, not that five years is the total amount of time a defendant can serve on probation, regardless of the number of violations. *State v. Baca*, 2005-NMCA-001, 136 N.M. 667, 104 P.3d 533, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-012, 136 N.M. 665, 103 P.3d 1097.

**Effect where no fixed period of probation specified.** — When a defendant is placed on probation, without a fixed period being specified, then that period of probation is the maximum set by this section. *State v. Baca*, 1977-NMCA-030, 90 N.M. 280, 562 P.2d 841.

**Probation may not exceed maximum sentence.** — Trial court erred in setting six-year probation period for defendant who pleaded guilty to two fourth-degree felony charges where sentences were to be served concurrently, since the maximum sentence for a fourth-degree felony was a penitentiary term of five years, and the period of probation could not exceed that of the maximum sentence prescribed by law for the commission of the crime for which he was convicted. *State v. Crespin*, 1977-NMCA-046, 90 N.M. 434, 564 P.2d 998.

**Maximum length of probation.** — This section limits the maximum length of probation to the maximum imprisonment which could have been imposed. *State v. Gonzales*, 1981-NMCA-086, 96 N.M. 556, 632 P.2d 1194.

**Maximum period for misdemeanors.** — The maximum period of probation that may be assessed in misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor cases is the maximum allowable period of incarceration for that crime, irrespective of whether a defendant is sentenced in district court or in a lower tribunal. *State v. Candelaria*, 1991-NMCA-107, 113 N.M. 288, 825 P.2d 221.

**Partial suspension with probation authorized.** — A sentencing judge has the authority to suspend a sentence in part and then order probation for all or some of the portion which is suspended. *State v. Sinyard*, 1983-NMCA-150, 100 N.M. 694, 675 P.2d 426, cert. denied, 100 N.M. 689, 675 P.2d 421.

**Court may suspend defendant's 18-month term, impose five-year probation. —**

The trial court's judgment in suspending part of defendant's term of incarceration and imposing a five-year term of supervised probation was upheld by this section, even though defendant had been convicted of a fourth-degree felony with a basic term of incarceration of 18 months. *State v. Encinias*, 1986-NMCA-049, 104 N.M. 740, 726 P.2d 1174, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 632, 725 P.2d 832.

**Parole term not part of maximum sentence for determining probation. —** The term of parole included in the original sentence is not to be utilized in determining the maximum length of probation under a suspended sentence. *State v. Gonzales*, 1981-NMCA-086, 96 N.M. 556, 632 P.2d 1194.

**When probation requirements ineffective. —** Once a deferred sentence becomes void, the probation requirements are no longer in effect. *State v. Aragon*, 1979-NMCA-074, 93 N.M. 132, 597 P.2d 317.

**When probationary part of sentence void. —** Where the court ordered a defendant placed on probation without deferring or suspending any of his sentences, this action is not within the bounds prescribed by law, and therefore, the probationary part of defendant's sentence is void. *State v. Nolan*, 1979-NMCA-116, 93 N.M. 472, 601 P.2d 442, cert. denied, 93 N.M. 683, 604 P.2d 821.

**Parole time to be credited in all cases. —** The legislature clearly intended that the parole time served prior to a period of probation would be credited in all cases; there is nothing in the statute indicating that it is to be applied only in those cases where the sentencing order is not specific in ordering that probation be served after the term of incarceration. Furthermore, the trial court may not ignore the mandate of the legislature in crafting a sentence. *State v. Muniz*, 1995-NMCA-024, 119 N.M. 634, 894 P.2d 411.

The trial court does not have the authority to order that a probation period be served consecutively to a parole period without the credit that is awarded by statute. *State v. Muniz*, 1995-NMCA-024, 119 N.M. 634, 894 P.2d 411.

**Time served on probation not credited as time served on parole. —** Because the court sentenced defendant to jail and not to prison, parole was not authorized; and, although Subsection B allows the time served on parole to be credited as time served on probation, no provision exists allowing the time served on probation to be credited as time served on parole. *State v. Brown*, 1999-NMSC-004, 126 N.M. 642, 974 P.2d 136.

**When court may revoke suspension. —** The court has the power to revoke the suspension of sentence and to thereupon invoke the same, upon proof being made of the violation of the conditions of probation. *State v. Baca*, 1969-NMCA-076, 80 N.M. 527, 458 P.2d 602.

**Subsequent criminal conviction not necessary.** — A conviction of a subsequent criminal offense is not necessary to the revocation of suspension and the invocation of a prior suspended sentence. *State v. Baca*, 1969-NMCA-076, 80 N.M. 527, 458 P.2d 602.

**Degree of proof of violation.** — The degree of proof required to support a finding of a violation of probation is met when the evidence establishes a violation of the conditions of probation with such reasonable certainty as to satisfy the conscience of the court of the truth of the violation. It does not have to be established beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Baca*, 1969-NMCA-076, 80 N.M. 527, 458 P.2d 602.

**Statutory handling for probation violation.** — Because the terms of probation are defined by the probation statutes, a probation violation must be handled as prescribed in 31-21-15 NMSA 1978. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Violation of probation must be established with reasonable certainty** so as to satisfy the conscience of the court as to the truth of the violation; however, a violation of probation need not be established beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Martinez*, 1972-NMCA-135, 84 N.M. 295, 502 P.2d 320.

**No power to defer until conviction.** — The court has no power or authority to defer a sentence and impose obligations of probation upon a person charged with a crime, until that person is convicted of the crime. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Express adjudication of guilt not necessary.** — An express adjudication of conviction, or finding of guilt, is not necessary if it is apparent from other matters in the record that the court made a judicial determination of conviction or guilt. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Effect of nolo contendere plea.** — Upon the acceptance of the plea of nolo contendere and entry of "judgment and sentence," by which the court deferred sentence and imposed conditions of probation, there was a determination of guilt, or a pronouncement of judgment. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Suspension or deferment not matter of right.** — Suspension or deferment of a sentence is not a matter of right but is an act of clemency. *State v. Baca*, 1977-NMCA-030, 90 N.M. 280, 562 P.2d 841.

**No amendment of judgment or sentence allowed.** — Where district court, when it sentenced defendant to six months in county jail and suspended the balance of the sentence without probation, issued a valid original judgment and sentence, accordingly could not amend that judgment and sentence to add the conditions of probation, since a valid sentence may not be amended by increasing the penalty. *State v. Soria*, 1971-NMCA-042, 82 N.M. 509, 484 P.2d 351.

**Effect where probation conditions not in deferred sentence; amendment.** — In determining whether there is a violation of probation, an appellate court must look to the trial court's order. If the deferred sentence does not set out the conditions of probation, there are no conditions to be violated and conditions may not be added by amendment subsequent to imposition of a valid original judgment. *State v. Martinez*, 1972-NMCA-135, 84 N.M. 295, 502 P.2d 320.

**Conditions of probation should be made clear in judgment.** *State v. Martinez*, 1972-NMCA-135, 84 N.M. 295, 502 P.2d 320.

**Probation violation necessary to revoke probation.** — The trial court has authority to revoke defendant's probation and impose the penitentiary sentence; however, to do so, a violation of probation must be established. *State v. Martinez*, 1972-NMCA-135, 84 N.M. 295, 502 P.2d 320.

**Incarceration after violation not required.** — Neither this section nor Section 31-21-15 NMSA 1978 require the trial court to impose incarceration if the defendant violates the conditions of his probation. *State v. Mares*, 1994-NMSC-123, 119 N.M. 48, 888 P.2d 930.

**Reasonable investigation contemplated.** — The statutes permitting the court to suspend or defer a sentence contemplate that reasonable investigation be made by the court in cases where probation is indicated, but no procedure is prescribed for such investigation, nor does the statute specify the character or quantum of evidence necessary to warrant the suspension or deferral of sentence. *State v. Serrano*, 1966-NMSC-166, 76 N.M. 655, 417 P.2d 795.

**Probation where no reason for denial given.** — Where defendant's counsel asked the court to place defendant on probation before sentence was imposed, and no reasons were given by the court for denying probation, it is presumed the court considered the question of probation before sentencing defendant to the penitentiary. *State v. Follis*, 1970-NMCA-083, 81 N.M. 690, 472 P.2d 655.

**Habeas corpus action moot where petitioner on probation.** — Because petitioner had begun serving his mandatory period of probation under this section, his incarceration was complete; therefore, his habeas corpus action, alleging that amended regulations affecting his good time credits were impermissible, ex post facto laws, was moot, since such credits cannot be applied to a probationary term. *Aragon v. Shanks*, 144 F.3d 690 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 525 U.S. 1005, 119 S. Ct. 518, 142 L. Ed. 2d 430 (1998).

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 904 et seq.

Power to impose sentence with direction that after defendant shall have served part of time he be placed on probation for the remainder of term, 147 A.L.R. 656.

Probation conditioned on restitution in connection with application for, or receipt of, public relief, 80 A.L.R.3d 1280.

Criminal liability under state laws in connection with application for, or receipt of, public welfare payments, 22 A.L.R.4th 534.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1549 to 1552, 1554, 1557, 1559.

### **31-20-5.1. Misdemeanor compliance programs; counties may establish; fees.**

A. A county may create a "misdemeanor compliance program" to monitor defendants' compliance with the conditions of probation imposed by a district or magistrate court. The program shall be limited to participation by persons who have been convicted of a misdemeanor criminal offense specified in the Criminal Code [30-1-1 NMSA 1978], convicted of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or convicted of driving while the person's driver's license is suspended or revoked pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Code [Chapter 66, Articles 1 to 8 NMSA 1978]. A county's program shall comply with guidelines established by the administrative office of the courts.

B. As a condition of probation, the district or magistrate court may require the defendant to pay a fee of not less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month to the county for a public probation program for the term of the defendant's probation. Money collected by the county pursuant to this subsection shall be used only to operate the misdemeanor compliance program.

**History:** Laws 2000, ch. 49, § 1; 2013, ch. 104, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2013 amendment**, effective June 14, 2013, increased the cost to defendants for probation; and in Subsection B, in the first sentence, after "nor more than", deleted "thirty dollars (\$30.00)" and added "fifty dollars (\$50.00)" and in the second sentence, after "collected by the county", added "for a public probation program".

### **31-20-5.2. Sex offenders; period of probation; terms and conditions of probation.**

A. When a district court defers imposition of a sentence for a sex offender, or suspends all or any portion of a sentence for a sex offender, the district court shall include a provision in the judgment and sentence that specifically requires the sex

offender to serve an indeterminate period of supervised probation for a period of not less than five years and not in excess of twenty years. A sex offender's period of supervised probation may be for a period of less than twenty years if, at a review hearing provided for in Subsection B of this section, the state is unable to prove that the sex offender should remain on probation. Prior to placing a sex offender on probation, the district court shall conduct a hearing to determine the terms and conditions of supervised probation for the sex offender. The district court may consider any relevant factors, including:

- (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense for which the sex offender was convicted or adjudicated;
- (2) the nature and circumstances of a prior sex offense committed by the sex offender;
- (3) rehabilitation efforts engaged in by the sex offender, including participation in treatment programs while incarcerated or elsewhere;
- (4) the danger to the community posed by the sex offender; and
- (5) a risk and needs assessment regarding the sex offender, developed by the sex offender management board of the New Mexico sentencing commission or another appropriate entity, to be used by appropriate district court personnel.

B. A district court shall review the terms and conditions of a sex offender's supervised probation at two and one-half year intervals. When a sex offender has served the initial five years of supervised probation, the district court shall also review the duration of the sex offender's supervised probation at two and one-half year intervals. When a sex offender has served the initial five years of supervised probation, at each review hearing the state shall bear the burden of proving to a reasonable certainty that the sex offender should remain on probation.

C. The district court may order a sex offender placed on probation to abide by reasonable terms and conditions of probation, including:

- (1) being subject to intensive supervision by a probation officer of the corrections department;
- (2) participating in an outpatient or inpatient sex offender treatment program;
- (3) a probationary agreement by the sex offender not to use alcohol or drugs;
- (4) a probationary agreement by the sex offender not to have contact with certain persons or classes of persons; and



(5) being subject to alcohol testing, drug testing or polygraph examinations used to determine if the sex offender is in compliance with the terms and conditions of his probation.

D. The district court shall notify the sex offender's counsel of record of an upcoming probation hearing for a sex offender, and the sex offender's counsel of record shall represent the sex offender at the probation hearing. When a sex offender's counsel of record provides the court with good cause that the counsel of record should not represent the sex offender at the probation hearing and the sex offender is subsequently unable to obtain counsel, the district court shall notify the chief public defender of the upcoming probation hearing and the chief public defender shall make representation available to the sex offender at that hearing.

E. If the district court finds that a sex offender has violated the terms and conditions of his probation, the district court may revoke his probation or may order additional terms and conditions of probation.

F. As used in this section, "sex offender" means a person who is convicted of, pleads guilty to or pleads nolo contendere to any one of the following offenses:

(1) kidnapping, as provided in Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978, when committed with intent to inflict a sexual offense upon the victim;

(2) criminal sexual penetration in the first, second or third degree, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;

(3) criminal sexual contact of a minor in the second or third degree, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;

(4) sexual exploitation of children in the second degree, as provided in Section 30-6A-3 NMSA 1978; or

(5) sexual exploitation of children by prostitution in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-6A-4 NMSA 1978.

**History:** Laws 2003 (1st S.S.), ch. 1, § 7.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2003 (1st S.S.), ch. 1 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective February 3, 2004, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

**This section is not unconstitutionally vague.** — A reasonable construction is possible based on the plain language of NMSA 1978, § 31-20-5.2, and thus the statute is not unconstitutionally vague. A sex offender whose sentence is deferred or

suspended is required to serve an indeterminate period of supervised probation for a period of not less than five years and not in excess of twenty years; a probationer's term can only be less than twenty years if the state fails to meet its burden at a review hearing that the sex offender should remain on probation. Until such a review hearing is held, so long as the term has not lasted twenty years, the statute allows an individual of ordinary intelligence to determine that the probationer is still on probation. *State v. Cooley*, 2023-NMCA-089.

**Duration review hearings are mandatory.** — Duration review hearings are mandatory; the goals of closely monitoring a sex offender's probation, including a review of the duration of a sex offender's probation, and ensuring that the state meets its burden of establishing that the probationer should remain on probation would be frustrated if the timeline for the hearings was not mandatory. *State v. Cooley*, 2023-NMCA-089.

**The failure to conduct timely duration review hearings does not deprive the district court of jurisdiction over a probationer.** — The legislature expressly conferred jurisdiction to the district court for an indeterminate period of five to twenty years; the period may be for fewer than twenty years, but only if the state fails to meet its burden at a duration review hearing. This indicates that, even if a deadline is missed, the district court must still hold a hearing and hold the state to its burden before a probationer's term may end early. Accordingly, failure to hold a timely duration review hearing does not deprive the district court of jurisdiction to later continue a defendant on probation. *State v. Cooley*, 2023-NMCA-089.

**Due process requires a duration review hearing within a reasonable time.** — A probationer's right to due process requires a duration review hearing within a reasonable time, and a balancing of individual and governmental interests demonstrates how a late duration review hearing could still protect that right; in recognizing and evaluating the delay, cause of the delay, and missed opportunity, the district courts can adequately mitigate the risk posed by a late duration review hearing to ensure that a probationer receives due process, even if its ultimate conclusion is that probation must continue. *State v. Cooley*, 2023-NMCA-089.

**Defendants were not afforded procedural due process in untimely duration review hearing.** — In consolidated cases where both defendants were convicted of criminal sexual penetration, both had a portion of their sentences suspended, and both were placed on supervised probation for an indeterminate period of five and twenty years, and where, in both cases, the state failed to conduct timely duration review hearings, the late duration review hearings deprived defendants of their rights to procedural due process, because the defendants had a significant liberty interest in release from probation unless the state met its burden of proving at a duration review hearing, to a reasonable certainty, that their probation should continue, and the late duration review hearing they both were given increased the likelihood that the interest was erroneously deprived by taking into consideration evidence that would have been unavailable at a

timely hearing and failing to account for the delay in providing the late hearing and its cause. *State v. Cooley*, 2023-NMCA-089.

**Subsection B of this section is not void for vagueness.** — In resolving whether a probationer should remain on probation for additional time under 31-20-5.2(B) NMSA 1978, “reasonable certainty” means evidence that a reasonable and impartial mind would be inclined to conclude justifies that the sex offender should remain on probation, and in deciding whether a sex offender should remain on probation under Subsection B, the district court may remain guided by the relevant factors set forth in 31-20-5.2(A) NMSA 1978. Subsection B is not so vague that it allows, if not encourages, subjective and ad hoc application. *State v. Chavez*, 2019-NMCA-068, cert. denied.

**The district court did not abuse its discretion in ordering defendant to remain on probation.** — Where defendant was serving a mandatory five-year probationary term for convictions of two counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and where the state filed a motion under 31-20-5.2(B) NMSA 1978 requesting that defendant remain on probation for an additional two and one-half years, the district court did not abuse its discretion in ordering defendant to remain on probation for the additional period with the same terms and conditions based on a finding of two violations of the terms and conditions of defendant’s probation. *State v. Chavez*, 2019-NMCA-068, cert. denied.

**The district court erred by sentencing defendant to sex offender parole and probation.** — Where defendant was convicted of attempt to commit second-degree criminal sexual contact of a minor (CSCM), the district court erred when it imposed a sentence to sex offender probation and parole instead of a sentence in accordance with the general probation and parole statutes, because while CSCM is among the enumerated offenses triggering a sentence to sex offender probation or parole, attempt to commit CSCM is not included among the offenses. *State v. Notah*, 2022-NMCA-005, cert. denied.

### **31-20-6. Conditions of order deferring or suspending sentence.**

The magistrate, metropolitan or district court shall attach to its order deferring or suspending sentence reasonable conditions as it may deem necessary to ensure that the defendant will observe the laws of the United States and the various states and the ordinances of any municipality. The defendant upon conviction shall be required to reimburse a law enforcement agency or local crime stopper program for the amount of any reward paid by the agency or program for information leading to the defendant's arrest, prosecution or conviction, but in no event shall reimbursement to the crime stopper program preempt restitution to victims pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-17-1 NMSA 1978. The defendant upon conviction shall be required to pay the actual costs of the defendant's supervised probation service to the adult probation and parole division of the corrections department or appropriate responsible agency for deposit to the corrections department intensive supervision fund not exceeding one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800) annually to be paid in monthly installments of not less than

twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and not more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), as set by the appropriate district supervisor of the adult probation and parole division, based upon the financial circumstances of the defendant. The defendant's payment of the supervised probation costs shall not be waived unless the court holds an evidentiary hearing and finds that the defendant is unable to pay the costs. If the court waives the defendant's payment of the supervised probation costs and the defendant's financial circumstances subsequently change so that the defendant is able to pay the costs, the appropriate district supervisor of the adult probation and parole division shall advise the court and the court shall hold an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the waiver should be rescinded. The court may also require the defendant to:

A. provide for the support of persons for whose support the defendant is legally responsible;

B. undergo available medical or psychiatric treatment and enter and remain in a specified institution when required for that purpose;

C. be placed on probation under the supervision, guidance or direction of the adult probation and parole division for a term not to exceed five years;

D. serve a period of time in volunteer labor to be known as "community service". The type of labor and period of service shall be at the sole discretion of the court; provided that a person receiving community service shall be immune from any civil liability other than gross negligence arising out of the community service, and a person who performs community service pursuant to court order or a criminal diversion program shall not be entitled to wages, shall not be considered an employee and shall not be entitled to workers' compensation, unemployment benefits or any other benefits otherwise provided by law. As used in this subsection, "community service" means labor that benefits the public at large or a public, charitable or educational entity or institution;

E. make a contribution of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) and not more than one hundred dollars (\$100), to be paid in monthly installments of not less than five dollars (\$5.00), to a local crime stopper program, a local domestic violence prevention or treatment program or a local drug abuse resistance education program that operates in the territorial jurisdiction of the court; and

F. satisfy any other conditions reasonably related to the defendant's rehabilitation.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-18, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-18; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-42, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16; 1977, ch. 217, § 1; 1981, ch. 285, § 2; 1983, ch. 159, § 1; 1984, ch. 106, § 3; 1985, ch. 23, § 15; 1985, ch. 75, § 2; 1987, ch. 139, § 2; 1988, ch. 62, § 1; 1997, ch. 215, § 1; 2004, ch. 38, § 1; 2007, ch. 101, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For Crime Victims Reparation Act, see 31-22-1 NMSA 1978.

**The 2007 amendment**, effective June 15, 2007, added local domestic violence prevention or treatment programs to the list of optional contributions the court may require a defendant to make as a condition of a deferred or suspended sentence.

**The 2004 amendment**, effective July 1, 2004, amended the first paragraph to change one thousand twenty dollars (\$1,020) to one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800), fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) to one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), delete "or the local supervisor of the responsible agency on the basis of changed financial circumstances, as may be required" and insert in its place: "based upon the financial circumstances of the defendant. The defendant's payment of the supervised probation costs shall not be waived unless the court holds an evidentiary hearing and finds that the defendant is unable to pay the costs. If the court waives the defendant's payment of the supervised probation costs and the defendant's financial circumstances subsequently change so that the defendant is able to pay the costs, the appropriate district supervisor of the adult probation and parole division shall advise the court and the court shall hold an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the waiver should be rescinded. The court may also require the defendant to:" and amended Subsection E to delete "If there is no program in that area, the contribution shall be made to the crime stoppers commission".

**The 1997 amendment**, effective June 20, 1997, substituted "adult probation and parole division" for "field services division" twice in the third sentence of the introductory paragraph and in Subsection C, and substituted "crime stopper program or a local drug abuse resistance education program that operates in the territorial jurisdiction of the court" for "crime stopper program that operates in the territorial jurisdiction of the court and is approved by the crime stoppers commission" at the end of the first sentence in Subsection E.

**Legislative intent.** — Legislature clearly intended in Section 31-20-5 NMSA 1978 to give the sentencing judge authority to withhold the imposition of probation upon suspending a sentence. Probation was not "automatic" where defendant's sentence was suspended and this is further buttressed by the permissive language of this section. *State v. Soria*, 1971-NMCA-042, 82 N.M. 509, 484 P.2d 351.

**It is solely within province of legislature to establish penalties for criminal behavior.** *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Difference between suspension and deferral** is that suspension involves a sentence imposed while deferral does not. With suspension, the sentence having been imposed, the court cannot later alter the sentence upwards. With deferral, no sentence having been imposed, the court may give any sentence it could originally have given. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**General purposes of probation** are education and rehabilitation, without the requirement of serving the suspended period of incarceration. Probation is not meant to be painless. *State v. Donaldson*, 1983-NMCA-064, 100 N.M. 111, 666 P.2d 1258, cert. denied, 100 N.M. 53, 665 P.2d 809.

**Policy for probation.** — In placing a criminal under strict conditions of probation and under probation supervision, the policy of the State of New Mexico and the obligation of the courts of New Mexico are to place guarded trust in the probationer to consciously conduct himself in a manner to prove he can remain free from criminal activity. *State v. Baca*, 2004-NMCA-049, 135 N.M. 490, 90 P.3d 509.

**Supervised probation authorized.** — A New Mexico district court has statutory authority to place a convicted defendant on supervised probation. *State v. Baca*, 2004-NMCA-049, 135 N.M. 490, 90 P.3d 509.

**Deferred or suspended sentence always entails mandatory probation** with conditions attached. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Section 31-20-13 A NMSA 1978 expressly incorporates probation statutes** that apply to a person serving a deferred sentence. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Standards for assessing conditions of probation.** — The trial court, at the time of sentencing, is allowed to consider a wide range of options to assure defendant's rehabilitation, and the conditions of probation will not be set aside unless they: (1) have no reasonable relation to the offense for which the defendant was convicted; (2) relate to activity which is not itself criminal in nature; and (3) require or forbid conduct which is not reasonably related to deterring future criminality. *State v. Taylor*, 1986-NMCA-011, 104 N.M. 88, 717 P.2d 64, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 237, 719 P.2d 815.

**Requiring the defendant to execute promissory notes** to the victims of his fraud and embezzlement was reasonably related to his rehabilitation and was a proper condition of his probation. *State v. Jensen*, 1998-NMCA-034, 124 N.M. 726, 955 P.2d 195.

**Guidelines for review of imposition of probation.** — A trial court has broad discretion in imposing probation upon a convicted defendant, and the court's discretion will not be set aside on review unless the terms and conditions of probation: (1) have no reasonable relationship to the offense for which defendant was convicted; (2) relate to activity which is not itself criminal in nature; and (3) require or forbid conduct which is not reasonably related to deterring future criminality. *State v. Donaldson*, 1983-NMCA-064, 100 N.M. 111, 666 P.2d 1258, cert. denied, 100 N.M. 53, 665 P.2d 809.

**Probation is a discretionary act of the sentencing court.** — New Mexico law places squarely within the purview of the district court the authority to order a defendant to satisfy any other conditions reasonably related to rehabilitation, and such order is

reviewed on appeal only for an abuse of discretion. *State v. Green*, 2015-NMCA-007, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-012.

**Abuse of discretion.** — Under the abuse of discretion standard of appellate review, conditions of probation will not be set aside unless they have no reasonable relationship to the offense for which the defendant was convicted, relate to activity which is not itself criminal in nature, and require or forbid conduct which is not reasonably related to deferring future criminality. *State v. Green*, 2015-NMCA-007, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-012.

**District court order may incorporate conditions of probation.** — Where a district court's order generally states that a defendant must comply with reasonable conditions specified by the probation authorities, such language is sufficient to incorporate specific terms and conditions of probation set by the probation office. *State v. Green*, 2015-NMCA-007, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-012.

**Sex offender behavior contract as a condition of probation.** — Where defendant was convicted of kidnapping, an element of which is that the victim be held for service against the victim's will, and where that holding for service can include holding a victim for sexual purposes, and where defendant's conviction involved criminal sexual contact with the victim, the district court did not abuse its discretion in ruling that the requirement that defendant comply with a sex offender behavior contract was reasonably related to defendant's current conviction. *State v. Green*, 2015-NMCA-007, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-012.

**Maximum period of probation for misdemeanors.** — The maximum period of probation that may be assessed in misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor cases is the maximum allowable period of incarceration for that crime, irrespective of whether a defendant is sentenced in district court or in a lower tribunal. *State v. Candelaria*, 1991-NMCA-107, 113 N.M. 288, 825 P.2d 221.

**No power to defer until conviction.** — The court has no power or authority to defer a sentence and impose obligations of probation upon a person charged with a crime, until that person is convicted of the crime. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Express adjudication not necessary.** — An express adjudication of conviction, or finding of guilt, is not necessary if it is apparent from other matters in the record that the court made a judicial determination of conviction or guilt. *State v. Apodaca*, 1969-NMCA-020, 80 N.M. 155, 452 P.2d 489.

**Court may suspend defendant's 18-month term, impose five-year probation.** — The trial court's judgment in suspending part of defendant's term of incarceration and imposing a five-year term of supervised probation was upheld by this section, even though defendant had been convicted of a fourth-degree felony with a basic term of

incarceration of 18 months. *State v. Encinias*, 1986-NMCA-049, 104 N.M. 740, 726 P.2d 1174, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 632, 725 P.2d 832.

**Trial court may impose conditions of probation authorized by law;** conditions of probation unauthorized by law are void. *State v. Ayala*, 1981-NMCA-008, 95 N.M. 464, 623 P.2d 584.

**Provision for costs controls over 31-12-6 NMSA 1978.** — The legislature having made a specific provision for costs as a condition of probation in Subsection A that specific provision controls over the general provision of 31-12-6 NMSA 1978. *State v. Ayala*, 1981-NMCA-008, 95 N.M. 464, 623 P.2d 584.

**Assessment of costs against defendant upon deferred sentence permitted.** — The authorization in 31-12-6 NMSA 1978 that cost may be adjudged against the defendant, based on a conviction, permits assessment of costs against a defendant whose sentence is deferred. *State v. Ayala*, 1981-NMCA-008, 95 N.M. 464, 623 P.2d 584.

**Defendant cannot challenge amount or method of paying costs when objections initially waived.** — Having requested the court's exercise of discretion, and having waived all objections to an assessment of costs in lieu of a fine, the defendant may not later challenge either the amount or method of payment ordered. *State v. Padilla*, 1982-NMCA-100, 98 N.M. 349, 648 P.2d 807, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 336, 648 P.2d 794.

**This section does not authorize jury and bailiff costs** in prosecuting a defendant as a condition of probation. *State v. Ayala*, 1981-NMCA-008, 95 N.M. 464, 623 P.2d 584.

**Jury and bailiff costs are part of expense of maintaining system of courts** and the administration of justice and may not be assessed against a defendant if they were assessed independently of any condition of probation. *State v. Ayala*, 1981-NMCA-008, 95 N.M. 464, 623 P.2d 584.

**Required contribution to sheriff's department unauthorized.** — A probation condition requiring the defendant to contribute \$500 to a county sheriff's department was unauthorized and therefore void. On remand, the trial court had to reconsider imposition of a fine not to exceed \$500. *State v. Dominguez*, 1993-NMCA-042, 115 N.M. 445, 853 P.2d 147, cert. denied, 115 N.M. 409, 852 P.2d 682.

**Restitution, ordered as a condition of probation, must be reasonably related to a proper rehabilitative purpose.** — Where defendant was ordered as part of her sentence, following a guilty plea to the offense of forgery, to pay restitution for the costs of her extradition from New York, the restitution order could not have been authorized by the district court pursuant to this section because the order to pay extradition costs was not reasonably related to a proper rehabilitative purpose. *State v. George*, 2020-NMCA-039.



**Warrantless search condition is fairly and reasonably placed in probation order** to facilitate the probation officer's important supervisory and protective duties to help assure that the probationer assumes his responsibility – a responsibility both to the probationer himself and to society to stay on a path of rehabilitation. *State v. Baca*, 2004-NMCA-049, 135 N.M. 490, 90 P.3d 509.

**Warrantless probation searches cannot be without a proper showing** of an adequate degree of likelihood of criminal activity. *State v. Baca*, 2004-NMCA-049, 135 N.M. 490, 90 P.3d 509.

**And such searches can and must be supported by reasonable suspicion** as defined in New Mexico law to be an awareness of specific articulable facts, judged objectively, that would lead a reasonable person to believe criminal activity occurred or was occurring. *State v. Baca*, 2004-NMCA-049, 135 N.M. 490, 90 P.3d 509.

**Exigent circumstances are not required in connection with warrantless probation search** supported by reasonable suspicion. *State v. Baca*, 2004-NMCA-049, 135 N.M. 490, 90 P.3d 509.

For rehabilitation and community safety purposes, probation officers have the right to conduct warrantless searches without the added requirement of exigent circumstances. *State v. Baca*, 2004-NMCA-049, 135 N.M. 490, 90 P.3d 509.

**Condition of probation requiring prior narcotics offender to submit to search** is reasonably related the probationer's prior criminal conduct and is aimed at deterring or discovering subsequent criminal offenses. *State v. Gardner*, 1980-NMCA-122, 95 N.M. 171, 619 P.2d 847.

**Statutory handling for probation violation.** — Because the terms of probation are defined by the probation statutes, a probation violation must be handled as prescribed in Section 31-21-15 NMSA 1978. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**When jurisdiction to vacate and revoke suspension exists.** — The power of a district court to vacate and revoke an order of suspension exists only when some one or more of such terms or conditions specified in the order of suspension have been breached. *State v. Baros*, 1968-NMSC-001, 78 N.M. 623, 435 P.2d 1005.

**Proof of violation needed.** — The court has the power to revoke the suspension of sentence and to thereupon invoke the same, upon proof being made of the violation of the conditions of probation. *State v. Baca*, 1969-NMCA-076, 80 N.M. 527, 458 P.2d 602.

**Subsequent criminal conviction not necessary.** — A conviction of a subsequent criminal offense is not necessary to the revocation of suspension and the invocation of a prior suspended sentence. *State v. Baca*, 1969-NMCA-076, 80 N.M. 527, 458 P.2d 602.

**Degree of proof.** — The degree of proof required to support a finding of a violation of probation is met when the evidence establishes a violation of the conditions of probation with such reasonable certainty as to satisfy the conscience of the court of the truth of the violation. It does not have to be established beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Baca*, 1969-NMCA-076, 80 N.M. 527, 458 P.2d 602.

**Violation of probation must be established with reasonable certainty** so as to satisfy the conscience of the court as to the truth of the violation; however, a violation of probation need not be established beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Martinez*, 1972-NMCA-135, 84 N.M. 295, 502 P.2d 320.

**Sufficiency of terms.** — Where the trial judge imposed as a condition of probation that defendant report to the probation office as directed by the probation office and ordered that the conditions and terms of probation are made conditions and terms of the deferred sentence, the fact that the times when defendant was to report to the probation office, and that the terms of the probation office were not spelled out in the deferred sentence, did not show that such times and terms were not conditions of probation imposed by the trial court and the conditions of probation were sufficiently stated. *State v. Martinez*, 1972-NMCA-135, 84 N.M. 295, 502 P.2d 320.

**Where no amendment of judgment or sentence allowed.** — Where district court, when it sentenced defendant to six months in county jail and suspended the balance of the sentence without probation, issued a valid original judgment and sentence, accordingly could not amend that judgment and sentence to add the conditions of probation, since a valid sentence may not be amended by increasing the penalty. *State v. Soria*, 1971-NMCA-042, 82 N.M. 509, 484 P.2d 351.

**Community service may be condition of probation for gambling.** — No one would dispute that criminal activity is anti-social by nature; ergo, community service as a condition of probation is not unrelated to the offense of gambling. *State v. Padilla*, 1982-NMCA-100, 98 N.M. 349, 648 P.2d 807, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 336, 648 P.2d 794.

**Jury trial limited to identity question.** — In proceedings to revoke a suspended sentence, the right to a jury trial is limited to the question of identity. *State v. Raines*, 1967-NMCA-026, 78 N.M. 579, 434 P.2d 698.

**Application of increased probation costs limited.** — Increased probation costs, i.e., any amount in excess of \$200 annually, can only constitutionally be applied to offenses which occur on or after June 19, 1981, at least to the extent the 1981 amendment to this section is relied upon as authority for the increased probation costs. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-15.

**Increased probation terms limited.** — The increased probation term of five years authorized by the 1981 amendment, i.e., any term in excess of four years for a third degree felony or any term in excess of two years for a fourth degree felony, can only

constitutionally be applied to a third or fourth degree felony which occurs on or after June 19, 1981. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-15.

**Parole costs limited.** — Parole costs authorized by Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978 can only constitutionally be applied to prisoners who are placed on parole for crimes committed on or after June 19, 1981, at least to the extent the 1981 amendment to this section is relied on as authority for parole costs. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-15.

**Limit on charitable contributions required of defendant.** — Absent a clear legislative determination to the contrary, state judges do not have the power to require a defendant to pay money to a charitable organization unaggrieved by the defendant's offense. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-09.

**"Drug abuse resistance education program" refers to programs affiliated with the D.A.R.E. organization.** — If a metropolitan, magistrate or district court chooses to defer or suspend a criminal sentence, New Mexico law requires that the court impose certain conditions to ensure that the defendant will observe the laws of the United States and the various states and the ordinances of any municipality, and among these conditions, the court may require a defendant to make a monetary contribution to one of three listed programs, a local crime stopper program, a local domestic violence prevention or treatment program or a local drug abuse resistance education program. The most common use of "drug abuse resistance education" generally is in relation to an organization which uses the program acronym D.A.R.E. (drug abuse resistance education), which is a nationally known 501(c)(3) organization that brings local law enforcement into schools to aid in educating students about drug use and its dangers, and the legislative history of 31-20-6(E) NMSA 1978, supports the position that "a local drug abuse resistance education program" should be interpreted narrowly, and that it is only to be applied to programs under the D.A.R.E. organization and not to other alternative sentencing programs that may provide services unrelated to drug education. *Pecos Valley Teen Court being considered a "local drug abuse resistance education program" under NMSA 1978, Section 31-20-6(E) (1/25/21)*, [Att'y Gen. Adv. Ltr. 2021-01](#).

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to criminal procedure, see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 271 (1982).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 907 et seq.

Validity of probation on condition of leaving state or locality, 70 A.L.R. 100.

Propriety of requirement, as condition of probation, that defendant refrain from use of intoxicants, 19 A.L.R.4th 1251.

Propriety, under 18 U.S.C.S. § 3651, of district court's requiring contribution of money or services to charity or to community service as condition of suspending sentence and granting probation, 66 A.L.R. Fed. 825.

Propriety, in criminal case, of Federal District Court order restricting defendant's right to re-enter or stay in United States, 94 A.L.R. Fed. 619.

### **31-20-7. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1985, ch. 75, § 3 repealed 31-20-7 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16, relating to the length of period of deferment or suspension of sentence, effective April 1, 1985.

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 1993, ch. 283, § 2 enacted a new 31-20-7 NMSA 1978. That section was compiled as 31-20-13 NMSA 1978 in order to avoid confusion with repealed Section 31-20-7 NMSA 1978, which has been construed or cited in a number of New Mexico decisions.

### **31-20-8. Effect of termination of period of suspension without revocation of order.**

Whenever the period of suspension expires without revocation of the order, the defendant is relieved of any obligations imposed on him by the order of the court and has satisfied his criminal liability for the crime. He shall thereupon be entitled to a certificate from the court so reciting such facts, and upon presenting the same to the governor, the defendant may, in the discretion of the governor, be granted a pardon or a certificate restoring such person to full rights of citizenship.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-21, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-21; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-44, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Lack of jurisdiction to deny credit for time served on probation.** — Where defendant, who was convicted of DWI, violated probation and the district court did not revoke defendant's probation before the probationary period expired, the court lost jurisdiction under Section 31-20-8 NMSA 1978 to deny defendant credit for time served on probation as provided in Subsection S of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978. *State v. Ordunez*, 2010-NMCA-095, 148 N.M. 620, 241 P.3d 621, cert. granted, 2010-NMCERT-010, 49 N.M. 64, 243 P.3d 1146, *aff'd by* 2012-NMSC-024.

**Order of unsatisfactory completion not authorized.** — A trial court is without jurisdiction to enter an order of unsatisfactory completion after the probation period ends. *State v. Lara*, 2000-NMCA-073, 129 N.M. 391, 9 P.3d 74.

**A trial court is not deprived of jurisdiction to revoke probation if a defendant's original probationary period expires while the defendant is an absconder. —**

Where defendant was convicted of battery in magistrate court, received a suspended sentence, was placed on probation in lieu of serving a prison sentence, violated the terms of his probation and could not be located to answer for this violation until after the period of his suspended sentence expired, the magistrate court had the authority to issue its order revoking defendant's original probationary sentence and imposing a new sentence, because defendant's probationary period did not run from the date the magistrate court issued the bench warrant to the date of defendant's arrest. The phrase "whenever the period of suspension expires" cannot be read to include those instances when a probationary period expires while a defendant has absconded after allegedly violating probation. *State v. Begay*, 2017-NMSC-009, *rev'g* 2016-NMCA-039, 368 P.3d 1246.

**Difference between suspension and deferral** is that suspension involves a sentence imposed while deferral does not. With suspension, the sentence having been imposed, the court cannot later alter the sentence upwards. With deferral, no sentence having been imposed, the court may give any sentence it could originally have given. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Defendant's probation could not be revoked after it had expired. —** Where, in 2004, defendant pleaded guilty to a fourth-degree aggravated DWI; in 2007, defendant was arrested for another DWI in violation of the 2004 probation conditions; on September 7, 2007, the State filed a petition to revoke defendant probation; the district court scheduled a probation revocation hearing for October 25, 2007 and later reset the hearing for December 20, 2007; and the applicable statutory provisions of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978 governing sentence credit for time served on probation were those in effect in 2004, which gave defendant full credit for time served on probation, not those in effect in 2007, which gave defendant no credit for time served on probation; and under the 2004 version of the statute, defendant's probation was scheduled to expire on October 19, 2007, defendant's probation had expired before the probation revocation hearing and the district court did not have authority to revoke defendant's probation. *State v. Ordunez*, 2012-NMSC-024, 283 P.3d 282.

**The district court is divested of jurisdiction when a probation term expires, and the expiration of jurisdiction cannot be waived. —** This section divests the district court of jurisdiction to revoke a defendant's probation when a probation term expires, and this loss of jurisdiction is unaffected by a defendant's waiver of the time limits within which a revocation hearing must be held after a violation of probation is alleged, and staying revocation proceedings to determine the defendant's competency likewise does not toll the district court's loss of jurisdiction. *State v. Godkin*, 2015-NMCA-114.

Where defendant appealed the denial of his motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction following remand from a prior appeal in which the New Mexico court of appeals remanded the case for a competency evaluation and for a new revocation hearing, the

district court was without jurisdiction to revoke defendant's probation when the probation period expired prior to the revocation hearing, and the stay of proceedings to determine competency likewise did not toll defendant's probation. *State v. Godkin*, 2015-NMCA-114.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Right to assistance of counsel at proceedings to revoke probation, 44 A.L.R.3d 306.

Loss of jurisdiction by delay in imposing sentence, 98 A.L.R.3d 605.

Pardoned or expunged conviction as "prior offense" under state statute or regulation enhancing punishment for subsequent conviction, 97 A.L.R.5th 293.

### **31-20-9. Completion of total term of deferment.**

Whenever the period of deferment expires, the defendant is relieved of any obligations imposed on him by the order of the court and has satisfied his criminal liability for the crime, the court shall enter a dismissal of the criminal charges.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-22, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-22; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-45, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Difference between suspension and deferral** is that suspension involves a sentence imposed while deferral does not. With suspension, the sentence having been imposed, the court cannot later alter the sentence upwards. With deferral, no sentence having been imposed, the court may give any sentence it could originally have given. *State v. Kenneman*, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170 (Ct. App.), cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878 (1982).

**Legislature authorized to define court's jurisdiction over sentencing.** — It is within the power of the legislature alone to define the court's jurisdiction over the sentencing of offenders. *State v. Travarez*, 99 N.M. 309, 657 P.2d 636 (Ct. App. 1983).

**Court lacks jurisdiction in probation revocation matter when period of deferred sentence expires.** — This section relieves the defendant of any obligations imposed on him by order of the court when the period of his deferred sentence expires, and he is deemed then to have satisfied his liability for the crime. The trial court thereafter lacks jurisdiction to proceed in a probation revocation matter. *State v. Travarez*, 99 N.M. 309, 657 P.2d 636 (Ct. App. 1983).

**Prior conviction, not prior sentence, is dispositive for repeat offender status.** — Where defendant was convicted of drug charges in New Mexico; the New Mexico court deferred defendant's sentence for a two-year probationary period; the deferred sentence was a final judgment subject to appeal; and after defendant successfully

completed the probation, defendant was entitled to have the New Mexico charges dismissed, the deferred sentence was a prior conviction for purposes of sentence enhancement. *United States v. Meraz*, 998 F.2d 182 (10th Cir. 1993).

**Sex offender registration.** — When a deferred sentence expires and charges are dismissed, a conviction is not eradicated: thus, a defendant convicted under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, Sections 29-11A-1 to 29-11A-8 NMSA 1978, is still subject to the registration requirements of that act. *State v. Brothers*, 2002-NMCA-110, 133 N.M. 36, 59 P.3d 1268, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 30, 59 P.3d 1262 (2002).

**Restoration of right to vote.** — A person seeking restoration of franchise after a suspended sentence must go to the governor for relief, but a dismissal order under this section is intended to restore the right to vote automatically. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-44.

**Restoration of firearms privileges.** — A defendant who receives a deferred sentence is not subject to the criminal sanctions imposed by Section 30-7-16 NMSA 1978, governing receipt, transportation or possession of firearms by felons. Firearms privileges are automatically restored when a person successfully completes the period of a deferred sentence. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-03.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Pardoned or expunged conviction as "prior offense" under state statute or regulation enhancing punishment for subsequent conviction, 97 A.L.R.5th 293.

## **31-20-10. Character of order.**

An order deferring or suspending sentence for the purposes of appeal shall be deemed a final judgment.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-23, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 303, § 29-23; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-46, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Prior conviction, not prior sentence, is dispositive for repeat offender status.** — Where defendant was convicted of drug charges in New Mexico; the New Mexico court deferred defendant's sentence for a two-year probationary period; the deferred sentence was a final judgment subject to appeal; and after defendant successfully completed the probation, defendant was entitled to have the New Mexico charges dismissed, the deferred sentence was a prior conviction for purposes of sentence enhancement. *United States v. Meraz*, 998 F.2d 182 (10th Cir. 1993).

**It is solely within province of legislature to establish penalties for criminal behavior.** *State v. Lack*, 1982-NMCA-111, 98 N.M. 500, 650 P.2d 22, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Reduction by appellate court of punishment imposed by trial court, 29 A.L.R. 313, 89 A.L.R. 295.

Acceptance of probation, parole or suspension of sentence as waiver of error or right to appeal or to move for new trial, 117 A.L.R. 929.

Appealability of order suspending imposition or execution of sentence, 51 A.L.R.4th 939.

### **31-20-11. Credit for time pending appellate review.**

A person convicted of a felony in the district court and held in official confinement while awaiting the outcome of an appeal, writ of error to, or writ of certiorari from, a state or federal appellate court or prior to his release as a result of postconviction proceedings or habeas corpus, shall be given credit for the period spent in confinement against any sentence finally imposed for that offense.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-24, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 221, § 1; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-47, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Section operates prospectively.** — This section was enacted in 1967 and operates prospectively only. Defendant's motion for retroactive application provided no grounds for post-conviction relief under Rule 1-093 NMRA. *State v. Montoya*, 1968-NMSC-113, 79 N.M. 353, 443 P.2d 743 (decided under prior law).

**"Official confinement".** — Official confinement, in this section, includes an electronic monitoring program (EMP) within a community custody program. *State v. Frost*, 2003-NMCA-002, 133 N.M. 45, 60 P.3d 492, cert. denied, 133 N.M. 126, 61 P.3d 835.

**Judgment suspending firearm enhancement provision of original sentence void, and no credit accrued.** — Since a judgment purporting to suspend a firearm enhancement provision of an original sentence is void, where the defendant is not sentenced to serve any time of official confinement, he cannot be said to have served any portion thereof and he cannot be held to have accrued a right to a credit against the enhanced portion of his sentence as later imposed. Double jeopardy does not attach, and a resentencing for the mandatory enhancement provision of Section 31-18-16 NMSA 1978 must stand. *State v. Aguilar*, 1982-NMCA-116, 98 N.M. 510, 650 P.2d 32, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 478, 649 P.2d 1391.



**No credit allowed for void conviction when defendant convicted again. —**

Defendant discharged on writ of habeas corpus after his sentence was held void was not entitled to credit for time served for void conviction when he was convicted again for same crime. *State v. Sedillo*, 1968-NMSC-049, 79 N.M. 9, 439 P.2d 226.

**Credit given for time served on original invalid conviction. —** A prisoner, after being awarded a new trial and having again been convicted of the crime originally charged, is entitled to credit for time he spent in custody from the time of his first conviction. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-114.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. —** Computation of incarceration time under work-release or "hardship" sentences, 28 A.L.R.4th 1265.

### **31-20-12. Credit for time prior to conviction.**

A person held in official confinement on suspicion or charges of the commission of a felony shall, upon conviction of that or a lesser included offense, be given credit for the period spent in presentence confinement against any sentence finally imposed for that offense.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-25, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 221, § 2; and recompiled as 1953 Comp., § 40A-29-48, by Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Legislative intent. —** The legislative intent in enacting Section 31-20-12 NMSA 1978 was to entitle a defendant to one day's credit against his total sentence for each day spent in presentence confinement. *State v. Aaron*, 1985-NMCA-060, 103 N.M. 138, 703 P.2d 915.

**Applying credit. —** Section 31-20-12 NMSA 1978 does not authorize presentence confinement credit unless the confinement was in connection with the offense charged. If, however, the defendant is held in confinement prior to trial or sentencing, simultaneously on two or more charges, presentence confinement credit should be given. *State v. Page*, 1984-NMCA-012, 100 N.M. 788, 676 P.2d 1353.

**Constitutionality. —** New Mexico's good time credit statutory scheme does not offend the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the law; it is reasonable not to award good time credits for presentence confinement to detainees who are presumed innocent and therefore are not yet subject to rehabilitation efforts or to compulsory labor requirements, especially when they are held without systematic evaluation in county jails lacking rehabilitation programs. *State v. Aqui*, 1986-NMSC-048, 104 N.M. 345, 721 P.2d 771, cert. denied, 479 U.S. 917, 107 S. Ct. 321, 93 L. Ed. 2d 294 (1986).

**Double jeopardy.** — Failure to allow good time credit for presentence confinement does not subject a prisoner to double jeopardy. *Enright v. State*, 1986-NMSC-070, 104 N.M. 672, 726 P.2d 349.

**Equal protection and due process.** — New Mexico's statutory scheme, which does not allow good time credit for presentence confinement, does not offend the equal protection and due process guarantees of the New Mexico and United States constitutions. *Enright v. State*, 1986-NMSC-070, 104 N.M. 672, 726 P.2d 349.

**Equal protection does not compel retroactive application.** — The equal protection guarantee of the state and federal constitutions does not compel a retroactive application of the provisions of this section, which gives credit for time served prior to conviction. *State v. Sedillo*, 1968-NMCA-033, 79 N.M. 255, 442 P.2d 213.

Failure to give retroactive effect did not violate equal protection provisions of the state and federal constitutions. *State v. Dalrymple*, 1968-NMCA-083, 79 N.M. 670, 448 P.2d 182.

**No violation due to newly created right.** — There is no denial of equal protection of the laws in failing to give retroactive effect to a newly created right which allows credit for presentence confinement. *State v. Thomas*, 1968-NMCA-043, 79 N.M. 346, 443 P.2d 516

**Statute inapplicable to sentence before its effective date.** — This act became effective in 1967. The statute is not applicable to a sentence which was imposed upon defendant in 1963. To so apply it would require that it be given retrospective effect. *State v. Padilla*, 1968-NMCA-004, 78 N.M. 702, 437 P.2d 163.

**No retroactive effect where presentence confinement preceded effective dates.** — Where defendant's presentence confinement time occurred prior to the effective date of this section, the statute is not to be given retroactive effect. *State v. Luna*, 1968-NMCA-041, 79 N.M. 307, 442 P.2d 797.

**Purpose of section.** — The purpose of this section is to give some relief to persons who, because of an inability to obtain bail, are held in custody. *State v. Howard*, 1989-NMCA-029, 108 N.M. 560, 775 P.2d 762, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 433, 773 P.2d 1240.

**Section has been strictly interpreted, with resulting benefits to the defendant.** *State v. Ramzy*, 1982-NMCA-113, 98 N.M. 436, 649 P.2d 504.

**Defendant was not entitled to double credit for presentence confinement.** — Where defendant was convicted of possession of methamphetamine and marijuana, aggravated fleeing a law enforcement officer, two counts of tampering with evidence, resisting arrest, and possession of drug paraphernalia in one case, and, in a separate case, was convicted of possession of a firearm by a felon, and where, at sentencing, the district court imposed a prison term for the first case and subtracted presentence

confinement credit of 310 days from that sentence, and where defendant later pleaded guilty in the second case and was sentenced to a prison term to run consecutively to his prison term in the first case, and where defendant requested presentence confinement credit for the 225 days he was confined while the second case was pending, even though those days had already been credited against his first case, the district court did not err in denying defendant's request because defendant was not entitled to double credit. *State v. Cerda*, 2022-NMCA-062, cert. denied.

**Compliance with 31-18-21 NMSA 1978.** — Section 31-18-21 NMSA 1978 mandates that a sentence for a felony committed while serving a sentence in a penal institution run consecutive to the prior sentence. It is impossible to grant "presentence" confinement credit concurrent with time served on the prior sentence and comply with that section, which requires that the sentences run consecutively. *State v. Facticeau*, 1990-NMSC-040, 109 N.M. 748, 790 P.2d 1029.

**Sentence must have been direct result of felony committed.** — This section allows for presentence confinement credit only if the sentence was a direct result of the felony committed. *State v. Facticeau*, 1990-NMSC-040, 109 N.M. 748, 790 P.2d 1029.

**Defendant was entitled to presentence confinement credit where charges related to the sentence triggered probation revocation.** — Where defendant was convicted of possession of methamphetamine, aggravated fleeing of a law enforcement officer, and resisting, evading or obstructing an officer after leading law enforcement on a vehicle chase from Logan, New Mexico to Tucumcari, New Mexico and, after stopping and exiting the vehicle, leading the officers on a foot chase until he was located in a shed in possession of methamphetamine, and where, at the time of his arrest, defendant was serving a term of probation in two separate criminal cases, and where, at sentencing, the district court denied defendant presentence confinement credit for the time spent in custody due to his probation violations, it was error to deny presentence confinement credit, because the charges in the instant case led to defendant's probation being revoked and triggered defendant's confinement. *State v. French*, 2021-NMCA-052.

**Discretion of court to determine time credited.** — It is for the trial court to determine at the time of sentencing, from relevant documents or other evidence to be made a part of the record, the specific presentence confinement to be credited against any sentence finally imposed for offenses on which an accused has been held. *Stewart v. State*, 1991-NMSC-095, 112 N.M. 653, 818 P.2d 854.

**Discretion not to apply pre-sentence confinement credit to probation time.** — Under Section 31-20-12 NMSA 1978, it is within discretion of the district court not to credit pre-sentence confinement credit to probation time. *State v. Nieto*, 2013-NMCA-065, 303 P.3d 855, cert. denied, 2013-NMCERT-004.

Where defendant spent 103 days in custody pending trial for aggravated assault; defendant's sentence of three years' imprisonment was suspended and defendant was

ordered to complete a three-year period of probation; the district court ordered that if defendant's probation were revoked, defendant would be given credit for defendant's pre-sentence confinement of 103 days; and the district court declined to apply the pre-sentence confinement credit to defendant's probation sentence, the district court did not abuse its discretion. *State v. Nieto*, 2013-NMCA-065, 303 P.3d 855, cert. denied, 2013-NMCERT-004.

**Credit for multiple DWI offenses.** — Because the legislature provides in Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978 that, for a first DWI offender, time spent in jail prior to conviction is to be credited against the offender's sentence, and because fourth and subsequent offenders are felons, who are also granted such credit pursuant to this section, the legislature's silence as to second and third offenses implies an intent to afford courts discretion to grant credit to third and fourth offenders. *State v. Martinez*, 1998-NMSC-023, 126 N.M. 39, 966 P.2d 747.

**Court may revise sentence to give credit.** — Rule 93, N.M.R. Civ. P. (now Rule 1-093 NMRA), specifically authorizes the trial court to correct a sentence. *McCroskey v. State*, 1970-NMCA-109, 82 N.M. 49, 475 P.2d 49 (decided under prior law).

**No time limit for request for credit.** — The authorization contained in Rule 93, N.M.R. Civ. P. (now Rule 1-093 NMRA), is not limited to the term of court during which the incorrect sentence was imposed as a motion for such relief may be made at any time. *McCroskey v. State*, 1970-NMCA-109, 82 N.M. 49, 475 P.2d 49 (decided under prior law).

**Credit to equal presentence confinement period.** — A defendant is entitled to one day's credit against his total sentence for each day spent in presentence confinement. Regardless of whether the sentences for multiple felonies are to run concurrently or consecutively, credit is given only for that period actually spent in presentence confinement. *State v. Howard*, 1989-NMCA-029, 108 N.M. 560, 775 P.2d 762, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 433, 773 P.2d 1240.

**How credit should be granted.** — A one-day credit should be granted for every 24 hours, or fraction thereof. For example, if someone is arrested at 10:00 p.m. and released at 9:30 a.m. the next morning, he or she should only get a one-day credit because the confinement is less than 24 hours. If, on the other hand, someone is arrested at 8:00 a.m. and released at 9:30 a.m. the following day, the confinement would amount to a two-day credit because the confinement exceeded a 24 hour period. *State v. Miranda*, 1989-NMCA-068, 108 N.M. 789, 779 P.2d 976, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 771, 779 P.2d 549.

**No multiplication by number of sentences.** — Presentence confinement credit is not to be multiplied by the number of different sentences imposed. *State v. Miranda*, 1989-NMCA-068, 108 N.M. 789, 779 P.2d 976, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 771, 779 P.2d 549.

**Consecutive and concurrent sentences.** — An offender who receives consecutive sentences is entitled to presentence incarceration credit only once against the aggregate of all the sentences, while an offender sentenced to concurrent terms in effect receives credit against each sentence. *State v. Miranda*, 1989-NMCA-068, 108 N.M. 789, 779 P.2d 976, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 771, 779 P.2d 549.

**Three-part test to determine whether defendant's multiple criminal cases are sufficiently connected to warrant dual credit.** — To determine whether there is enough of a connection to warrant dual credit when a defendant is involved in multiple judicial proceedings, a sentencing court must apply a three-prong test and find: (1) the defendant was not confined in either case; (2) the charges in Case two triggered and caused the confinement in Case one, and (3) the defendant was also confined in Case two. The second prong of the test is not satisfied simply because a defendant's confinement is "caused by or related to" Case two, in whole or in part. Rather, the second prong requires a cause-and-effect relationship whereby Case two "triggers and causes" the defendant's confinement in Case one. The cause-and-effect relationship is key to concluding that the confinement is directly attributable to both cases. *State v. Herrera*, 2024-NMCA-025, cert. denied.

**Defendant was not entitled to presentence confinement credit for time spent in prison on another case.** — Where defendant was already facing charges for identity theft in an unrelated case when she was indicted for fraudulent use of a credit card, for which she was released and out on bond, and where, while out on bond, defendant picked up new charges, and as a result of the new charges, the district court revoked defendant's conditions of release on the credit card charges, and where, the following month, defendant pleaded guilty to the identity theft charges for which she was sentenced to an actual term of four years' imprisonment, and where, following her conviction for fraudulent use of a credit card, for which she was sentenced to five-and-one-half years imprisonment to run consecutively to her prison term in the identity theft case, defendant requested 599 days of presentence confinement credit for the period between her sentence for identity theft and her sentence for fraudulent use of a credit card, the district court did not err in denying defendant's request for presentence confinement credit, because the confinement period was not related to the charges in the case for which credit was sought. Because the required causal relationship was lacking, defendant was not entitled to dual credit. *State v. Herrera*, 2024-NMCA-025, cert. denied.

**"Double credit".** — Where defendant was out on bond for aggravated battery, arrested for a second crime of domestic violence, had his bond revoked, and was incarcerated until his trials on the separate charges, and was convicted on both charges, he did not have a right to presentence credit for the entire time of his presentence incarceration against both consecutive sentences. *State v. Romero*, 2002-NMCA-106, 132 N.M. 745, 55 P.3d 441, cert. denied, 132 N.M. 732, 55 P.3d 428.

**Presentence confinement must be for crime charged.** — This section was not applicable to prisoner who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor committed in the state

penitentiary while he was serving a prior sentence, and sought credit on his sentence for the days which elapsed between the day he was served with a warrant for his arrest and the day when judgment and sentence was entered on his plea of guilty, as confinement during this period was pursuant to his prior sentence. *State v. Brewton*, 1971-NMCA-120, 83 N.M. 50, 487 P.2d 1355.

The decisive factor in allowing credit for presentence confinement in a case is whether the confinement was actually related to the charges of that particular case. It is not necessary that the confinement be related exclusively to the charges in question. *State v. Ramzy*, 1982-NMCA-113, 98 N.M. 436, 649 P.2d 504.

This section does not authorize credit for presentence confinement that is not actually related to the charges of the particular offense. *State v. Laskay*, 1986-NMCA-008, 103 N.M. 799, 715 P.2d 72, cert. denied, 103 N.M. 798, 715 P.2d 71.

The determinative issue for presentence confinement credit is whether the basis for the confinement was actually related to the charge upon which the final conviction and sentence are based. *State v. Miranda*, 1989-NMCA-068, 108 N.M. 789, 779 P.2d 976, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 771, 779 P.2d 549.

**Confinement for multiple offenses.** — It is not necessary that the confinement in question relate exclusively to the charges against which a defendant seeks credit. Since the defendant in this case was in a Texas jail on both a Texas charge and a New Mexico warrant, he was entitled to credit in New Mexico. *State v. Barrios*, 1993-NMCA-138, 116 N.M. 580, 865 P.2d 1224.

**Credit for time served on invalidated guilty plea.** — The defendant was entitled to time served pursuant to a sentence on an invalidated guilty plea even though the counts on which she was convicted at trial were different from the counts to which she had pleaded guilty; there was a causal connection between the charges on which the defendant was convicted and the sentence pursuant to the invalidated plea. *State v. Wittgenstein*, 1995-NMCA-010, 119 N.M. 565, 893 P.2d 461.

**If transfer of confinement unrelated to charge in question, no confinement credit.** — Where the defendant is already confined on an unrelated charge and there is a transfer of the place of confinement, the actual confinement being unrelated to the charge in question, the trial court is correct in denying the defendant's motion for presentence confinement credit. *State v. Orona*, 1982-NMCA-143, 98 N.M. 668, 651 P.2d 1312.

**Presentence confinement credit properly awarded.** — The trial court had discretion to award defendant presentence confinement credit for that time spent in custody after his parole was revoked based on the drug paraphernalia charge for which he was ultimately sentenced in this case. *State v. Irvin*, 1992-NMCA-121, 114 N.M. 597, 844 P.2d 847.

**Hospitalization after being taken into custody.** — The fact that defendant was hospitalized following his being taken into custody did not preclude award of presentence confinement credit for the time spent in the hospital. *State v. Watchman*, 1991-NMCA-010, 111 N.M. 727, 809 P.2d 641, cert. denied, 111 N.M. 529, 807 P.2d 227, *overruled in part on other grounds by State v. Hosteen*, 1996-NMCA-084, 122 N.M. 228, 923 P.2d 595.

**Confinement in mental hospital after arrest constitutes "official confinement".** — Defendant was committed under Section 31-9-1 NMSA 1978 to the state hospital and confined therein for 463 days after being found incapable of assisting in his defense on pending felony charges, lacking in the mental capacity to stand trial, and in need of care, custody and treatment in a mental hospital, with provision that he be at all times under maximum security conditions and not be released without further written order of the court, it was held that defendant had been under official confinement on charges of committing a felony and was therefore entitled under this statute to credit against his sentence for presentence confinement time spent in the hospital. *State v. La Badie*, 1975-NMCA-032, 87 N.M. 391, 534 P.2d 483.

**Mental hospital confinement.** — Confinement in a mental hospital after arrest constitutes "official confinement", as outlined in this section. *State v. Miranda*, 1989-NMCA-068, 108 N.M. 789, 779 P.2d 976, cert. denied, 108 N.M. 771, 779 P.2d 549.

**Electronic monitoring program.** — A defendant is entitled to presentence confinement credit for time under house arrest pursuant to an electronic monitoring program if the defendant is in constructive custody and can be punished for escape for non-compliance with the house arrest order. *State v. Duhon*, 2005-NMCA-120, 138 N.M. 466, 122 P.3d 50, cert. quashed, 2006-NMCERT-003, 139 N.M. 352, 132 P.3d 1038.

**Voluntary treatment program not "confinement" under this section.** — Presentence confinement credit against a felony DWI jail sentence may not be given for time spent in an inpatient alcohol treatment program, where the state did not require defendant's participation in the program and exercised no control over him while he was in the program. *State v. Clah*, 1997-NMCA-091, 124 N.M. 6, 946 P.2d 210, cert. denied, 123 N.M. 626, 944 P.2d 274.

**House arrest as "official confinement".** — Time spent outside of jail may qualify as "official confinement" for the purposes of receiving presentence confinement credit under this section when: (1) a court has entered an order releasing the defendant from a facility but has imposed limitations on the defendant's freedom of movement, or the defendant is in the actual or constructive custody of state or local law enforcement or correctional officers; and (2) the defendant is punishable for a crime of escape if there is an unauthorized departure from the place of confinement or other non-compliance with the court's order. *State v. Fellhauer*, 1997-NMCA-064, 123 N.M. 476, 943 P.2d 123, cert. denied, 123 N.M. 446, 942 P.2d 189.

Condition that a drunk driving defendant remain at his home at all times except to attend alcohol counseling, work, or religious services was a sufficient limitation on his freedom of movement to meet the first subprong of the *Fellhauer* test and to therefore entitle him to presentence credit for time spent under house arrest. *State v. Guillen*, 2001-NMCA-079, 130 N.M. 803, 32 P.3d 812.

**Presentence confinement credit allowed where conditions of release were sufficiently onerous to be deemed official confinement.** — Where defendant was charged with kidnapping, attempted first-degree murder, aggravated burglary with a deadly weapon, or in the alternative, aggravated burglary by battery, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, or alternatively, resulting in great bodily harm, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and child abuse, and where, following defendant's arrest, the district court ordered defendant released from jail into third-party custody under conditions that defendant was required to be on pretrial service supervision, required to abide by all conditions set by the court and pretrial services, prohibited from leaving his residence without prior permission of pretrial services, and required to submit to GPS monitoring to ensure compliance, the district court erred in denying defendant presentence confinement credit where defendant was subject to limitations on movement such that he could have been charged with escape from a community custody release program if there was an unauthorized departure from the place of confinement or other non-compliance with the court's order. Defendant's freedom of movement was sufficiently onerous to be deemed official confinement, entitling him to presentence confinement credit. *State v. Hansen*, 2021-NMCA-048, cert. denied.

**Defendant was not entitled to presentence confinement credit for pretrial release that was insufficiently restrictive.** — Where defendant was convicted of two counts of criminal sexual penetration of a minor in the second degree, and where, at sentencing, the district court entered a judgment and sentence that credited defendant with 205 days of presentence confinement and additional time spent incarcerated prior to sentencing, but denied credit for pretrial release where defendant was subject to a conventional curfew, the trial court did not err in determining that defendant was not entitled to credit for time he spent on conditions of release because the conditions were insufficiently restrictive. *State v. Figueroa*, 2020-NMCA-007, cert. denied.

**When no credit authorized by section.** — If a past confinement is not in connection with the present offense charged, this section does not authorize a credit. *State v. Barefield*, 1979-NMCA-060, 92 N.M. 768, 595 P.2d 406.

**Defendant was not entitled to 11 months of presentence confinement credit** against his sentence for escape from the penitentiary, where he was serving time on a burglary charge when he escaped, where he was captured and was immediately incarcerated to continue to serve time on his burglary charge, and where he was later sentenced to an additional nine years for the escape to run consecutively to his original charge. *State v. Facticeau*, 1990-NMSC-040, 109 N.M. 748, 790 P.2d 1029.



**Conditions of confinement not relevant.** — When the defendant had not appeared for sentencing following a guilty plea, was later found in California serving a sentence for another crime, and a New Mexico detainer was lodged against him as a result of which the conditions of his confinement became more onerous, he was not entitled to credit for the time served in California after lodging of the detainer since his confinement there was not due to the New Mexico charges. *State v. Ruiz*, 1995-NMCA-093, 120 N.M. 420, 902 P.2d 575, cert. denied, 120 N.M. 394, 902 P.2d 76.

**Application to delinquent offenders.** — The presentence confinement credit provided for in Sections 31-18-15.3 and 31-20-12 NMSA 1978 applies only to serious youthful offenders sentenced as adults, and not to a child adjudicated as a delinquent offender for a lesser-included offense. *State v. Nanco*, 2012-NMCA-109, 288 P.3d 527, cert. granted, 2012-NMCERT-010.

Where the child, who was fifteen years old, was charged with committing first degree murder and two counts of tampering with evidence, and the jury determined that the child had committed the delinquent acts of voluntary manslaughter and one count with tampering with evidence, the child was not entitled to presentence confinement credit for the twenty-five months the child was detained in a juvenile detention facility before the district court adjudicated the child a delinquent offender. *State v. Nanco*, 2012-NMCA-109, 288 P.3d 527, cert. granted, 2012-NMCERT-010.

**Application of section prospective only.** — All persons convicted of a felony or of a lesser included offense, as of March 31, 1967, are to be given credit against any sentence imposed for that offense for all time spent in presentence confinement. This section is prospective only, and does not apply to those convicted before that date. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-66.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Home Alone: Why House Arrest Doesn't Qualify for Presentence Confinement Credit in New Mexico - *State v. Fellhauer*," see 28 N.M.L. Rev. 519 (1998).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Time which convict spends in hospital as credit on his sentence, 62 A.L.R. 246.

Right of state or federal prisoner to credit for time served in another jurisdiction before delivery to state or federal authorities, 18 A.L.R.2d 511.

Right to credit for time served under void sentence, 35 A.L.R.2d 1283.

Computation of incarceration time under work-release or "hardship" sentences, 28 A.L.R.4th 1265.

Validity, construction, and application of concurrent-sentence doctrine - state cases, 56 A.L.R.5th 385.

### **31-20-13. Conditional discharge order; exception.**

A. When a person who has not been previously convicted of a felony offense is found guilty of a crime for which a deferred or suspended sentence is authorized, the court may, without entering an adjudication of guilt, enter a conditional discharge order and place the person on probation on terms and conditions authorized by Sections 31-20-5 and 31-20-6 NMSA 1978. A conditional discharge order may only be made available once with respect to any person.

B. If the person violates any of the conditions of probation, the court may enter an adjudication of guilt and proceed as otherwise provided by law.

C. The court shall not enter a conditional discharge order for a person found guilty of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978.

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 283, § 2 enacted as 31-20-7 NMSA 1978 and recompiled as 31-20-13 NMSA 1978; 1994, ch. 15, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1994 amendment**, effective February 25, 1994, added "exception" at the end of the section heading, added the second sentence in Subsection A and added Subsection C.

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 1993, ch. 283, § 2 enacted this section as a new 31-20-7 NMSA 1978. However, this section has been compiled as 31-20-13 NMSA 1978 in order to avoid confusion with repealed section 31-20-7 NMSA 1978 which has been construed or cited in a number of New Mexico decisions.

**A conditional discharge is not a conviction.** — Where the district court had entered a conditional discharge order in a prior criminal proceeding against defendant; the order was entered without an adjudication of guilt and with a sentencing term; defendant's probation was subsequently revoked and defendant was placed back on probation; a year later, defendant's probation was again revoked and the district court ordered that defendant be incarcerated; and the district court did not revoke defendant's conditional discharge, the district court did not err by dismissing a later felon in possession charge against defendant on the ground that defendant's conditional discharge had not been revoked and could not serve as the predicate felony for the felon in possession charge. *State v. Harris*, 2013-NMCA-031, 297 P.3d 374.

**A conditional discharge constitutes a "prior sentence" for federal sentencing purposes.** — Where defendant pled guilty to possession with intent to distribute controlled substances in federal court, defendant's conditional discharge in a prior state criminal proceeding was considered a "prior sentence" rather than a prior conviction for purposes of federal sentencing, because the New Mexico conditional discharge statute

requires a finding of guilt. *United States v. Ornelas-Yanez*, 77 F.Supp.3d 1083 (D.N.M. 2014)

**An offender subject to a conditional discharge is still “under indictment” for purposes of federal firearms statute.** — An offender subject to a conditional discharge in state court is still “under indictment” within the meaning of federal firearms statute, 18 U.S.C. § 922(n), until the condition, the completion of the term of probation, is met, because under a conditional discharge, the charges in the indictment are not extinguished upon the guilty plea or verdict, but remain in suspension until the defendant completes his term of probation. *United States v. Saiz*, 797 F.3d 853 (10th. Cir. 2015)

Where defendant committed federal firearms offenses while still on probation in state court pursuant to a conditional discharge where he pleaded guilty to burglary, larceny and battery, and where the state district court judge placed defendant on probation without an adjudication of guilt on the state crimes, the federal district court judge did not err in adding two sentencing enhancements after finding that defendant was “under indictment” for the state crimes as long as he was subject to the terms of conditional discharge and, therefore, had been under indictment when he committed the federal crimes. *United States v. Saiz*, 797 F.3d 853 (10th. Cir. 2015)

**The conditional discharge statute does not grant the authority to expunge criminal records.** *State v. C. L.*, 2010-NMCA-050, 148 N.M. 837, 242 P.3d 404.

**Failure to show exceptional circumstances to expunge criminal records.** — Where defendant was charged as an accessory to negligent child abuse; defendant pleaded guilty to child abuse resulting in great bodily harm; defendant was granted a conditional discharge and was released early due to defendant's satisfactory compliance with the terms of release; defendant was denied employment opportunities as a result of defendant's criminal record; defendant had been industrious and continued defendant's education; and defendant had no prior criminal record, assuming that the district court has inherent authority to order the expungement of criminal records, defendant failed to demonstrate the existence of exceptional circumstances necessary to exercise that authority. *State v. C. L.*, 2010-NMCA-050, 148 N.M. 837, 242 P.3d 404.

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature's intent is that a defendant receive credit for time served on supervised probation under the terms of a conditional discharge. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**This section provides an exception for certain first-time felons** whose convictions meet requirements in addition to the eligibility requirements for a deferred or suspended sentence. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Subsection A of this section expressly incorporates probation statutes** that apply to a person serving a deferred sentence. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Person who is eligible to receive conditional discharge** is by definition one who is entitled to a deferred sentence. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Deferred sentence modified to conditional discharge.** — Modification from a deferred sentence to a conditional discharge was an authorized sentence reduction under this section and Rule 5-801 NMRA. *State v. Herbstman*, 1999-NMCA-014, 126 N.M. 683, 974 P.2d 177.

**Sex offender registration.** — A person granted a conditional discharge under this section is not required to register as a sex offender. *State v. Herbstman*, 1999-NMCA-014, 126 N.M. 683, 974 P.2d 177.

Notice requiring defendant to register as a sex offender pursuant to 29-11A-7 NMSA 1978 did not need to be placed in a conditional discharge order. *State v. Herbstman*, 1999-NMCA-014, 126 N.M. 683, 974 P.2d 177.

**Appealability of order.** — A conditional discharge order in a felony prosecution is sufficiently final to be appealable, but a similar order in a criminal contempt prosecution is not, at least when the order does not require any action or behavior on the part of the contemnor other than to obey the law in the future. *State v. Durant*, 2000-NMCA-066, 129 N.M. 345, 7 P.3d 495.

**Conditional discharge order final for purposes of appeal.** — Where defendant appealed from an order of conditional discharge following his trial for criminal trespass, the district court's order was final for purposes of appeal because defendant was subject to significant collateral consequences as a result of his conditional discharge, including claims that he would be required to disclose the fact of his conviction on applications for employment, college, and other future pursuits. *State v. Merhege*, 2016-NMCA-059, *rev'd on other grounds*, 2017-NMSC-016.

## ARTICLE 20A

### Capital Felony Sentencing

#### 31-20A-1. Repealed.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 2; repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-20A-1 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 2, relating to capital felony sentencing procedures, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

## **31-20A-2. Capital felony; determination of sentence.**

If a jury finds, beyond a reasonable doubt, that one or more aggravating circumstances exist, as enumerated in Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978, the defendant shall be sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole. If the jury does not make the finding that one or more aggravating circumstances exist, the defendant shall be sentenced to life imprisonment.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 3.; 2009, ch. 11, § 3.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2009 amendment,** effective July 1, 2009, deleted former Subsections A and B, which provided for capital sentencing deliberations, and added the sentence of life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole upon a finding of aggravating circumstances.

**Applicability clause.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 6 provided that the provisions of this section apply to crimes committed on or after July 1, 2009.

**Admission of evidence.** — In the penalty phase of a capital felony case, evidence of the defendant's prior convictions may be admitted only if the state first establishes the relevance of the prior convictions to the jury's selection of the sentence and the district court must facilitate the weighing by the jury of aggravating and mitigating circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, according to the evidentiary rules of relevance and reliability and the Capital Felony Sentencing Act's [repealed] statutory directives. *State v. Sanchez*, 2008-NMSC-066, 145 N.M. 31, 198 P.3d 337.

**Constitutionality.** — This section, directing the jury to weigh aggravating and mitigating circumstances, consider the defendant and the crime, and then determine the sentence, is not vague and indefinite, and thus does not violate a defendant's due process and equal protection rights. *State v. Clark*, 1999-NMSC-035, 128 N.M. 119, 990 P.2d 793.

**Aggravating circumstances need not be beyond reasonable doubt.** — There is no requirement that the aggravating circumstances outweigh the mitigating circumstances beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Finnell*, 1984-NMSC-064, 101 N.M. 732, 688 P.2d 769, cert. denied, 469 U.S. 918, 105 S. Ct. 297, 83 L. Ed. 2d 232 (1984).

The jury is not required to find that the aggravating circumstances outweigh the mitigating circumstances beyond a reasonable doubt in order to specify a sentence of death. *State v. Fry*, 2006-NMSC-001, 138 N.M. 700, 126 P.3d 516.

**Victim impact testimony.** — Victim impact testimony is consistent with the Capital Felony Sentencing Act [repealed] because it constitutes additional evidence as to the circumstances of the crime under Section 31-20A-1C NMSA 1978 [repealed] and

Subsection B of this section. *State v. Clark*, 1999-NMSC-035, 128 N.M. 119, 990 P.2d 793.

The effective date of the victim's rights laws did not affect the admission of victim impact evidence in a death penalty case. States are free to admit this type of evidence following the United States supreme court's ruling in *Payne v. Tennessee*, 501 U.S. 808 (1991), and Section 31-20A-1C NMSA 1978 [repealed] and Subsection B of this section already provide authority for the admission of this type of evidence. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

The Rules of Evidence requiring relevance and the balancing of unfair prejudice also apply to testimony and exhibits that are introduced in a capital felony sentencing proceeding for the purpose of showing victim impact. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

Defendant was not unfairly prejudiced by impact evidence that included a videotaped depiction of the victim prior to her death in addition to the testimony of two witnesses. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

**Lack of mitigating circumstances.** — Defendant's failure to show any mitigating circumstances, in and of itself, is not an aggravating circumstance. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

**Sentencing scheme is silent with regard to bifurcated proceedings.** — In an interlocutory appeal, where defendant was charged with first-degree murder, a capital felony, and with one count each of first-degree kidnapping, robbery, and conspiracy to commit robbery, and where defendant argued that due to her possible sentence of life without the possibility of parole, she must be afforded heightened procedural protections that apply when the state seeks the death penalty, the New Mexico supreme court held that the Capital Felony Sentencing Act neither requires nor prohibits bifurcated guilt and sentencing proceedings, and whether bifurcated proceedings are appropriate must be determined on a case-by-case basis, after the issue has been properly raised and argued under the rules of criminal procedure for the district courts. *State v. Chadwick-Mcnally*, 2018-NMSC-018.

**Evidence of mitigating circumstances prohibited.** — In an interlocutory appeal, where defendant was charged with first-degree murder, a capital felony, and with one count each of first-degree kidnapping, robbery, and conspiracy to commit robbery, and where defendant argued that the sentencing scheme under the Capital Felony Sentencing Act (Act) does not prohibit the presentation of mitigating circumstances, the district court did not err in concluding that defendant is precluded under the Act from presenting evidence of mitigating circumstances for sentencing purposes, because

under the statute's plain language, the determinative factors are the jury's findings of guilt and of one or more aggravating circumstances. When both findings are present, a sentence of life without parole is mandatory and cannot be mitigated. *State v. Chadwick-Mcnally*, 2018-NMSC-018.

**Comparative proportionality review under former statute.** — A comparative proportionality review is a post-sentence inquiry into whether a death sentence is disproportionate to the punishment imposed on others convicted of the same crime. *Fry v. Lopez and Allen v. LeMaster*, 2019-NMSC-013.

**Modified approach to comparative proportionality review of a death sentence under former statute.** — In New Mexico's modified approach to comparative proportionality review, the reviewing court defines a universe of cases from which similar cases are to be drawn, defines what constitutes a similar case, which produces a pool of cases to be used for comparison purposes, and defines the test used to establish that a sentence is disproportionate. The universe of cases is properly limited to those cases in which the prosecutor decided to seek the death penalty, which advanced to a death penalty sentencing hearing in which the jury found at least one aggravating circumstance, which resulted in a sentence of death or life imprisonment and which was affirmed on appeal, the pool of cases is expanded to include both cases involving the same aggravating circumstance and factually similar cases in which the jury had the option to impose the death penalty, and New Mexico adheres to a precedent-seeking approach, which involves comparing the case to the pool of comparison cases. *Fry v. Lopez and Allen v. LeMaster*, 2019-NMSC-013.

**Disproportionate death sentence under former statute construed.** — A death sentence is disproportionate if juries do not generally impose a death sentence in similar cases and there is no real justification for the death sentence. *Fry v. Lopez and Allen v. LeMaster*, 2019-NMSC-013.

**Death penalties under former statute vacated where petitioners' death sentences were statutorily disproportionate to the penalties imposed in similar cases.** — Where petitioners were sentenced to death for their respective convictions for first-degree murder and after a finding by their respective juries of certain aggravating circumstances, petitioners' death sentences were statutorily disproportionate, because cases involving the same aggravating circumstances as well as other factually similar cases as in *Fry* and *Allen* did not generally result in death sentences, and there was no real justification for affirming the death sentences. *Fry v. Lopez and Allen v. LeMaster*, 2019-NMSC-013.

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Constitutionality of the New Mexico Capital Punishment Statute," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 269 (1981).

For comment, "State v. Jacobs: A Comment on One State's Choice to Restrict Victim Impact Evidence at Death Penalty Sentencing," see 31 N.M.L. Rev. 539 (2001).

### **31-20A-2.1. Repealed.**

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-20A-2.1, enacted by Laws 1991, ch. 30, § 1; repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-20A-2.1 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 30, § 1, relating to the prohibition against capital punishment of mentally retarded persons, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-20A-3. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 4; repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-20A-3 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 4, relating to court sentencing in death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-20A-4. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 5; repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-20A-4 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 5, relating to automatic review by supreme court of death sentences, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-20A-5. Aggravating circumstances.**

The aggravating circumstances to be considered by the sentencing court or jury pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978 are limited to the following:

- A. the victim was a peace officer who was acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty when he was murdered;
- B. the murder was committed with intent to kill in the commission of or attempt to commit kidnapping, criminal sexual contact of a minor or criminal sexual penetration;



C. the murder was committed with the intent to kill by the defendant while attempting to escape from a penal institution of New Mexico;

D. while incarcerated in a penal institution in New Mexico, the defendant, with the intent to kill, murdered a person who was at the time incarcerated in or lawfully on the premises of a penal institution in New Mexico. As used in this subsection "penal institution" includes facilities under the jurisdiction of the corrections and criminal rehabilitation department [corrections department] and county and municipal jails;

E. while incarcerated in a penal institution in New Mexico, the defendant, with the intent to kill, murdered an employee of the corrections and criminal rehabilitation department [corrections department];

F. the capital felony was committed for hire; and

G. the capital felony was murder of a witness to a crime or any person likely to become a witness to a crime, for the purpose of preventing report of the crime or testimony in any criminal proceeding, or for retaliation for the victim having testified in any criminal proceeding.

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 6; 1981, ch. 23, § 1.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Bracketed material.** — The bracketed material in Subsections D and E was inserted by the compiler, as Laws 1981, ch. 73, § 1, changed the name of the former corrections and criminal rehabilitation department, referred to in Subsections D and E, to the corrections department. See 9-3-3 NMSA 1978. The bracketed material is not part of the law.

### **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.**

**Aggravating circumstance.** — The only underlying felonies for felony murder that can serve as an aggravating circumstance for capital sentencing are kidnapping, criminal sexual contact of a minor and criminal sexual penetration. In addition, prosecution must establish beyond a reasonable doubt that defendant had an intent to kill. *State v. Fry*, 2006-NMSC-001, 138 N.M. 700, 126 P.3d 516.

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature has demonstrated its intent to protect corrections officers and jailers and to deter crimes against them during the course of their duties of maintaining order in penal facilities. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**This section provides sufficiently clear and objective standards** that provide specific and detailed guidance and that make the process for imposing the death

sentence rationally reviewable. *State v. Garcia*, 1983-NMSC-008, 99 N.M. 771, 664 P.2d 969.

**Guadalupe county correctional facility is a penal institution** within the plain language of this section. The fact that the correctional facility housed inmates from the department of corrections rather than county inmates is immaterial both for the definition of "local jail" in Section 33-3-28 NMSA 1978 and the definition of "penal institution" in this section. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Elements of crime and elements of aggravating circumstance distinguished.** — Simply because there are sufficient elements present to prove more than one crime in the same transaction does not mean that more than one aggravating circumstance has been proven. While the same elements may be present in both instances, establishing the elements of an aggravating circumstance is not the same thing as establishing the elements of a crime. *State v. Henderson*, 1990-NMSC-030, 109 N.M. 655, 789 P.2d 603, *overruled on other grounds by Clark v. Tansey*, 1994-NMSC-098, 118 N.M. 486, 882 P.2d 527.

**Invalidation of one where more than one aggravating circumstance.** — When two or more aggravating circumstances are found, the invalidation of one will not invalidate the sentencing proceeding unless the invalidation is due to constitutionally protected conduct. *State v. Cheadle*, 1983-NMSC-093, 101 N.M. 282, 681 P.2d 708, cert. denied, 466 U.S. 945, 104 S. Ct. 1930, 80 L. Ed. 2d 475 (1984).

**Failure to allege aggravating circumstances.** — Death penalty proceedings are not precluded where the indictment does not allege the existence of aggravating circumstances. Since aggravating circumstances are not elements of the crime of murder, an indictment is not deficient for failure to allege them. *State v. Morton*, 1988-NMCA-063, 107 N.M. 478, 760 P.2d 170 (decided under prior law).

**Lack of mitigating circumstances.** — Defendant's failure to show any mitigating circumstances, in and of itself, is not an aggravating circumstance. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

## **II. PEACE OFFICER.**

**Subsection A concerns penalty for crime against peace officer**, and therefore, Sections 33-1-10 NMSA 1978 and 33-3-28 NMSA 1978 serve as powerful indicators of the legislature's intent in Subsection A of this section. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Legislature intended broad interpretation of Subsection A's aggravating circumstance** to advance the purpose of protecting those who maintain order. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Subsection A is not duplicative of Subsection E.** *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**"Peace officer" in Subsection A includes jailers and corrections officers** while they are engaged in the duties for which the legislature designated them to be peace officers in Sections 33-3-28 and 33-1-10 NMSA 1978. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

By designating corrections officers and jailers as peace officers under certain circumstances, the legislature intended to provide them with the extra protection and added deterrent value of Subsection A of this section. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

The legislature intended to include corrections officers and jailers as peace officers in Subsection A of this section. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

There is an intent on the part of the legislature to treat corrections officers, jailers, and any employee of a local jail whose principal duty is to hold inmates in custody as peace officers for purposes of Subsection A of this section when these individuals are murdered during the discharge of duties conferring peace officer status. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Definition of "peace officer" in Section 30-1-12C NMSA 1978 is not directly applicable** to Subsection A of this section because that definition applies only to the Criminal Code. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Defendant need not know victim was police officer.** — The aggravating circumstance of killing a peace officer, as outlined in Subsection A, can constitutionally support the imposition of the death sentence even where the jury does not find that a defendant knew that his victim was a peace officer. *State v. Compton*, 1986-NMSC-010, 104 N.M. 683, 726 P.2d 837, cert. denied, 479 U.S. 890, 107 S. Ct. 291, 93 L. Ed. 2d 265 (1986).

**Community service officers are peace officers** under this section. *State v. Ogden*, 1994-NMSC-029, 118 N.M. 234, 880 P.2d 845, cert. denied, 513 U.S. 936, 115 S. Ct. 336, 130 L. Ed. 2d 294.

**Probable cause established that deceased was peace officer.** — By establishing that the Guadalupe county correctional facility had a contract with the County, that deceased was employed by the correctional facility as a corrections officer, and that he was performing the duties of a corrections officer at the time of his death, the state established probable cause to believe that deceased was a peace officer within the meaning of Subsection A of this section. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

### III. MURDER.

**Subsection D is not duplicative of Subsection A** because Subsection D of this section also applies to individuals other than corrections officers, including visitors and other inmates. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Subsection B allows jury to consider any or all listed crimes as separate aggravating circumstances.** *State v. Guzman*, 1984-NMSC-016, 100 N.M. 756, 676 P.2d 1321, cert. denied, 467 U.S. 1256, 104 S. Ct. 3548, 82 L. Ed. 2d 851 (1984).

When the evidence shows that more than one aggravating circumstance exists under Subsection B, any and all of the listed crimes may be considered as separate aggravating circumstances. The use of multiple instructions in these circumstances is proper. *State v. Jacobs*, 2000-NMSC-026, 129 N.M. 448, 10 P.3d 127, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Martinez*, 2021-NMSC-002.

**Subsection D applies to anyone lawfully on premises** of a penal institution, not just certified corrections officers. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Completeness of corrections officer's training had no effect on officer's lawful presence** at the correctional facility. Where the officer was an employee of the facility and was authorized by the facility administrators to be on the premises at the time of his killing, the officer was lawfully present at the facility within the plain meaning of Subsection D of this section. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Legislative purpose of aggravating circumstance in Subsection D** of this section is to deter inmates from committing murder. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Subsection E and Subsection D are designed** to deter murders committed by inmates. *State v. Young*, 2004-NMSC-015, 135 N.M. 458, 90 P.3d 477.

**Murder in the commission of kidnapping.** — The fact that all of the elements of the crime of kidnapping were satisfied before the murder occurred did not preclude a finding that the victim was murdered in the commission of kidnapping. The evidence substantially supported a finding that the kidnapping continued throughout the course of defendant's other crimes and until the time of the victim's death. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

Although evidence was presented that defendant initiated the kidnapping well before and separately from the commission of other felonies, the kidnapping continued until the time of the victim's death; thus, there was sufficient evidence for the jury to find that the victim was murdered during the commission of a kidnapping. *State v. Jacobs*, 2000-

NMSC-026, 129 N.M. 448, 10 P.3d 127, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Martinez*, 2021-NMSC-002.

**"Murder in commission of kidnapping" properly applied.** — Evidence that murder victim was found with hands bound behind her back and had severe injuries from which she died, that victim's injuries were inflicted after she was kidnapped, that victim was beaten and stabbed multiple times, and that defendant laughed at victim when she begged him to stop was sufficient to establish defendant's intent to kill in the commission of a kidnapping. *State v. Martinez*, 2006-NMSC-007, 139 N.M.152, 130 P.3d 731.

Death penalty sentencing is the subject of its own statute, which defines a limited number of aggravating circumstances, and the absence of mitigating circumstances is simply not one of them. *State v. Roper*, 2001-NMCA-093, 131 N.M. 189, 34 P.3d 133, cert. quashed, 131 N.M. 619, 41 P.3d 345 (decided under prior law).

**Hiding, then shooting victim, supports death sentence.** — Defendant's death penalty sentence was not disproportionate or excessive where defendant walked from his hotel room to a position of hiding and, when the opportunity presented itself, he shot his victim, a police officer, through the heart. *State v. Compton*, 1986-NMSC-010, 104 N.M. 683, 726 P.2d 837, cert. denied, 479 U.S. 890, 107 S. Ct. 291, 93 L. Ed. 2d 265 (1986)(decided under prior law).

**Subsection G not overbroad.** — There is no merit to the argument that the aggravating circumstance of murder of a witness to a crime for the purpose of preventing the reporting of that crime is overbroad and unconstitutional. In order to prove the existence of this aggravating circumstance the state must prove that the killing was motivated by a desire to escape criminal prosecution for an earlier felony committed against the victim or some other person. The need for proof of motivation is sufficient to distinguish between this aggravating circumstance and that of a killing committed during the commission of a kidnapping, the second statutory aggravating circumstance submitted to the jury in defendant's case. *Clark v. Tansy*, 1994-NMSC-098, 118 N.M. 486, 882 P.2d 527.

**Death penalty eligibility in Subsection G of Section 31-20A-5 NMSA 1978**, requires compelling evidence that makes it reasonably probable, not just possible, that defendant's motive for committing murder was to silence a witness. To the extent *State v. Henderson*, 109 N.M. 655, 789 P.2d 603 (1990), upholds the murder-of-a-witness motive, when the only evidence of motive is the lack of other plausible motives and defendant's attempts to destroy evidence to conceal involvement in a crime, then to that extent *State v. Henderson*, 1990-NMSC-030, 109 N.M. 655, 789 P.2d 603, is overturned. *State v. Martinez*, 2006-NMSC-007, 139 N.M.152, 130 P.3d 731 (decided under prior law).

**"Murder of witness" aggravating circumstance properly applied** to defendant, who murdered a child he had kidnapped in order to prevent her from testifying against him.

*State v. Clark*, 1989-NMSC-010, 108 N.M. 288, 772 P.2d 322, cert. denied, 493 U.S. 923, 110 S. Ct. 291, 107 L. Ed. 2d 271 (1989), *overruled on other grounds by State v. Henderson*, 1996-NMCA-089, 109 N.M. 655, 789 P.2d 603.

**Murder of witness.** — Evidence showing that defendant raped and murdered his victim, and then attempted to avoid detection by destroying evidence at the scene that would tie him to the crime, was sufficient to establish the aggravating circumstance of murder of a witness. *State v. Henderson*, 1990-NMSC-030, 109 N.M. 655, 789 P.2d 603, *overruled on other grounds by Clark v. Tansey*, 1994-NMSC-098, 118 N.M. 486, 882 P.2d 527.

Evidence did not establish the statutory aggravating circumstance of killing in the commission of a kidnapping, where it was not clear that defendant intended to kill his victim during the commission of a kidnapping and it was more likely that he intended to kill the victim because she was a potential witness against him. *State v. Henderson*, 1990-NMSC-030, 109 N.M. 655, 789 P.2d 603, *overruled on other grounds by Clark v. Tansey*, 1994-NMSC-098, 118 N.M. 486, 882 P.2d 527.

Evidence that the defendant went to the victim's house with the intent to rob her and formed the intent to kill her only after he discovered that the police were outside was sufficient to show there was probable cause that the aggravating circumstance of killing of a witness existed. *State v. Willis*, 1997-NMSC-014, 123 N.M. 55, 933 P.2d 854.

Evidence, including statements that defendant made to his wife to the effect that he had raped a girl and killed her to prevent her from reporting the rape, was sufficient to support the aggravating circumstance of murder of a witness. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

Evidence that victim of ongoing robbery grabbed the telephone immediately before being shot was insufficient to support a reasonable inference that defendant formed a specific intent to kill for the purpose of silencing a witness. *State v. Treadway*, 2006-NMSC-008, 139 N.M. 167, 130 P.3d 746.

**"Murder of witness" not properly applied.** — The "murder of a witness" aggravating circumstance was not properly applied since there was no evidence that the defendant intended to kill his son as a witness to other crimes of the defendant, and there was evidence supporting the theory that the defendant suffered from the paranoid hallucination that he was being pursued by the devil and that he killed his son because he believed the devil had entered his son's body. *State v. Smith*, 1997-NMSC-017, 123 N.M. 52, 933 P.2d 851.

Where evidence established that defendant placed shirt over window to conceal his involvement in a robbery in which two persons were murdered, that defendant attempted to hide gems and a gun he took in the robbery, that defendant admitted to police that he went to the victim's house to steal gems and that the robbery had gone

bad, and that defendant lied to police about his role in the killings and where the evidence indicated that defendant killed one victim quickly leaving defendant little time to form a specific intent to kill for the purpose of silencing a witness, and where evidence implied that it was possible that the other victim was killed to silence her, the evidence was insufficient to establish a reasonable probability that defendant's motive for the killings was to silence witnesses. *State v. Martinez*, 2006-NMSC-007, 139 N.M.152, 130 P.3d 731.

**Use of factors at pretrial hearing.** — At a pretrial hearing to consider whether the state may seek the death penalty, the state could show there was probable cause that the aggravating circumstance of killing a witness was present, and the state was not required to prove the aggravating circumstance beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Willis*, 1997-NMSC-014, 123 N.M. 55, 933 P.2d 854 (decided under prior law).

**Law reviews.** — For article, "Constitutionality of the New Mexico Capital Punishment Statute," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 269 (1981).

For annual survey of New Mexico Criminal Procedure, see 20 N.M.L. Rev. 285 (1990).

For survey of 1990-91 criminal procedure and evidence, see 22 N.M.L. Rev. 713 (1992).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Sufficiency of evidence, for purposes of death penalty, to establish statutory aggravating circumstance that murder was heinous, cruel, depraved, or the like - post-Gregg cases, 63 A.L.R.4th 478.

Sufficiency of evidence, for purposes of death penalty, to establish statutory aggravating circumstance that murder was committed to avoid arrest or prosecution, to effect escape from custody, to hinder governmental function or enforcement of law, and the like - post-Gregg cases, 64 A.L.R.4th 755.

Sufficiency of evidence, for purposes of death penalty, to establish statutory aggravating circumstance that in committing murder, defendant created risk of death or injury to more than one person, to many persons, and the like - post-Gregg cases, 64 A.L.R.4th 837.

Sufficiency of evidence, for purposes of death penalty, to establish statutory aggravating circumstance that defendant was previously convicted of or committed other violent offense, had history of violent conduct, posed continuing threat to society, and the like - post-Gregg cases, 65 A.L.R.4th 838.

Sufficiency of evidence, for purpose of death penalty, to establish statutory aggravating circumstance that murder was committed for pecuniary gain, as consideration or in expectation of receiving something of monetary value, and the like - post-Gregg cases, 66 A.L.R.4th 417.

Sufficiency of evidence, for death penalty purposes, to establish statutory aggravating circumstance that murder was committed in course of committing, attempting, or fleeing from other offense, and the like - post-Gregg cases, 67 A.L.R.4th 887.

Sufficiency of evidence, for purposes of death penalty, to establish statutory aggravating circumstance that defendant committed murder while under sentence of imprisonment, in confinement or correctional custody, and the like - post-Gregg cases, 67 A.L.R.4th 942.

Vulnerability of victim as aggravating factor under state sentencing guidelines, 73 A.L.R.5th 383.

### **31-20A-6. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 7; repealed by Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2009, ch. 11, § 5 repealed 31-20A-6 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1979, ch. 150, § 7, relating to mitigating circumstances, effective July 1, 2009. For provisions of former section, see the 2008 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

## **ARTICLE 21**

### **Sentence, Pardons and Paroles**

#### **31-21-1. [Construction of statutory provisions prescribing term of imprisonment; maximum or minimum.]**

In all penal statutes of the state where by the terms of such statutes a definite punishment of imprisonment in the penitentiary is prescribed the time of such imprisonment in such statute shall be construed to be the maximum of imprisonment, unless such statutes expressly provide that such time is the minimum.

**History:** Laws 1909, ch. 32, § 10; Code 1915, § 5425; C.S. 1929, § 139-103; 1941 Comp., § 42-1702; 1953 Comp., § 41-17-2.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For juvenile probation services, see 32A-2-5 and 32A-2-24 NMSA 1978.

For separate sentences construed as cumulative, see 33-2-39 NMSA 1978.

For inapplicability of the Rules of Evidence to sentencing procedures, see Rule 11-1101 NMRA.



**Credit for time already served.** — Prisoner was entitled to credit for time served under prior void sentence when he was resentenced following habeas corpus proceeding to correct improper sentence. *Sneed v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-250, 74 N.M. 659, 397 P.2d 308.

**No credit for time served under void, original proceeding.** — The *Sneed v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-250, 74 N.M. 659, 397 P.2d 308, rule is applicable when an erroneous sentence is being corrected, but does not apply where the original proceeding was void for lack of jurisdiction even though time was served under a conviction found to be void because of absence of jurisdiction, credit may not be give for such time served when the prisoner is, on a subsequent trial, validly convicted of the same offense and given a new sentence. *Morgan v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-108, 75 N.M. 472, 406 P.2d 347.

**Section inapplicable when sentence prescribes indefinite punishment.** — Section 42-1-61, 1953 Comp. (repealed), which provided for a sentence of "not less than two years," does not by its terms prescribe a definite punishment, but only a minimum, and this section is therefore inapplicable by its own terms. *Jones v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-023, 73 N.M. 450, 389 P.2d 214 (decided under prior law).

**Section inapplicable in determining maximum sentence for sodomy.** — This section was inapplicable in determining maximum sentence imposed under 40-7-7, 1953 Comp. (repealed), providing imprisonment for not less than one year for sodomy. *Starkey v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-020, 73 N.M. 434, 389 P.2d 203 (decided under prior law).

**Court must consider whether petitioner deprived of section's benefits.** — The right to see the parole board which arises under the parole laws is not a matter of grace, and in order to fully comply with the purpose intended to be served by the indeterminate sentencing statute and the parole statutes, the supreme court must consider whether petitioner is deprived of the benefits arising under the statutory minimum when his parole board interview is denied by virtue of a sentence which did not conform to the statute. *Sneed v. Cox*, 1964-NMSC-250, 74 N.M. 659, 397 P.2d 308.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 613, 829, 830, 942, 972, 973.

Validity, under indeterminate sentence law, of sentence fixing identical minimum and maximum terms of imprisonment, 29 A.L.R. 1344.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1468, 1505.

## **31-21-2. Clothing, money and transportation furnished to prisoners on release from correctional facility.**

Upon the release of any prisoner from a correctional facility of the corrections department:

A. the superintendent shall provide him with suitable clothing as required and:

(1) in the case of release on parole, transportation to his place of employment if within this state, or if not within this state, then to any place within this state; or

(2) in the case of all other types of release, transportation to his home, if within the state, or if not within this state, then to the place of his conviction or to any other place within the state; and

B. the superintendent may provide him with not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and, in case of an exceptional situation, with the prior approval of the secretary of corrections, an additional amount not to exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) for purchase of transportation to a location in another state within the continental limits of the United States.

**History:** Laws 1909, ch. 32, § 7; Code 1915, § 5081; C.S. 1929, § 130-169; Laws 1939, ch. 55, § 18; 1941 Comp., § 42-1708; Laws 1951, ch. 99, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 41-17-8; Laws 1967, ch. 30, § 1; 1969, ch. 10, § 1; 1977, ch. 145, § 1; 1982, ch. 59, § 1.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Statute's provisions mandatory.** — The statute is mandatory. No exceptions are incorporated in it. The plain language of this statute makes it incumbent upon superintendent to provide clothing, money and transportation in these two instances. 1955 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 55-6122.

**Effective upon prisoner's release.** — Where prisoner had served the maximum sentence for the crime committed, the person is entitled to the items which the statute affords a prisoner upon expiration of his maximum sentence. 1955 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 55-6170.

### 31-21-3. Short title.

Sections 31-21-3 through 31-21-19 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Probation and Parole Act".

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-12, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 1; 1963, ch. 301, § 1.

### ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For inmate-release program, see 33-2-43 to 33-2-47 NMSA 1978.

For inapplicability of the Rules of Evidence to sentencing procedures, see Rule 11-1101 NMRA.

**No contract between state and prisoner.** — No act of the parole board can constitute a contract between a prisoner and the state. *Aragon v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-132, 75 N.M. 537, 407 P.2d 673.

**Void order of parole is without force or effect** to justify the release of a prisoner. *Aragon v. Cox*, 1965-NMSC-132, 75 N.M. 537, 407 P.2d 673.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

For note, "Negligent Hiring and Retention - Availability of Action Limited By Foreseeability Requirement," see 10 N.M.L. Rev. 491 (1980).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Propriety of conditioning probation on defendant's remaining childless or having no additional children during probationary period, 94 A.L.R.3d 1218.

Jury's discussion of parole law as ground for reversal for new trial, 21 A.L.R.4th 420.

Right of convicted defendant to refuse probation, 28 A.L.R.4th 736.

### **31-21-4. Construction and purpose of act.**

The Probation and Parole Act [31-21-3 to 31-21-19 NMSA 1978] shall be liberally construed to the end that the treatment of persons convicted of crime shall take into consideration their individual characteristics, circumstances, needs and potentialities as revealed by case study, and that such persons shall be dealt with in the community by a uniformly organized system of constructive rehabilitation under probation supervision instead of in an institution, or under parole supervision when a period of institutional treatment is deemed essential in the light of the needs of public safety and their own welfare.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-13, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 2; 1963, ch. 301, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 59 Am. Jur. 2d Pardon and Parole §§ 39 to 44.

67A Pardon and Parole §§ 39, 40, 43.

### **31-21-5. Definitions.**

As used in the Probation and Parole Act:

A. "probation" means the procedure under which an adult defendant, found guilty of a crime upon verdict or plea, is released by the court without imprisonment under a suspended or deferred sentence and subject to conditions;

B. "parole" means the release to the community of an inmate of an institution by decision of the board or by operation of law, subject to conditions imposed by the board and to its supervision;

C. "institution" means the state penitentiary and any other similar state institution hereinafter created;

D. "board" means the parole board;

E. "director" means the director of the adult probation and parole division of the corrections department or any employee designated by the director;

F. "adult" means any person convicted of a crime by a district court;

G. "geriatric inmate" means a person who:

(1) is serving a sentence and is confined in a prison or other correctional institution under the control of the corrections department;

(2) is fifty-five years of age or older;

(3) suffers from a debilitating and chronic infirmity, illness or disease related to aging; and

(4) does not constitute a danger to the person's own self or to society at the time of review;

H. "permanently incapacitated inmate" means a person who:

(1) is serving a sentence and is confined in a prison or other correctional institution under the control of the corrections department;

(2) by reason of an existing medical condition is permanently and irreversibly physically incapacitated; and

(3) does not constitute a danger to the person's own self or to society at the time of review; and

I. "terminally ill inmate" means a person who:

(1) is serving a sentence and is confined in a prison or other correctional institution under the control of the corrections department;

(2) has an incurable condition caused by illness or disease that will, within reasonable medical judgment, produce death within six months; and

(3) does not constitute a danger to the person's own self or to society at the time of review.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-14, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 41, § 1; 1991, ch. 52, § 1; 2023, ch. 89, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1978, ch. 41, § 1, repealed 41-17-14, 1953 Comp. (former 31-21-5 NMSA 1978), relating to definitions in the Probation and Parole Act, and enacted a new section.

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole as referring to corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**The 2023 amendment**, effective July 1, 2023, defined "geriatric inmate," "permanently incapacitated inmate," and "terminally ill inmate" and revised the definition of "director;" in Subsection E, after "director of the", deleted "field services" and added "adult probation and parole"; and added Subsections G through I.

**The 1991 amendment**, effective July 1, 1991, in Subsection D, substituted "parole board" for "state board of probation and parole" and in Subsection E substituted "director of the field services division of the corrections department" for "chief of the fields services bureau of the corrections division of the criminal justice department".

**Where judgment contains no reference to probation.** — Defendant was on "probation" within meaning of statute, where sentence was suspended subject to conditions stated in judgment and defendant had signed an agreement concerning rules, regulations and conditions of probation, even though judgment entered at time of the original sentence contained no specific reference to probation. *State v. Sublett*, 1968-NMCA-001, 78 N.M. 655, 436 P.2d 515.

**Presumption that court considers probation before sentencing.** — Where defendant's counsel asked the court to place defendant on probation before sentence was imposed, and no reasons were given by the court for denying probation, it is presumed the court considered the question of probation before sentencing defendant to the penitentiary. *State v. Follis*, 1970-NMCA-083, 81 N.M. 690, 472 P.2d 655.

**Court not required to enforce abstention from searches by probation officers.** — Statutory provisions that require the director to supervise probationers, direct the work

of probation officers and formulate methods of supervision do not require a court to enforce the provisions of the manual concerning abstention from searches by probation officers. *State v. Gardner*, 1980-NMCA-122, 95 N.M. 171, 619 P.2d 847.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

For note, "Parole Revocation and the Right to Counsel," see 5 N.M.L. Rev. 311 (1975).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 59 Am. Jur. 2d Pardon and Parole §§ 1 to 9, 74.

67A C.J.S. Pardon and Parole §§ 2 to 4, 39.

### **31-21-6. Protection of records.**

All social records, including presentence reports, pre-parole reports and supervision histories, obtained by the board are privileged and shall not be disclosed directly or indirectly to anyone other than the board, director, sentencing guidelines commission or sentencing judge, but authorities of the institution in which the prisoner is confined shall have access to all records and reports concerning the prisoner, and the sentencing judge, board and director shall have access to all records concerning the prisoner. The board, in the case of parole records, and the sentencing judge, in the case of probation records, in their discretion, whenever the best interest or welfare of a particular probationer or prisoner makes such action desirable or helpful, may permit inspection of the reports, or parts thereof, by the probationer, prisoner or his attorney. The sentencing guidelines commission shall have access to the social records for statistical and policymaking purposes only and shall not release any information identifying any individual.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-18, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 7; 1963, ch. 301, § 7; 1989, ch. 362, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole referring to the corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective April 7, 1989, inserted "sentencing guidelines commission" near the middle of the first sentence and added the last sentence.

**No privilege regarding communications made by inmate to probation officer.** — Nothing in this section makes privileged a communication made by a criminal to a probation and parole officer in the course of a presentence investigation. *State v. Silva*, 1967-NMCA-008, 78 N.M. 286, 430 P.2d 783.

**Privilege inapplicable to drug tests.** — Defendants were subjected to random urinalysis testing as a condition of probation or parole and tested positive for the presence of cocaine. Subsequently, they argued that their drug test results should not have been used to prosecute them for possession of cocaine because disclosure of the drug test results violates the privilege against disclosure found in this section. However the drug test results are more akin to investigative reports than social records; thus, the privilege set forth is inapplicable. *State v. Rickard*, 1994-NMCA-083, 118 N.M. 312, 881 P.2d 57, *rev'd in part on other grounds*, 1994-NMSC-111, 118 N.M. 586, 884 P.2d 477.

A defendant could not assert a privilege against the disclosure of drug test results since the drug test results are not social records. *State v. Ware*, 1994-NMCA-132, 118 N.M. 703, 884 P.2d 1182, cert. denied, 118 N.M. 731, 885 P.2d 1325.

**Privilege inapplicable to status as parolee or probationer.** — This section did not apply to a list containing the defendant's name and parole status obtained from the probation and parole board by agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. *U. S. v. Guerrero-Hernandez*, 95 F.3d 983 (10th Cir. 1996).

**Time to raise claim of privilege, when available.** — Defendant cannot on appeal be heard to complain that a communication made by defendant to a probation and parole officer in the course of a presentence investigation was privileged, when no claim of privilege was ever raised in the trial court. *State v. Silva*, 1967-NMCA-008, 78 N.M. 286, 430 P.2d 783.

**Reference to records during board's deliberations.** — If in the board's deliberations any reference is made to any of these records, such references and the information contained therein must be made under circumstances such that the prohibited disclosure may not occur. It is the board's duty, imposed by the legislature, to keep and guard this information from those not authorized to receive it. And the statute makes no exception of members of the press, even if these would not divulge the information further. 1956 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 56-6509.

**When board's minutes may be distributed to press.** — There is no objection to a distribution to the press of the minutes of the board's meetings so long as these do not contain references or information secured from privileged records covered by this section. 1956 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 56-6509.

**Mailing of probation records.** — The decision to allow probation records to be mailed to an attorney is within the discretion of the sentencing judge. 1971 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 71-25.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M. L. Rev. 234 (1972).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 62A Am. Jur. 2d Privacy §§ 60, 206.

Defendant's right to disclosure of presentence report, 40 A.L.R.3d 681.

### **31-21-7. Duties of director.**

The director shall:

- A. provide probation and parole services and supervise probationers and parolees;
- B. assign officers to serve in each judicial district. Selection and assignment of officers to each judicial district shall be made by the director;
- C. obtain office quarters for the staff in each district as necessary;
- D. assign the secretarial, bookkeeping and accounting work to clerical employees;
- E. direct the work of the officers and other employees;
- F. formulate methods of investigation, supervision, recordkeeping and reports;
- G. conduct training courses for the staff;
- H. seek to cooperate with all agencies, public and private, that are concerned with the treatment or welfare of persons on probation or parole;
- I. report to the parole board concerning the status of parolees under his supervision; and
- J. perform such other duties as directed by the secretary of corrections.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-21, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 10; 1963, ch. 301, § 9; 1975, ch. 194, § 7; 1977, ch. 257, § 56; 1990, ch. 7, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole as referring to corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**The 1990 amendment**, effective May 16, 1990, deleted "with the advice and consent of the judge of the district" at the end of Subsection B, made a minor stylistic change in Subsection H, and substituted "secretary of corrections" for "secretary of the criminal justice department" at the end of Subsection J.

**Court not required to enforce abstention from searches by probation officers.** — Statutory provisions that require the director to supervise probationers, direct the work of probation officers and formulate methods of supervision do not require a court to enforce the provisions of the manual of instructions for parole officers concerning



abstention from searches by probation officers. *State v. Gardner*, 1980-NMCA-122, 95 N.M. 171, 619 P.2d 847.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

### **31-21-8. Director to administer interstate compacts relating to convicts on probation and parole.**

The director is the administrator of interstate compacts relating to convicts on probation and parole.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-21.1, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 33, § 1; 1977, ch. 257, § 57.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

### **31-21-9. Presentence and prerelease investigations.**

A. Upon the order of any district or magistrate court, the director shall prepare a presentence report which shall include such information as the court may request.

B. Upon the order of any district court the director shall prepare a prerelease report which the court shall use to determine the accused's qualifications for bail. The report shall include available information about the accused's family ties, employment, financial resources, character, physical and mental condition, the length of his residence in the community, his record of convictions, his record of appearance at court proceedings or of flight to avoid prosecution or failure to appear at court proceedings and any history of drug or alcohol abuse.

C. All local and state law enforcement agencies shall furnish to the director any requested criminal records.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-23, enacted by Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 17.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals and reenactments.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 17, repealed 41-17-23, 1953 Comp., relating to presentence investigation, and enacted the above section.

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 1972, ch. 71, § 19, provided that this act shall not be construed to repeal the provisions of 66-8-131 to 66-8-133 NMSA 1978, relating to the issuance of uniform traffic citations.

**Obtaining of presentence report is not matter of right;** the report is discretionary with the court. *State v. Follis*, 1970-NMCA-083, 81 N.M. 690, 472 P.2d 655.

**Judge's request for presentence report discretionary.** — The trial judge has discretion to impose sentence immediately after conviction or request a presentence report, and where the jury had returned its verdict, it could not be said that immediate sentencing deprived defendant of a fair trial. *State v. Mireles*, 1972-NMCA-105, 84 N.M. 146, 500 P.2d 431.

**Absence of presentence report provides no basis for relief.** *State v. Follis*, 1970-NMCA-083, 81 N.M. 690, 472 P.2d 655.

**"Statement" before court for purpose of altering sentence under Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 is presentence report.** *State v. Wilson*, 1982-NMCA-019, 97 N.M. 534, 641 P.2d 1081, cert. denied, 98 N.M. 50, 644 P.2d 1039.

**No statutory limitations upon contents.** — There are no statutory limitations upon the contents of the presentence report. *State v. Montoya*, 1978-NMCA-009, 91 N.M. 425, 575 P.2d 609, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Inclusion of arrest record in presentence report does not violate due process.** *State v. Montoya*, 1978-NMCA-009, 91 N.M. 425, 575 P.2d 609, cert. denied, 91 N.M. 491, 576 P.2d 297.

**Time spent in boys' school may also be considered.** — The parole board entirely within its own discretion may consider the time spent at the New Mexico boys' school towards eligibility for consideration for parole. 1958 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-109.

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "Definitive Sentencing in New Mexico: The 1977 Criminal Sentencing Act," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 131 (1978-79).

For comment, "A Comment on *State v. Montoya* and the use of Arrest Records in Sentencing," see 9 N.M.L. Rev. 443 (1979).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 807.

Right of defendant to inspect report of presentence investigation of witness previously convicted of crime, under Rule 32(c) of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, 38 A.L.R. Fed. 786.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1480, 1492, 1493, 1496.

## **31-21-10. Parole authority and procedure.**

A. Except as provided in Section 31-21-10.2 NMSA 1978, an inmate of an institution who was sentenced to life imprisonment becomes eligible for a parole hearing after the

inmate has served thirty years of the sentence. Before ordering the parole of an inmate sentenced to life imprisonment, the board shall:

- (1) interview the inmate at the institution where the inmate is committed;
- (2) consider all pertinent information concerning the inmate, including:
  - (a) the circumstances of the offense;
  - (b) mitigating and aggravating circumstances;
  - (c) whether a deadly weapon was used in the commission of the offense;
  - (d) whether the inmate is a habitual offender;
  - (e) the reports filed under Section 31-21-9 NMSA 1978; and
  - (f) the reports of such physical and mental examinations as have been made while in an institution;
- (3) make a finding that a parole is in the best interest of society and the inmate; and
- (4) make a finding that the inmate is able and willing to fulfill the obligations of a law-abiding citizen.

If parole is denied, the inmate sentenced to life imprisonment shall again become entitled to a parole hearing at two-year intervals. The board may, on its own motion, reopen any case in which a hearing has already been granted and parole denied.

B. Unless the board finds that it is in the best interest of society and the parolee to reduce the period of parole, a person who was sentenced to life imprisonment shall be required to undergo a minimum period of parole of five years. During the period of parole, the person shall be under the guidance and supervision of the board.

C. An inmate of an institution who was sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole is not eligible for parole and shall remain incarcerated for the entirety of the inmate's natural life.

D. Except for certain sex offenders as provided in Section 31-21-10.1 NMSA 1978, an inmate who was convicted of a first, second or third degree felony and who has served the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the court in an institution designated by the corrections department shall be required to undergo a two-year period of parole. An inmate who was convicted of a fourth degree felony and who has served the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the court in an institution designated by the corrections department shall be required to undergo a one-year period of parole.

During the period of parole, the person shall be under the guidance and supervision of the board.

E. Every person while on parole shall remain in the legal custody of the institution from which the person was released, but shall be subject to the orders of the board. The board shall furnish to each inmate as a prerequisite to release under its supervision a written statement of the conditions of parole that shall be accepted and agreed to by the inmate as evidenced by the inmate's signature affixed to a duplicate copy to be retained in the files of the board. The board shall also require as a prerequisite to release the submission and approval of a parole plan. If an inmate refuses to affix the inmate's signature to the written statement of the conditions of parole or does not have an approved parole plan, the inmate shall not be released and shall remain in the custody of the institution in which the inmate has served the inmate's sentence, excepting parole, until such time as the period of parole the inmate was required to serve, less meritorious deductions, if any, expires, at which time the inmate shall be released from that institution without parole, or until such time that the inmate evidences acceptance and agreement to the conditions of parole as required or receives approval for the inmate's parole plan or both. Time served from the date that an inmate refuses to accept and agree to the conditions of parole or fails to receive approval for the inmate's parole plan shall reduce the period, if any, to be served under parole at a later date. If the district court has ordered that the inmate make restitution to a victim as provided in Section 31-17-1 NMSA 1978, the board shall include restitution as a condition of parole. The board shall also personally apprise the inmate of the conditions of parole and the inmate's duties relating to those conditions of parole.

F. When a person on parole has performed the obligations of the person's release for the period of parole provided in this section, the board shall make a final order of discharge and issue the person a certificate of discharge.

G. The provisions of this section shall apply to all inmates except geriatric, permanently incapacitated and terminally ill inmates eligible for the medical and geriatric parole program as provided by the Parole Board Act [31-21-22 to 31-21-26 NMSA 1978].

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-21-10, enacted by Laws 1980, ch. 28, § 1; 1981, ch. 285, § 3; 1982, ch. 107, § 1; 1983, ch. 136, § 1; 1987, ch. 139, § 4; 1988, ch. 62, § 2; 1994, ch. 21, § 1; 1994, ch. 24, § 4; 1996, ch. 79, § 4; 1997, ch. 140, § 2; 2003 (1st S.S.), ch. 1, § 8; 2004, ch. 38, § 2; 2005, ch. 59, § 3; 2007, ch. 69, § 3; 2009, ch. 11, § 4; 2023, ch. 24, § 2; 2025, ch. 79, § 3.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2025 amendment**, effective June 20, 2025, removed the requirement that offenders, as a condition of parole, pay for the costs of parole services and removed the requirement that offenders reimburse a law enforcement agency or local crime stopper program for the amount of any reward paid by the agency or program for information

leading to the offender's arrest; deleted former Subsection G and redesignated former Subsection H as Subsection G.

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, provided for parole for children sentenced as adults; in Subsection A, in the introductory paragraph, added "Except as provided in Section 31-21-10.2 NMSA 1978"; in Subsection E, after "inmate's duties relating", deleted "thereto" and added "to those conditions of parole"; and in Subsection G, Paragraph G(1), substituted "inmate" for "defendant" throughout the subparagraph.

**Applicability.** — Laws 2023, ch. 24, § 5 provided that the provisions of Laws 2023, ch. 24 apply retroactively to all offenders currently serving an adult sentence for an offense committed as a child.

**The 2009 amendment**, effective July 1, 2009, in Subsection B, replaced "convicted of a capital felony" with "sentenced to life imprisonment" and added Subsection C.

**The 2007 amendment**, effective July 1, 2007, made the section applicable to all crimes for which an inmate has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

**The 2005 amendment**, effective June 17, 2005, provided that an inmate sentenced to life imprisonment for a first degree felony resulting in the death of a child becomes eligible for a parole hearing after serving thirty years of the sentence.

**The 2004 amendments**, effective July 1, 2004, amended Paragraph (1) of Subsection F to change one thousand twenty dollars (\$1,020) to one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800), fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) to one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) and to add after "(\$150) "as set by the appropriate district supervisor of the adult probation and parole division, based upon the financial circumstances of the defendant. The defendant's payment of the supervised parole costs shall not be waived unless the board holds an evidentiary hearing and finds that the defendant is unable to pay the costs. If the board waives the defendant's payment of the supervised parole costs and the defendant's financial circumstances subsequently change so that the defendant is able to pay the costs, the appropriate district supervisor of the adult probation and parole division shall advise the board and the board shall hold an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the waiver should be rescinded".

**The 2003 (1st S.S.) amendment**, effective February 3, 2004, substituted "an institution" for "prison" in Subparagraph (2)(f) of Subsection A, added "except for sex offenders as provided in Section 31-21-10.1 NMSA 1978" at the beginning of the first sentence of Subsection C and substituted "an institution" for "a corrections facility" in the first and second sentences of that subsection, and substituted "institution" for both "correction facility" and "facility" in the fourth sentence of Subsection D.

**Commencement of parole.** — Subsection C of Section 31-21-10 (now Subsection D) requires commencement of the parole period as soon as the felony sentence has been completed. *Gillespie v. State*, 1988-NMSC-068, 107 N.M. 455, 760 P.2d 147.

**A court may attach a two-year parole period** to a consecutive sentence for third and fourth degree felonies. *State v. Utley*, 2008-NMCA-080, 144 N.M. 275, 186 P.3d 904, cert. denied, 2008-NMCERT-004, 144 N.M. 47, 183 P.3d 932.

**Subsection A of this section does not create a minimum sentence for those sentenced to life imprisonment.** *Compton v. Lytle*, 2003-NMSC-031, 134 N.M. 586, 81 P.3d 39.

**Good time credit not available.** — The legislature intended to differentiate between capital and noncapital felons by allowing for good-time credits for the latter and denying them to the former; a life sentence does not have a determinate maximum sentence to be reduced by good-time credits. *Compton v. Lytle*, 2003-NMSC-031, 134 N.M. 586, 81 P.3d 39.

**Minimum period of incarceration for parole eligibility for life sentences prior to 1980.** — Where petitioner pled guilty to four murder charges and was sentenced to four life sentences; three of the sentences ran concurrently with each other and consecutive to the fourth sentence; during plea negotiations petitioner's attorney advised petitioner that based on the law at that time, petitioner would be eligible for parole after serving ten years on each of the two consecutive life sentences; once incarcerated, however, petitioner was notified that the eligibility period for parole was thirty years on each life sentence; petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus challenging the timing of petitioner's eligibility for parole; prior to 1977, the statute provided for a minimum ten-year period of incarceration for eligibility for parole; in 1977, the legislature first enacted a provision, effective July 1, 1979, that repealed the statute and established a new, thirty-year minimum period of incarceration for eligibility for parole and then enacted an amendment, effective June 21, 1977, to the same statute that did not change the pre-1977 minimum ten-year period of incarceration for eligibility for parole; the 1978 recompilation of the statutes compiled the 1977 amended version of the statute as Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978 and referred to the first 1977 enactment requiring a minimum thirty-year period of incarceration for parole eligibility in a compiler's note without including the text; in 1980, to resolve the confusion, the legislature repealed and reenacted Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978, effective February 22, 1980, to provide for a thirty-year period of incarceration before eligibility for parole and purported to make the new statute apply retroactively to all crimes committed on or after July 1, 1979; petitioner's crimes were committed on September 17, 1979 and petitioner was sentenced on May 14, 1980; in *Quintana v. New Mexico Department of Corrections*, 100 N.M. 224, 668 P.2d 1101 (1983), the court held that the first 1977 enactment repealed the statute so that the 1977 amendment of the statute was ineffective with the result that in 1977, the statute provided for a minimum thirty-year period of incarceration for eligibility for parole; in *Devine v. New Mexico Department of Corrections*, 866 F.2d 339 (10th Cir. 1989), the court ruled that the holding in *Quintana* was unforeseeable and

retroactively enhanced the petitioner's sentence in violation of ex post facto principles and violated the petitioner's federal due process rights; and in this case, in reliance on Quintana, the district court dismissed petitioner's petition and ordered petitioner to serve thirty years instead of ten years before consideration for parole, petitioner was eligible for parole upon the completion of ten years of incarceration on the second life sentence. *Skidgel v. Hatch*, 2013-NMSC-019, 301 P.3d 854, *overruling Quintana v. New Mexico Dep't of Corrs.*, 1983-NMSC-066, 100 N.M. 224, 668 P.2d 1101.

### **31-21-10.1. Sex offenders; period of parole; terms and conditions of parole.**

A. If the district court sentences a sex offender to a term of incarceration in a facility designated by the corrections department, the district court shall include a provision in the judgment and sentence that specifically requires the sex offender to serve an indeterminate period of supervised parole for a period of:

(1) not less than five years and not in excess of twenty years for the offense of kidnapping when committed with intent to inflict a sexual offense upon the victim, criminal sexual penetration in the third degree, criminal sexual contact of a minor in the fourth degree or sexual exploitation of children in the second degree; or

(2) not less than five years and up to the natural life of the sex offender for the offense of aggravated criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual penetration in the first or second degree, criminal sexual contact of a minor in the second or third degree or sexual exploitation of children by prostitution in the first or second degree.

A sex offender's period of supervised parole may be for a period of less than the maximum if, at a review hearing provided for in Subsection C of this section, the state is unable to prove that the sex offender should remain on parole.

B. Prior to placing a sex offender on parole, the board shall conduct a hearing to determine the terms and conditions of supervised parole for the sex offender. The board may consider any relevant factors, including:

(1) the nature and circumstances of the offense for which the sex offender was incarcerated;

(2) the nature and circumstances of a prior sex offense committed by the sex offender;

(3) rehabilitation efforts engaged in by the sex offender, including participation in treatment programs while incarcerated or elsewhere;

(4) the danger to the community posed by the sex offender; and

(5) a risk and needs assessment regarding the sex offender, developed by the sex offender management board of the New Mexico sentencing commission or another appropriate entity, to be used by appropriate parole board personnel.

C. When a sex offender has served the initial five years of supervised parole, and at two and one-half year intervals thereafter, the board shall review the duration of the sex offender's supervised parole. At each review hearing, the attorney general shall bear the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the sex offender should remain on parole.

D. The board may order a sex offender released on parole to abide by reasonable terms and conditions of parole, including:

(1) being subject to intensive supervision by a parole officer of the corrections department;

(2) participating in an outpatient or inpatient sex offender treatment program;

(3) a parole agreement by the sex offender not to use alcohol or drugs;

(4) a parole agreement by the sex offender not to have contact with certain persons or classes of persons; and

(5) being subject to alcohol testing, drug testing or polygraph examinations used to determine if the sex offender is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the sex offender's parole.

E. The board shall require electronic real-time monitoring of every sex offender released on parole for the entire time the sex offender is on parole. The electronic monitoring shall use global positioning system monitoring technology or any successor technology that would give continuous information on the sex offender's whereabouts and enable law enforcement and the corrections department to determine the real-time position of a sex offender to a high level of accuracy.

F. The board shall notify the chief public defender of an upcoming parole hearing for a sex offender pursuant to Subsection C of this section, and the chief public defender shall make representation available to the sex offender at the parole hearing.

G. If the board finds that a sex offender has violated the terms and conditions of the sex offender's parole, the board may revoke the sex offender's parole or may modify the terms and conditions of parole.

H. The provisions of this section shall apply to all sex offenders, except geriatric, permanently incapacitated and terminally ill inmates eligible for the medical and geriatric parole program as provided by the Parole Board Act [31-21-22 to 31-21-26 NMSA 1978].



I. As used in this section, "sex offender" means a person who is convicted of, pleads guilty to or pleads nolo contendere to any one of the following offenses:

- (1) kidnapping, as provided in Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978, when committed with intent to inflict a sexual offense upon the victim;
- (2) aggravated criminal sexual penetration or criminal sexual penetration in the first, second or third degree, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;
- (3) criminal sexual contact of a minor in the second, third or fourth degree, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;
- (4) sexual exploitation of children in the second degree, as provided in Section 30-6A-3 NMSA 1978;
- (5) sexual exploitation of children by prostitution in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-6A-4 NMSA 1978; or
- (6) child solicitation by electronic communication device, as provided in Section 30-37-3.2 NMSA 1978.

**History:** Laws 2003 (1st S.S.), ch. 1, § 9; 2007, ch. 68, § 4; 2007, ch. 69, § 4.

### ANNOTATIONS

**2007 Multiple Amendments.** — Laws 2007, ch. 68, § 4 and Laws 2007, ch. 69, § 4 enacted different amendments to this section that can be reconciled. Pursuant to 12-1-8 NMSA 1978, Laws 2007, ch. 69, § 4, as the last act signed by the governor, is set out above and incorporates both amendments. Laws 2007, ch. 68, § 4 and Laws 2007, ch. 69, § 4 are described below. To view the session laws in their entirety, see the 2007 session laws on *NMOneSource.com*.

Laws 2007, ch. 69, § 4, effective July 1, 2007, required a parole period of not less than five years and not more than twenty years for certain sexual offenses and not less than five years up to natural life for more serious sexual offenses; permitted the imposition of supervised parole for the maximum period; required electronic monitoring during parole; and defined "sex offender" as a person convicted of aggravated criminal sexual penetration.

Laws 2007, ch. 68, § 4, effective July 1, 2007, defined "sex offender" to include a person convicted of child solicitation by electronic communication device.

**Separate amendments to parole statute are reconcilable and must be read harmoniously because each has distinct purposes.** — Where defendant entered a conditional plea to child solicitation by electronic communication device (CES), having been accused of luring via a website an undercover officer posing as a young teenage

girl into meeting at a house for a sexual encounter in October 2015, and where the district court sentenced defendant to three years in the department of corrections, and because CES is included in the current sex offender parole statute, imposed on defendant a five- to twenty-year indeterminate period of sex offender parole, and where defendant sought application of the standard parole term to his sentence and not the extended parole term enacted in the 2007 legislative session, claiming that two 2007 bills, SB 735, which required those convicted of CES to serve a mandated five to twenty-year period of sex offender parole under 31-21-10.1(A) NMSA 1978, and SB 528, which also amended 31-21-10.1(A) NMSA 1978, but made no mention of CES or the extended parole requirements for this crime, were irreconcilable, and therefore SB 528, as the last act signed by the governor, was the governing law and SB 735 was ineffective in amending the sex offender parole statute to include the crime of CES, the district court did not err in imposing the extended parole requirements, because each bill's purpose is distinct in its efforts to make specific independent improvements to the sex offender parole statute and are therefore reconcilable. If statutes have distinct purposes that may be read harmoniously, and courts must give effect to each. *State v. Sena*, 2023-NMSC-007, *rev'g* 2021-NMCA-047, 495 P.3d 1163.

**District court erred in sentencing defendant in accordance with the terms of the sex offender parole statute.** — Where defendant entered into a conditional plea to one count of child solicitation by electronic communication device, contrary to § 30-37-3.2(C)(1) NMSA 1978, for conduct committed in 2015, and where the district court, as a part of defendant's sentence, sentenced defendant to parole pursuant to the sex offender parole statute, § 31-21-10.1 NMSA 1978, rather than pursuant to the general parole statute, § 31-21-10(D), NMSA 1978, the district court erred by sentencing defendant in accordance with the terms of § 31-21-10.1(A)(1), because competing amendments to this section in 2007 were irreconcilable, and it cannot be concluded that the legislature meant to subject those convicted of child solicitation by electronic communication to the enhanced sex offender parole terms. *State v. Sena*, 2021-NMCA-047, *rev'd* by 2023-NMSC-007.

**A district court has inherent common law authority to correct a sentence that is illegal due to clear error.** — Where defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal sexual penetration, and where the district court, in the first judgment and sentence (J&S), erred in ordering that defendant serve two years of parole, resulting in an unlawfully short period of mandatory parole, and where, thirteen days later, the district court attempted to correct the sentencing error by entering a second amended J&S, which replaced defendant's parole period of two years with five-to-twenty years, both of which were illegal sentences, as 31-21-10.1(A)(2) NMSA 1978, requires a sex offender convicted of CSP in the second degree to serve an indeterminate period of supervised parole for not less than five years and up to the natural life of the sex offender, and where defendant challenged the revised parole period in a petition for writ of habeas corpus, and where the district court determined that it had no jurisdiction to correct the illegal parole sentence in the first J&S, relying on *State v. Torres*, 2012-NMCA-026, which concluded that former Rule 5-801(A) NMRA abrogated the common law principle that a district court retained inherent jurisdiction to correct illegal

sentences, and accordingly granted defendant's habeas petition, invalidated and voided the second amended J&S, and reinstated the original two-year parole period, the district court erred in granting the habeas petition, because historical changes to Rule 5-801(A) did not remove a district court's common law jurisdictional authority to correct a sentence that is illegal due to clear error. *State v. Romero*, 2023-NMSC-008, *overruling State v. Torres*, 2012-NMCA-026, 272 P.3d 689.

**The district court erred by sentencing defendant to sex offender parole and probation.** — Where defendant was convicted of attempt to commit second-degree criminal sexual contact of a minor (CSCM), the district court erred when it imposed a sentence to sex offender probation and parole instead of a sentence in accordance with the general probation and parole statutes, because while CSCM is among the enumerated offenses triggering a sentence to sex offender probation or parole, attempt to commit CSCM is not included among the offenses. *State v. Notah*, 2022-NMCA-005, cert. denied.

**Duration-review hearings are mandatory after five years of supervised parole, regardless of where parole is served.** — Where defendant pleaded no contest to one count of manufacturing child pornography and received a basic sentence of nine years, and where, following completion of his basic sentence, defendant began serving a five to twenty-year period of indeterminate supervised parole, and where, after serving a combination of in-house parole and parole in the community for more than five years, the parole board denied defendant's request for a duration-review hearing, claiming that a defendant is only entitled to a duration-review hearing after serving an uninterrupted five-year period of parole in the community, the district court did not err in ordering the parole board to conduct a duration-review hearing, because the initial five years of supervised parole needed to receive a duration-review hearing under Subsection B of this section includes all time served during the parole sentence, whether in prison, a rehabilitative institution, or in the community. *State v. Thompson*, 2022-NMSC-023.

## **31-21-10.2. Parole for children sentenced as adults.**

A. Unless subject to earlier eligibility for parole pursuant to another provision of law, a serious youthful offender sentenced pursuant to Section 31-18-15.3 NMSA 1978 or a youthful offender sentenced as an adult pursuant to Section 32A-2-20 NMSA 1978 shall be eligible for parole and entitled to a parole hearing after the offender has served:

(1) twenty-five years of the sentence if the sentence is for two or more convictions of first degree murder pursuant to Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

(2) twenty years of the sentence if the sentence is for one conviction of either first degree willful and deliberate murder pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978 or first degree depraved-mind murder pursuant to Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978; or

(3) fifteen years of the sentence if the sentence is for a conviction pursuant to any other qualifying provision of law.

Parole eligibility and a parole hearing shall occur whether the offender is serving concurrent or consecutive sentences for multiple convictions arising from the same case. If the offender is serving sentences for convictions arising from multiple cases, the time counted toward parole eligibility for a particular case does not begin to accrue until that sentence for the case is being served.

B. If parole is denied, the offender shall be eligible for parole and entitled to a parole hearing every five years thereafter, unless the offender is subject to earlier eligibility for parole pursuant to any other provision of law.

C. During a parole eligibility hearing involving an offender subject to a parole hearing pursuant to this section, the board shall take into consideration, in addition to other factors the board is required by law to consider:

(1) where available, a statement by a victim or a relative of a victim of the offense for which the offender is imprisoned;

(2) the offender's age at the time of committing the offense;

(3) the nature of the offense and the history and characteristics of the offender;

(4) whether the offender has substantially complied with the rules of the institution to which the offender has been confined, including whether the offender has completed an educational, vocational or other program, where available, while confined;

(5) whether the offender has demonstrated maturity, rehabilitation and a fitness to reenter society;

(6) physical, mental or psychiatric reports or examinations of the offender conducted by licensed health care professionals;

(7) the offender's family and community circumstances at the time of committing the offense, including the offender's history of abuse, trauma or involvement in the child welfare system;

(8) the extent of the offender's role in the offense and whether an adult or peer was involved in the offense;

(9) the diminished culpability of juveniles as compared to that of adults and the hallmark features of youth, including immaturity, impetuosity and failure to appreciate risks and consequences; and

(10) other information that the board deems relevant to its decision.

D. An offender eligible for parole pursuant to this section shall be entitled to representation by counsel at all parole eligibility hearings.

E. An offender eligible for or granted parole pursuant to this section shall be subject to those provisions of the Probation and Parole Act not in conflict with this section.

F. The board shall annually conduct a review of all offenders currently serving an adult sentence for an offense committed as a child to ensure that parole eligibility hearings required pursuant to this section are timely conducted.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-21-10.2, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 24, § 3.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2023, ch. 24 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 16, 2023, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-21-11. Parole to detainees to serve another sentence or for hospitalization and treatment.**

Prisoners who are otherwise eligible for parole may be paroled to detainees to serve another sentence within the penitentiary or to the forensic treatment or alcohol treatment unit of the New Mexico behavioral health institute at Las Vegas or to any other specific hospital or residential treatment program determined necessary by the board.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-24.1, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 30, § 1; 1977, ch. 216, § 13; 1982, ch. 107, § 2; 2005, ch. 313, § 10.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole as referring to corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**The 2005 amendment,** effective June 17, 2005, changed the name of the New Mexico state hospital to the New Mexico behavioral institute at Las Vegas.

**No loss of state's jurisdiction.** — Petitioner is not denied due process in violation of state and federal constitutions by his imprisonment and detention in New Mexico for violation of terms of parole agreement whereby New Mexico had paroled him to detainer in Arizona without surrendering its jurisdiction over him. *Snow v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-082, 76 N.M. 238, 414 P.2d 217.

**Effect of two life sentences on "outside" parole.** — As a practical matter a person committed under two life sentences cannot be granted an "outside" parole until he has served 20 years but he can be granted an "in custody" parole after serving 10 years. 1961 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 61-59.

**Cumulative sentences.** — If it were mandatory upon a penitentiary to construe cumulative sentences as one continuous sentence, the provisions of this section would not be effective. 1963 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-165.

**Cancellation of detainers.** — The issuing and cancellation of detainers is properly a matter for the parole agency of this state. The board has authority to cancel, if it deems such advisable, an outstanding detainer or warrant based upon a violation of parole. 1956 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 56-6371.

### **31-21-12. Conditional release.**

A. Any prisoner who is released by authority of the governor under any conditional release or other disposition made under the pardoning power, other than full pardon, shall, upon release, be deemed as released on parole until the expiration of the basic term or terms of imprisonment for which he was sentenced and until the expiration of any period of parole included as a part of sentence.

B. Except for a full pardon, the governor may not conditionally release or otherwise pardon a prisoner during the period for which such person is serving any enhanced term of his sentence pursuant to Section 31-18-16 NMSA 1978.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-25, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 14; 1977, ch. 216, § 14.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 59 Am. Jur. 2d Pardon and Parole §§ 63 to 72; 60 Am. Jur. 2d Penal and Correctional Institutions §§ 226, 229, 230, 232 to 235.

Conditional pardon, 60 A.L.R. 1410.

Offenses and convictions covered by pardon, 35 A.L.R.2d 1261.

Denial of state prisoner's application for, or revocation of, participation in work or study release program or furlough program as actionable under Civil Rights Act of 1871 (42 USCS § 1983), 55 A.L.R. Fed. 208.

67A C.J.S. Pardon and Parole §§ 23 to 28.

### **31-21-13. Information from prison officials.**

It shall be the duty of all prison officials to grant to the members of the board, or its properly accredited representatives, access at all reasonable times to any prisoner over whom the board has jurisdiction under this act [31-21-3 to 31-21-19 NMSA 1978], to provide for the board or such representatives facilities for communicating with and interviewing such prisoner and to furnish to the board such reports and records as the board shall require concerning the conduct and character of any prisoner in their custody and any other facts deemed by the board pertinent in determining whether such prisoner shall be paroled.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-26, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 15.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole as referring to corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

### **31-21-13.1. Intensive supervision programs.**

A. As used in this section, "intensive supervision programs" means programs that provide highly structured and intense supervision, with stringent reporting requirements, of certain individuals who represent an excessively high assessment of risk of violation of probation or parole, emphasize meaningful rehabilitative activities and reasonable alternatives without seriously increasing the risk of recidivist crime and facilitate the payment of restitution by the offender to the victim. "Intensive supervision programs" include house arrest programs or electronic surveillance programs or both.

B. The corrections department shall implement and operate intensive supervision programs in various local communities. The programs shall provide services for appropriate individuals by probation and parole officers of the corrections department. The corrections department shall promulgate rules and regulations to provide that the officers providing these services have a maximum case load of forty offenders and to provide for offender selection and other criteria. The corrections department may cooperate with all recognized law enforcement authorities and share all necessary and pertinent information, records or documents regarding probationers or parolees in order to implement and operate these intensive supervision programs.

C. For purposes of this section, a judge contemplating imposition of an intensive supervision program for an individual shall consult with the adult probation and parole division of the corrections department and consider the recommendations before imposing such probation. The adult probation and parole division of the corrections department shall recommend only those individuals who would have otherwise been recommended for incarceration for intensive supervision programs. A judge has discretion to impose an intensive supervision program for an individual, regardless of recommendations made by the adult probation and parole division. Inmates eligible for parole, or within twelve months of eligibility for parole, or inmates who would otherwise remain in a correctional institution for lack of a parole plan or those parolees whose

parole the board would otherwise revoke are eligible for intensive supervision programs. The provisions of this section do not limit or reduce the statutory authority vested in probation and parole supervision as defined by any other section of the Probation and Parole Act.

D. There is created in the state treasury the "corrections department intensive supervision fund" to be administered by the corrections department upon vouchers signed by the secretary of corrections. Balances in the corrections department intensive supervision fund shall not revert to the general fund. Beginning July 1, 1988, the intensive supervision programs established pursuant to this section shall be funded by those supervision costs collected pursuant to the provisions of Sections 31-20-6 and 31-21-10 NMSA 1978. The corrections department is specifically authorized to hire additional permanent or term full-time equivalent positions for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-21-13.1, enacted by Laws 1988, ch. 62, § 3; 1991, ch. 52, § 2; 2013, ch. 48, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2013 amendment**, effective June 14, 2013, increased the maximum case load of probation and parole officers working in intensive supervision programs from twenty to forty offenders; and in Subsection B, in the third sentence, after "maximum case load of", deleted "twenty" and added "forty".

**The 1991 amendment**, effective July 1, 1991, in the first sentence of Subsection A, substituted "individuals who represent an excessively high assessment to risk of violation of probation or parole, emphasize" for "probationers and parolees who represent an excessively high assessment of risk to the community, emphasizes"; in the second sentence of Subsection B, substituted "individuals" for "probationers and parolees"; Subsection C, substituted "adult probation and parole division" for "field services division" in the first two sentences, added the present third sentence, and in the present fourth sentence substituted "Inmates eligible for parole, or within twelve months of eligibility for parole, or inmates" for "Only those parolees"; and made minor stylistic changes throughout the section.

**Warrantless searches and seizures.** — Defendant's expectations of privacy, particularly as to his vehicle parked outside the probation office, were necessarily reduced by his status and by the provisions in the probation order and intensive supervision program agreement regarding warrantless searches and seizures where he was under arrest, and had undergone a patdown search that aroused suspicions and a key-lock match that caught him in a lie. Defendant's probation status, together with his prior convictions and current probation violation for which he was arrested, the patdown discovery of a large sum of cash in small bills, and defendant's lie about how he arrived at the probation office were sufficient to give the officers a reasonable basis to search the vehicle for evidence of another violation of his probation conditions. *State v. Ponce*,



2004-NMCA-137, 136 N.M. 614, 103 P.3d 54, cert. quashed, 2006-NMCERT-004, 139 N.M. 429, 134 P.3d 120.

### **31-21-14. Return of parole violator.**

A. At any time during release on parole the board or the director may issue a warrant for the arrest of the released prisoner for violation of any of the conditions of release, or issue a notice to appear to answer a charge of violation. The notice shall be served personally upon the prisoner. The warrant shall authorize the superintendent of the institution from which the prisoner was released to return the prisoner to the actual custody of the institution or to any other suitable detention facility designated by the board or the director. If the prisoner is out of the state, the warrant shall authorize the superintendent to return him to the state.

B. The director may arrest the prisoner without a warrant or may deputize any officer with power of arrest to do so by giving him a written statement setting forth that the prisoner has, in the judgment of the director, violated the conditions of his release. Where an arrest is made without a warrant, the prisoner shall not be returned to the institution unless authorized by the director or the board. Pending hearing as provided by law upon any charge of violation, the prisoner shall remain incarcerated in the institution.

C. Upon arrest and detention, the board shall cause the prisoner to be promptly brought before it for a parole revocation hearing on the parole violation charged, under rules and regulations the board may adopt. If violation is established, the board may continue or revoke the parole or enter any other order as it sees fit.

D. A prisoner for whose return a warrant has been issued shall, if it is found that the warrant cannot be served, be a fugitive from justice. If it appears that he has violated the provisions of his release, the board shall determine whether the time from the date of the violation to the date of his arrest, or any part of it, shall be counted as time served under the sentence.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-28, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 17; 1959, ch. 31, § 1; 1963, ch. 301, § 12.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole as referring to corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**No violation of due process rights.** — Defendant's due process rights are not violated by a deferral of a parole revocation hearing, following service of an intervening sentence. The granting of a writ of habeas corpus to defendant by the district court was error. *Moody v. Quintana*, 1976-NMSC-070, 89 N.M. 574, 555 P.2d 695.

**Meaning of section.** — It is not within the meaning of this section to require a hearing subsequent to the granting of a parole, which is contingent upon approval of a parole "plan" and the various other steps necessary for release but prior to actual release. To give the statute any other construction would be to destroy the object sought to be accomplished by the legislature. *Williams v. N.M. Dep't of Corrs.*, 1972-NMSC-086, 84 N.M. 421, 504 P.2d 631.

**Board under no obligation to issue warrant.** — This section is intended to permit the board to determine whether to issue a warrant for the parole violator's return and to consider the matter of his parole revocation. The board is not obligated to issue such a warrant, and if it does not do so the parolee continues on parole. *Conston v. N.M. State Bd. of Prob. & Parole*, 1968-NMSC-129, 79 N.M. 385, 444 P.2d 296.

**Credit for time spent out of custody.** — Denial of credit for time spent out of custody after breach of parole conditions is not contemplated or permitted. *Conston v. N.M. State Bd. of Prob. & Parole*, 1968-NMSC-129, 79 N.M. 385, 444 P.2d 296.

**Imprisonment not part of sentence.** — Imprisonment for noncompliance with parole matters is not a term of imprisonment which can be imposed by sentence, as such imprisonment results only after sentence has been imposed. *State v. Gonzales*, 1981-NMCA-086, 96 N.M. 556, 632 P.2d 1194.

**Subsection C relates to procedure when violation occurs.** — Subsection C regarding a parole revocation hearing relates to the statutory procedures to be followed when an inmate released on parole is charged with violating any of the conditions of release. *Williams v. N.M. Dep't of Corrs.*, 1972-NMSC-086, 84 N.M. 421, 504 P.2d 631.

**Prisoner is not on parole from time original resolution is passed,** and an order of rescission does not take from him a vested right without due process of law. *Williams v. N.M. Dep't of Corrs.*, 1972-NMSC-086, 84 N.M. 421, 504 P.2d 631.

**Parole begins upon actual release.** — Until the prisoner is actually released, the board has the power to "reopen and advance, postpone or deny a parole which has been granted." *Williams v. N.M. Dep't of Corrs.*, 1972-NMSC-086, 84 N.M. 421, 504 P.2d 631.

**Parolee must sign parole agreement.** — There must be an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the parole agreement, which must be signed by the convict, before the said parole becomes legally effective to secure his release from the institution. *Williams v. N.M. Dep't of Corrs.*, 1972-NMSC-086, 84 N.M. 421, 504 P.2d 631.

**Board may revoke "pending" parole without revocation hearing.** — Where the necessary steps to complete petitioner's release on parole had not been accomplished, the parole board's action in revoking a "pending" parole was within the discretion of the board, and petitioner was not entitled to a parole revocation hearing. *Williams v. N.M. Dep't of Corrs.*, 1972-NMSC-086, 84 N.M. 421, 504 P.2d 631.

**Only under limited circumstances may director order rehearing.** — Field services division director acted within his statutory and inherent authority in ordering a new preliminary revocation hearing when the initial hearing officer's finding of no probable cause for revocation was based on an erroneous legal conclusion. This decision should not be interpreted as allowing the director to order a rehearing when he is merely dissatisfied with the result of the initial hearing. Only upon a clear misapplication of the law or for other strong and compelling reasons should this authority be exercised. *Barnett v. Malley*, 1977-NMSC-065, 90 N.M. 633, 567 P.2d 482.

**Right to due process by waiver of counsel was not violated.** — Where defendant was notified twice of defendant's right to be represented by counsel at defendant's parole revocation hearing; defendant elected to waive representation at the preliminary hearing stage and confirmed the waiver of counsel at the parole revocation hearing; and defendant had no difficulty presenting a defense and explanations for the parole violations, defendant did not establish that the waiver of counsel at the parole revocation hearing resulted in a violation of due process. *State v. Triggs*, 2012-NMCA-068, 281 P.3d 1256.

**Deferral of parole revocation hearing** following service of an intervening sentence is without prejudice and does not violate a defendant's due process rights where the parole violation was established by an intervening conviction. *Moody v. Quintana*, 1976-NMSC-070, 89 N.M. 574, 555 P.2d 695.

**Right to counsel at hearing discretionary.** — The state authority charged with the responsibility for administering the probation and parole system has discretion to determine the need for counsel at revocation hearings on a case-by-case basis, but if the determination is made to supply counsel to indigent parolees, then counsel must be made available and given the opportunity to participate in any subsequent rehearings. *Barnett v. Malley*, 1977-NMSC-065, 90 N.M. 633, 567 P.2d 482.

**Term "as it sees fit" gives board restricted powers.** — While the authority granted the board under this section to enter any order "as it sees fit" might seem to be sufficiently broad to permit a denial of credit of eight and one-half months as time served on a sentence during which time parolee was not in custody, the use of such language was not intended to grant unrestricted power. *Conston v. N. M. State Bd. of Prob. & Parole*, 1968-NMSC-129, 79 N.M. 385, 444 P.2d 296.

**No court review of revocation decision.** — Laws 1909, ch. 32, § 5, having conferred upon superintendent of penitentiary the power to retake and reimprison paroled convicts, his revocation of a parole was in the exercise of a sole discretion, not reviewable by the courts. *Ex parte Vigil*, 1918-NMSC-117, 24 N.M. 640, 175 P. 713.

**Parole violator is to be treated as escaped prisoner** and liable, when arrested, to serve out the unexpired term of his maximum possible imprisonment, excluding the time of his absence. 1912 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 12-878.

**Board determines what time counts as time served.** — Whether the time from the issuance of a warrant for violation of the parole to the date of arrest of the parole violator is to be counted as time served is to be determined by the parole board. 1955 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 55-6304.

**Parole supervisor may personally arrest violator.** — There is no authority for the director of parole or a parole supervisor to issue a warrant in the name of the parole board. A parole supervisor can personally arrest a parole violator and, if he does, he must furnish a written statement setting forth the facts of violation and this is sufficient for the detention authorities to hold the parolee. The parole supervisor, by issuing a written statement that there has been a violation of parole in his judgment, may deputize an officer to arrest a parole violator and this statement is sufficient authority to hold the parolee. 1955 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 55-6335.

**Right to make bail.** — Parole violation, and commission of crime while on parole, gives rise to two separate and distinct proceedings. Accordingly, a parolee if accused of a crime is entitled to bail, as an accused in a criminal case, the same as any other person. But as a parolee, he is not entitled to make bail. This might be academic if the parole board revokes the parole and returns the man to prison for parole violation. On the other hand, the parole board may not find a violation and would permit continuation of the parole, in which case the man has every right to bail in accordance with law, as if he had never been convicted. If charges have been filed, and the parolee makes bail, it follows that nonetheless the parole authorities can arrest and detain pending investigation of parole violation, or violations at a subsequent time. 1958 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-171.

**Criminal justice department bears cost for arrested parolee.** — A parolee arrested pursuant to this section is in the control and custody of the state penitentiary, and the department of corrections (corrections department) must bear the cost of such control and custody. 1970 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 70-62.

**State penitentiary responsible for parolee's medical costs.** — Where a parolee from the state penitentiary is arrested for a parole violation, placed in a county jail, attempts suicide, and is rushed to a hospital, he is in the legal custody and control of the state penitentiary when he injured himself, and the state penitentiary, not the county, is responsible for the medical costs. 1968 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 68-26.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

For survey, "Children's Court Practice in Delinquency and Need of Supervision Cases Under the New Rules," see 6 N.M.L. Rev. 331 (1976).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 59 Am. Jur. 2d Pardon and Parole §§ 84, 96 to 98, 100 to 102, 106, 110, 112, 113.

Right to assistance of counsel at proceedings to revoke probation, 44 A.L.R.3d 306.

67A C.J.S. Pardon and Parole §§ 61, 64, 67, 79, 80, 83.

### **31-21-15. Return of probation violator.**

A. At any time during probation:

(1) the court may issue a warrant for the arrest of a probationer for violation of any of the conditions of release. The warrant shall authorize the return of the probationer to the custody of the court or to any suitable detention facility designated by the court;

(2) the court may issue a notice to appear to answer a charge of violation. The notice shall be personally served upon the probationer; or

(3) the director may arrest a probationer without warrant or may deputize any officer with power of arrest to do so by giving the officer a written statement setting forth that the probationer has, in the judgment of the director, violated the conditions of the probationer's release. The written statement, delivered with the probationer by the arresting officer to the official in charge of a county jail or other place of detention, is sufficient warrant for the detention of the probationer. Upon the probationer's arrest and detention, the director shall immediately notify the court and submit in writing a report showing in what manner the probationer has violated the conditions of release.

B. The court shall then hold a hearing, which may be informal, on the violation charged. If the violation is established, the court may continue the original probation or revoke the probation and either order a new probation with any condition provided for in Section 31-20-5 or 31-20-6 NMSA 1978 or require the probationer to serve the balance of the sentence imposed or any lesser sentence. If imposition of sentence was deferred, the court may impose any sentence that might originally have been imposed, but credit shall be given for time served on probation.

C. If it is found that a warrant for the return of a probationer cannot be served, the probationer is a fugitive from justice. After hearing upon return, if it appears that the probationer has violated the provisions of the probationer's release, the court shall determine whether the time from the date of violation to the date of the probationer's arrest, or any part of it, shall be counted as time served on probation. For the purposes of this subsection, "probationer" means a person convicted of a crime by a district, metropolitan, magistrate or municipal court.

D. The board shall budget funds to cover expenses of returning probationers to the court. The sheriff of the county in which the probationer was convicted is the court's agent in the transportation of the probationer, but the director, with the consent of the court, may utilize other state agencies for this purpose when it is in the best interest of the state.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-28.1, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 301, § 13; 1989, ch. 139, § 1; 2016, ch. 27, § 1; 2016, ch. 31, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole referring to corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**The 2016 amendment**, effective March 2, 2016, defined "probationer" for purposes of this section; in Subsection A, Paragraph (3), after "by giving", deleted "him" and added "the officer", after "violated the conditions of", deleted "his" and added "probationer's", and after "Upon", added "the probationer's"; in Subsection B, after "any sentence", deleted "which" and added "that"; and in Subsection C, after "if it appears that", deleted "he" and added "the probationer", after "violated the provisions of", deleted "his" and added "the probationer's", after "violation to the date of", deleted "his" and added "the probationer's", and added the last sentence.

Laws 2016, ch. 27, § 1 and Laws 2016, ch. 31, § 1, both effective March 2, 2016, enacted identical amendments to this section. The section was set out as amended by Laws 2016, ch. 31, § 1. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, in Subsection B substituted "continue the original probation, revoke the probation and either order a new probation with any condition provided for in Section 31-20-5 or 31-20-6 NMSA 1978, or" for "continue or revoke the probation and may" in the second sentence.

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

**Rule 5-805 NMRA does not violate separation of powers.** — Subsection H of Rule 5-805 NMRA, which requires dismissal of a probation violation proceeding if the time limits to hold an adjudicatory hearing are not met, does not infringe upon the substantive rights granted by the legislature in Sections 31-11-1 and 31-21-15 NMSA 1978 and does not violate the separation of powers doctrine. *State v. Montoya*, 2011-NMCA-009, 149 N.M. 242, 247 P.3d 1127, cert. denied, 2011-NMCERT-001, 150 N.M. 558, 263 P.3d 900.

**Legislature has expressly determined procedures** to bring a person on probation before the court for violation of a condition of probation. *State v. Ponce*, 2004-NMCA-137, 136 N.M. 614, 103 P.3d 54, cert. quashed, 2006-NMCERT-004, 139 N.M. 429, 134 P.3d 120.

**Generally as to probation.** — Probation is conferred as a privilege and cannot be demanded as a right. It is a matter of favor, not of contract. There is no requirement that it must be granted on a specified showing. The defendant stands convicted; he faces punishment and cannot insist on terms or strike a bargain. He is still a person convicted

of an offense, and the suspension of his sentence remains within the control of the court. *State v. Brusenhan*, 1968-NMCA-006, 78 N.M. 764, 438 P.2d 174.

**Legislature authorized to define court's jurisdiction over sentencing.** — It is within the power of the legislature alone to define the court's jurisdiction over the sentencing of offenders. *State v. Travarez*, 1983-NMCA-003, 99 N.M. 309, 657 P.2d 636.

**Sentencing scheme for suspension and deferment is not unconstitutionally vague.** *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Probation is conditional liberty intended to alleviate aspects of punishment by incarceration.** It offers rehabilitation and restoration to society. *State v. Chavez*, 1979-NMCA-143, 94 N.M. 102, 607 P.2d 640, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 629, 614 P.2d 546.

**For probation to be legally effective,** defendant did not have to report to the probation office, open his file, and sign a probation order. Defendant was constructively on probation from the date of his sentencing. *State v. Jimenez*, 2004-NMSC-012, 135 N.M. 442, 90 P.3d 461.

**Probation served while in custody of another jurisdiction.** — Where defendant was placed on supervised probation for a term of five years; before defendant was released from custody or had an opportunity to meet with probation officers, defendant was extradited to Texas; Texas dropped the charges against defendant, but continued to hold defendant in custody until defendant was extradited to Colorado; defendant was imprisoned in Colorado for four years based on a probation violation; when defendant finished the Colorado prison term, defendant was extradited to New Mexico and remained in custody until defendant appeared before the district court; defendant was never able to report to New Mexico probation authorities; at a probation violation hearing held after the expiration date of defendant's probationary period, the district court found that defendant had not violated the terms of probation and was not an absconder or a fugitive; and the district court retroactively reinstated defendant's probation during the period of time defendant was incarcerated outside New Mexico, defendant was entitled to credit for probation throughout the time defendant was in custody in Texas and incarcerated in Colorado, the term of defendant's probationary period expired before the district court entered its order, and the district court did not have jurisdiction to reinstate defendant's probation. *State v. Hinojos*, 2014-NMCA-067.

**Nolo plea not basis for revocation of probation.** — A court may not use a conviction based on a nolo contendere plea as the sole basis to revoke probation. *State v. Baca*, 1984-NMCA-056, 101 N.M. 415, 683 P.2d 970.

**Constitutional to impose three-year sentence when sentencing originally deferred for two years.** — The imposition of a three-year sentence when sentencing was originally deferred for two years does not violate the prohibition on double jeopardy, when the first sentence imposed is where the defendant's probation is revoked. *State v.*

*Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Court lacks jurisdiction in probation revocation matter when period of deferred sentence expires.** —

Section 31-20-9 NMSA 1978 relieves the defendant of any obligations imposed on him by order of the court when the period of a deferred sentence expires, and he is deemed then to have satisfied his liability for the crime. The trial court thereafter lacks jurisdiction to proceed in a probation revocation matter. *State v. Travarez*, 1983-NMCA-003, 99 N.M. 309, 657 P.2d 636.

**Court may not order defendant to live in halfway house as condition of probation.**

— Ordering defendant to live in a halfway house as an additional condition of probation amounts to an increased penalty under *State v. Crespín*, 1981-NMCA-095, 96 N.M. 640, 633 P.2d 1238, and thus the court has no jurisdiction to make such an order. *State v. Chavez*, 1984-NMCA-006, 100 N.M. 750, 676 P.2d 827.

**Incarceration for probation violation not required.** — Neither Section 31-20-5 NMSA 1978 nor this section require the trial court to impose incarceration if the defendant violates the conditions of his probation. *State v. Mares*, 1994-NMSC-123, 119 N.M. 48, 888 P.2d 930.

**Delay waives probation revocation.** — Where it is contended that the right of New Mexico to revoke defendant's probation was waived by reason of the long delay in apprehending defendant, based on the claim that defendant's whereabouts were known to the state or should have been known to the state had it exercised ordinary care to ascertain the location of defendant, such a claim provides a legal basis for relief. *State v. Murray*, 1970-NMCA-045, 81 N.M. 445, 468 P.2d 416.

**Unreasonable delay in arrest results in state's waiver of defendant's violations.** —

Unreasonable delay between knowledge of violation and notice or arrest, or between arrest and hearing, resulting in prejudice or oppressive detriment would result, as a matter of law, in the state's waiver of defendant's violations. *State v. Sanchez*, 1980-NMCA-055, 94 N.M. 521, 612 P.2d 1332, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 675, 615 P.2d 992.

**Seven-month delay between arrest for probation violation and revocation hearing**

is denial of procedural due process. *State v. Chavez*, 1979-NMCA-143, 94 N.M. 102, 607 P.2d 640, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 629, 614 P.2d 546.

**Effect on revocation of conviction or acquittal of subsequent offense.** —

Conviction of a subsequent offense is not a prerequisite for revocation of probation but if revocation was solely on the basis of the charge of an offense and defendant was thereafter acquitted of the charge, revocation was improper. *Maes v. State*, 1972-NMCA-124, 84 N.M. 251, 501 P.2d 695.



**Fixing of penalties is legislative function** and what constitutes an adequate punishment is a matter for legislative judgment. *State v. Sublett*, 1968-NMCA-001, 78 N.M. 655, 436 P.2d 515.

**District court abused its discretion by modifying defendant's probation condition** which had been agreed upon pursuant to a plea bargain. *State v. Trujillo*, 1994-NMSC-066, 117 N.M. 769, 877 P.2d 575.

## II. HEARING ON REVOCATION.

**Confrontation of witnesses.** — The right protected in probation revocations is not the sixth amendment right to confrontation, which is guaranteed every accused in a criminal trial, but rather the more generally worded right to due process of law secured by the fourteenth amendment and a probationer is entitled to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses unless the hearing officer specifically finds good cause for not allowing confrontation. *State v. Guthrie*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904, *rev'g* 2009-NMCA-036, 145 N.M. 761, 204 P.3d 1271, and *overruling* *State v. Phillips*, 2006-NMCA-001, 138 N.M. 730, 126 P.3d 546.

The need-for-confrontation analysis in probation revocations is a spectrum that requires the trial court to focus on the relative need for confrontation to protect the truth-finding process and the substantial reliability of the evidence. If the need is significant and the court specifies the reasons why, then the witness must appear and be subject to confrontation, regardless of the reasons for the witness's absence. If the need for confrontation is not significant and the court specifies why, then it does not matter whether the witness is available or not. The end of the spectrum where there is good cause for not requiring confrontation, where live testimony and cross-examination has no utility to the fact-finding process, includes situations in which the state's evidence is uncontested, corroborated by other reliable evidence, and documented by a reliable source without a motive to fabricate and situations where an objective conclusion, a routine recording, or a negative fact, make the demeanor and credibility of the witness less relevant to the truth-finding process. The end of the spectrum where there is no good cause for not requiring confrontation, where the state's failure to produce the witness deprives the defendant of due process, includes situations where evidence is contested by the defendant, unsupported or contradicted, and its source has a motive to fabricate and situations where the evidence is about a subjective, judgment-based observation that is subject to inference and interpretation, and makes a conclusion that is central to the necessary proof that the defendant violated probation. *State v. Guthrie*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904, *rev'g* 2009-NMCA-036, 145 N.M. 761, 204 P.3d 1271, and *overruling* *State v. Phillips*, 2006-NMCA-001, 138 N.M. 730, 126 P.3d 546.

Where defendant agreed to attend a residential treatment program as a condition of supervised probation; defendant failed to complete the treatment program; defendant's probation officer, who had filed the probation violation report, was not called to testify at the probation revocation hearing; the probation officer's supervisor, who was called to

testify, referred to documents in defendant's probation file, including the probation violation report and a fax from the treatment center, to testify that defendant had not completed the treatment program; the supervisor had no personal knowledge about defendant or about the case, had never spoken to anyone from the treatment center and had not independently investigated the allegations against defendant; defendant did not contest the allegations or offer any evidence in mitigation; the fact of defendant's non-compliance with the condition of probation was established by the written statement from the treatment center; and the trial judge's observation that defendant had been arrested in a county in which there was no residential treatment center corroborated the state's evidence that defendant had violated probation, the district judge had good cause for not allowing defendant to confront and cross-examine defendant's probation officer. *State v. Guthrie*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904, *rev'd* 2009-NMCA-036, 145 N.M. 761, 204 P.3d 1271, and *overruling State v. Phillips*, 2006-NMCA-001, 138 N.M. 730, 126 P.3d 546.

The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses at probation revocation hearings is guaranteed by the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment, not by the confrontation clause of the sixth amendment. *State v. Guthrie*, 2009-NMCA-036, 145 N.M. 761, 204 P.3d 1271, *rev'd*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904.

Before revoking a defendant's probation base on hearsay, the district court must make as specific finding of good cause for not requiring confrontation by specifically addressing the state's problems in securing the presence of an absent witness or specifically stating the reasons that the hearsay evidence offered has particular indicia of accuracy and reliability such that it has probative value. *State v. Guthrie*, 2009-NMCA-036, 145 N.M. 761, 204 P.3d 1271, *rev'd*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904.

Where the defendant's probation officer did not appear at the hearing to revoke the defendant's probation; the only witness who testified at the hearing was the probation officer's supervisor who was the custodian of probation violation reports filed by probation officers; the supervisor had no personal knowledge of the defendant's case except for what was contained the probation officer's file; the supervisor read into evidence statements the were in the defendant's probation file; and the district court did not state reasons why the evidence was sufficiently accurate or reliable so as to excuse the presence of the defendant's probation officer, the district court failed to make a specific finding of good cause for not calling the defendant's probation officer as a witness and the revocation of the defendant's probation based on the supervisor's testimony about statements included in the defendant's file violated the defendant's due process rights. *State v. Guthrie*, 2009-NMCA-036, 145 N.M. 761, 204 P.3d 1271, *rev'd*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904.

**The right to confrontation in probation revocation proceedings.** — Due process in a probation revocation hearing requires a case-by-case analysis of the need for, and the utility of, confrontation of a live witness in the context of a particular case. *State v. Godinez*, 2022-NMCA-029, 511 P.3d 369, *aff'd* by 2025-NMSC-005.

In a probation revocation proceeding, where the state petitioned to revoke defendant's probation for violating his supervised release for sexually assaulting his daughter during an authorized visit to his home and failing to inform his probation officer before daughter's visit that she had autism and the mind of a ten-year-old, and where the district court, over defendant's objection, allowed the forensic interviewer who interviewed daughter about the alleged assault to testify as to statements that daughter made during the forensic interview, holding that the Confrontation Clause does not apply to probation revocation proceedings and that none of the testimony required an opportunity to cross-examine daughter, the district court violated defendant's right to due process by admitting daughter's statements to the interviewer without good cause for not requiring confrontation to challenge the allegations of sexual assault. New Mexico precedent requires a case-by-case determination of whether due process requires confrontation in a probation revocation proceeding, and the inquiry must focus on the need for, and utility of, confrontation with respect to the truth-finding process and in light of the particular case at hand, including the specific charge against the probationer. *State v. Godinez*, 2022-NMCA-029, 511 P.3d 369, *aff'd by* 2025-NMSC-005.

**Defendant had a due process right to confront witnesses at his probation revocation hearing.** — Where the state accused defendant of violating his probation by committing a new crime, criminal sexual penetration of his daughter, and where, at defendant's probation revocation hearing, the state presented evidence of statements made by the daughter, witnesses' personal observations of the daughter's demeanor and physical condition after the alleged crime, and evidence of blood and male DNA found on some of the daughter's underwear, but chose not to call defendant's daughter as a witness, and where the district court determined that defendant did not have a right to confront and cross-examine his daughter, and where defendant argued that the district court violated his due process right to confront and cross-examine witnesses at the probation revocation hearing, the district court erred in denying defendant his right to confront and cross-examine his daughter and in revoking his probation, because defendants who face allegations that they have violated their probation have a due process right to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses unless the court specifically finds good cause for not allowing confrontation, and in this case, the district court did not make factual findings as to whether there was good cause to admit the challenged evidence without allowing defendant to confront his daughter. Moreover, the evidence presented at the probation revocation hearing was not reliable enough to overcome the strong presumption that defendant had a right to confront his daughter about the unadjudicated accusation that he had committed a new crime. *State v. Godinez*, 2022-NMCA-029, 511 P.3d 369, *aff'd by* 2025-NMSC-005.

**Formal rules of evidence do not apply** to probation revocation hearings. *State v. Phillips*, 2006-NMCA-001, 138 N.M. 730, 126 P.3d 546, cert. quashed, 2006-NMCERT-009, 140 N.M. 543, 144 P.3d 102, *overruled by* *State v. Guthrie*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904.

**Where, in a probation revocation hearing,** the real witness against defendant is allowed to testify via another without identification, verification, confrontation, with a complete lack of demonstration or even discussion of good cause for not calling the real witness, defendant's due process rights have been stripped from him and a lack of formality should not excuse a lack of due process. *State v. Phillips*, 2006-NMCA-001, 138 N.M. 730, 126 P.3d 546, cert. quashed, 2006-NMCERT-009, 140 N.M. 543, 144 P.3d 102, *overruled by State v. Guthrie*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904.

**Due process violation.** — It is impermissible to allow a probation officer to read from documents in a file where it is unclear where, when, or from whom the documents were obtained and there was no factual showing or finding of good cause for not calling the persons who submitted the documents to testify as required by due process. *State v. Phillips*, 2006-NMCA-001, 138 N.M. 730, 126 P.3d 546, cert. quashed, 2006-NMCERT-009, 140 N.M. 543, 144 P.3d 102, *overruled by State v. Guthrie*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904.

**Degree of proof necessary to establish probation violation.** — At a probation violation hearing, the violation must be established with reasonable certainty. The violation does not have to be established beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Murray*, 1970-NMCA-045, 81 N.M. 445, 468 P.2d 416.

**Conscience of court to be satisfied.** — A violation of the conditions of probation must be established with such reasonable certainty as to satisfy the conscience of the court of the truth of the violation. If the evidence inclines a reasonable and impartial mind to the belief that the defendant had violated the terms of his probation, it is sufficient. *State v. Brusenhan*, 1968-NMCA-006, 78 N.M. 764, 438 P.2d 174.

**Reasonable and impartial mind to be inclined.** — The degree of proof necessary to establish a violation of probation in revocation hearings is that which inclines a reasonable and impartial mind to the belief that defendant had violated the terms of probation, and a reasonable and impartial mind is one which hears before it condemns, which proceeds on inquiry, and only renders a decision after hearing all the evidence. *State v. Pacheco*, 1973-NMCA-155, 85 N.M. 778, 517 P.2d 1304.

**Probationer must have opportunity to be heard** and to show, if he can, that he did not violate the conditions of his suspended sentence, or, if he did, that circumstances in mitigation suggest that the violation does not warrant revocation. *State v. Montoya*, 1979-NMCA-073, 93 N.M. 84, 596 P.2d 527.

**Right to allocution in probation revocation hearings.** — A defendant has a right to allocution in probation revocation hearings, because in a probation revocation hearing the district court has a multitude of options in sentencing, all of which have the potential to impact a defendant's liberty interests, and allowing a defendant to address the district court prior to sentencing in a probation revocation hearing allows the defendant to ask for mercy based on factors that might not otherwise be brought to the court's attention

and retains the same practical significance as it would in the original sentencing hearing. *State v. Williams*, 2021-NMCA-021, cert. denied.

Where defendant pled guilty to residential burglary, two counts of receiving stolen property, receiving or transferring a stolen motor vehicle, battery upon a peace officer, and larceny, and where the district court suspended defendant's entire sentence and placed him on supervised probation for a total of nine years, the conditions of which required defendant to get permission from his probation officer before leaving the county and not consume illegal drugs, and where several months later, the state filed a petition to revoke defendant's probation, alleging that he failed to adhere to his curfew and used illegal drugs, and where, based on defendant's admission that he used methamphetamine while on probation, the district revoked defendant's probation but failed to advise defendant that he had the right to personally address the court before the court proceeded to disposition, the court denied defendant his right of allocution. It is the duty of the court to inform a defendant of his or her right to allocution, and when the district court does not fulfill this duty, the sentence is invalid. *State v. Williams*, 2021-NMCA-021, cert. denied.

**Sufficient evidence that defendant willfully violated the condition of his probation.**

— Where defendant pled guilty to residential burglary, two counts of receiving stolen property, receiving or transferring a stolen motor vehicle, battery upon a peace officer, and larceny, and where the district court suspended defendant's entire sentence and placed him on supervised probation for a total of nine years, the conditions of which required defendant to get permission from his probation officer before leaving the county and not consume illegal drugs, and where several months later, the state filed a petition to revoke probation, alleging that defendant failed to adhere to his curfew and used illegal drugs in violation of his conditions of probation, the district court did not abuse its discretion by finding that defendant willfully violated conditions of his probation based on a signed admission form in which defendant admitted that he used methamphetamine on the day that he violated his curfew, and where defendant, at his probation revocation hearing, further admitted to using methamphetamine while on probation. *State v. Williams*, 2021-NMCA-021, cert. denied.

**Notice and hearing constitutionally mandated.** — The right of personal liberty is one of the highest rights of citizenship and cannot be taken from a defendant in a probation revocation proceeding without notice and an opportunity to be heard without invading his constitutional rights. *State v. Brusenhan*, 1968-NMCA-006, 78 N.M. 764, 438 P.2d 174.

**Hearing on revocation of probation or parole is not trial** on a criminal charge, but is a hearing to determine whether, during the probationary or parole period, the defendant has conformed to or breached the course of conduct outlined in the probation or parole order. *State v. Sanchez*, 1980-NMCA-055, 94 N.M. 521, 612 P.2d 1332, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 675, 615 P.2d 992.

**Formal trial not required.** — Where defendant claimed that neither the judge nor his counsel advised him of his right to a "trial" on whether he had violated the conditions of his probation, it was held that he was not entitled to a trial in any strict or formal sense. He was entitled to a hearing on the alleged violations, but that hearing could be informal. *State v. Murray*, 1970-NMCA-045, 81 N.M. 445, 468 P.2d 416.

**Hearing to revoke probation may be informal.** — This does not mean that he may insist upon a trial in any strict or formal sense. *State v. Brusenhan*, 1968-NMCA-006, 78 N.M. 764, 438 P.2d 174.

Probation revocation proceedings are by nature informal. *State v. Phillips*, 2006-NMCA-001, 138 N.M. 730, 126 P.3d 546, cert. granted, 2006-NMCERT-001, 139 N.M. 272, 131 P.3d 659, *overruled by State v. Guthrie*, 2011-NMSC-014, 150 N.M. 84, 257 P.3d 904.

**Testimony not coerced.** — Where defendant at probation revocation hearing was not called or sworn as a witness, but was advised by the court as to the nature of each charge made against him and was asked whether or not the charge was true, and thereby was given an opportunity to admit or deny the charge, and where he was also given an opportunity to explain his plea to each charge, and in some instances he offered an explanation, this did not constitute compelled, coerced or required testimony by defendant against himself. These proceedings were in the nature of an arraignment. *State v. Brusenhan*, 1968-NMCA-006, 78 N.M. 764, 438 P.2d 174.

**Competence of counsel.** — The competence of court-appointed counsel at probation revocation hearings could not be determined by the amount of time he spent or failed to spend with the accused. The failure of an attorney to confer with his client, without more, could not establish the incompetence of that attorney. *State v. Brusenhan*, 1968-NMCA-006, 78 N.M. 764, 438 P.2d 174.

**When effective use of counsel denied.** — Probation revocation hearing must have constituted a sham, a farce or a mockery of justice before a defendant can be said to have been denied the effective assistance of counsel. *State v. Brusenhan*, 1968-NMCA-006, 78 N.M. 764, 438 P.2d 174.

**Right to jury trial on identity.** — Defendant has a right to a jury trial on the question of his identity. *State v. Murray*, 1970-NMCA-045, 81 N.M. 445, 468 P.2d 416.

**When jury trial waived.** — Having failed to raise the question of want of identity defendant waives his right to a trial by jury on that issue at his probation revocation proceeding. *State v. Paul*, 1971-NMCA-107, 82 N.M. 791, 487 P.2d 493.

**Revocation hearing by court granting probation constitutional if held immediately after probationer notified.** — A hearing for revocation of probation by a court which granted probation will satisfy due process if the hearing is held immediately after a notice to appear to answer a charge of violation is personally served upon a

probationer. *State v. Chavez*, 1979-NMCA-143, 94 N.M. 102, 607 P.2d 640, cert. denied, 94 N.M. 629, 614 P.2d 546.

**Evidentiary hearing required where arrest delayed.** — Defendant is entitled to an evidentiary hearing on the question of whether there was an unreasonable delay in executing the arrest warrants where the record indicates the probation authorities promptly had a warrant issued on the basis of the probation violations, but nothing is indicated of their attempts to execute the warrants for defendant's arrest. *State v. Murray*, 1970-NMCA-045, 81 N.M. 445, 468 P.2d 416.

### III. REVOCATION.

**Evidentiary standard.** — In a probation revocation, the evidentiary standard is that the violation must be established with a reasonable certainty, such that a reasonable and impartial mind would believe that the defendant violated the terms of probation. *State v. Green*, 2015-NMCA-007, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-012.

**Violation of sex offender behavior contract.** — Where defendant was required, as a condition of his probation, to comply with a sex offender behavior contract as a result of his conviction for kidnapping which involved criminal sexual contact with the victim, the district court did not err in finding that defendant violated the sex offender behavior contract when defendant was found with sexually oriented material on his computer. *State v. Green*, 2015-NMCA-007, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-012.

**A court's decision to revoke a defendant's probation is discretionary.** — In exercising its discretion to revoke a defendant's probation, a court may consider that the purpose of probation is the rehabilitation of the defendant. A court has the authority to revoke probation for a probation violation when rehabilitation is not occurring. *State v. Dinapoli*, 2015-NMCA-066, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-006.

Where defendant's probation was revoked for possessing sexually explicit materials in violation of his sex offender contract, defendant claimed that the district court improperly revoked his probation because he did not have sufficient notice that his possession of popular, mainstream R-rated movies would be in violation of the terms of his probation; the district court did not err in finding that defendant had sufficient notice that the materials he possessed were a violation of the terms of his probation where the DVD covers stated that the movies contained violent content, including rape and torture, strong sexuality, and graphic nudity as well as sexual abuse; a reasonable person would be on notice of the sexually oriented material in the DVDs; moreover, defendant was aware, based on a previous probation revocation, that possession of sexually oriented or sexually stimulating material was prohibited by the sex offender contract even if it were not considered pornographic. The district court did not err in revoking defendant's probation. *State v. Dinapoli*, 2015-NMCA-066, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-006.

**Violating the terms of sex offender contract.** — Probation is a criminal sanction, and the district court may impose reasonable conditions that deprive the offender of some freedoms enjoyed by law-abiding citizens. The purposes of probation are to both prevent an offender from engaging in additional criminal activity and to rehabilitate the offender. The restrictions of the sex offender contract further these purpose by limiting a defendant's access to materials that may reasonably lead to susceptibility of other criminal acts or impede rehabilitation. *State v. Dinapoli*, 2015-NMCA-066, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-006.

Where defendant's probation was revoked for possessing sexually explicit materials in violation of his sex offender contract, defendant claimed that the district court improperly revoked his probation because he did not have sufficient notice that his possession of popular, mainstream R-rated movies would be in violation of the terms of his probation; the issue was not whether the movies, taken as a whole, would not be considered "sexually oriented", the issue was whether the movies contained sexually oriented material that would undermine the purposes of defendant's probation. *State v. Dinapoli*, 2015-NMCA-066, cert. denied, 2015-NMCERT-006.

**Revocation of probation before sentence is served.** — After the court has entered an order of probation and before the full suspended sentence has expired, the court has the authority to revoke probation regardless of whether the probationary term has commenced or whether the defendant is serving a portion of the underlying sentence. *State v. Lopez*, 2007-NMSC-011, 141 N.M. 293, 154 P.3d 668.

**Probation violation options of court.** — Three courses (now four) are open to the trial court upon the establishment of a violation of the terms or conditions of probation, and these courses are: (1) the court may continue the probation; (2) the court may revoke the probation and require the defendant to serve the balance of the sentence previously imposed; or (3) the court may revoke the probation and require the defendant to serve a sentence which is less than the balance of the sentence previously imposed. *State v. Reinhart*, 1968-NMSC-059, 79 N.M. 36, 439 P.2d 554.

**Defendant's failure to rebut the state's prima facie case that defendant willfully violated his probation.** — Where defendant, who was on probation, was told by his probation officer on multiple occasions to find and complete an outpatient drug treatment program, and where defendant never enrolled or participated in programs suggested by his probation officer or any other outpatient drug treatment program, the district court did not abuse its discretion in finding that defendant's failure to enter and complete treatment constituted a probation violation, because defendant did not present any evidence at the hearing to rebut the reasonable inference set forth by the probation officer's testimony that defendant's non-compliance was willful. *State v. Aslin*, 2018-NMCA-043, cert. granted.

**Technical violation program.** — Where defendant, while on probation, opted into a technical violation program (TVP) where a probationer who commits a technical violation of his or her order of probation could waive the right to due process procedures



as provided by Rule 5-805 NMRA and would instead be sanctioned based on a progressive disciplinary scheme, and where the district court found that defendant violated his conditions of probation by failing to enroll in treatment as ordered by his probation officer, the district court erred in revoking defendant's probation based on the court's finding that the violation was not a mere technical violation under the TVP, because there was no finding below that defendant committed a new violation of state law, and Rule 5-805(C)(3) clearly and unambiguously defines a "technical violation" as any violation that does not involve new criminal charges. *State v. Aslin*, 2018-NMCA-043, cert. granted.

**Section provides alternatives.**— Subsection B of this section presents a district court with several alternatives for dealing with a defendant who has violated the conditions of his or her release. *State v. Baca*, 2005-NMCA-001, 136 N.M. 667, 104 P.3d 533, cert. denied, 2004-NMCERT-012, 136 N.M. 665, 103 P.3d 1097.

**Revocation of probation where defendant unable to pay fine or restitution.** — There are substantive limits on the automatic revocation of probation where an indigent defendant is unable to pay a fine or restitution. Those substantive limits require that: (1) There must be an inquiry into the reasons for the failure to pay; (2) if the reasons for defendant's failure to pay are either not willful or indicate an inability to pay, the court must consider alternatives to incarceration; and (3) only if alternative measures do not meet the state's interests, then the court may order confinement. *State v. Parsons*, 1986-NMCA-027, 104 N.M. 123, 717 P.2d 99.

**Court cannot defer credit for probation time.** — All time served on probation shall be credited (unless a defendant is a fugitive) and the trial court thus errs in purporting to defer credit for time served on probation. *State v. Encinias*, 1986-NMCA-049, 104 N.M. 740, 726 P.2d 1174, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 632, 725 P.2d 832.

**Probation condition may be changed upon violation, but not to increase penalty.** — When a violation of probation is established, the trial court may relieve a defendant of the conditions of probation or continue the existing conditions, but the trial court may not change any probation condition so that the penalty is increased, even if the defendant is agreeable to such change. *State v. Crespin*, 1981-NMCA-095, 96 N.M. 640, 633 P.2d 1238.

**Imposition of additional sanctions authorized.** — This section does not foreclose the imposition of additional otherwise permissible sanctions for the acts that form the basis for revocation or modification of probation and, in appropriate circumstances, the state had authority to seek enhancement of a defendant's sentence under the habitual-offender statute. *State v. Freed*, 1996-NMCA-044, 121 N.M. 562, 915 P.2d 325, cert. denied, 121 N.M. 644, 916 P.2d 844.

**Revocation of only one of several concurrent suspended sentences.** — When a defendant is sentenced to multiple concurrent sentences, the trial court suspends the sentences and places the defendant on probation and the defendant violates the terms

of his probation, the trial court cannot invoke the original sentence on count I only and provide that probation would continue on the other counts. The effect of applying revocation to one count only and reserving probation on the remaining counts for possible imposition of imprisonment on any or all of the remaining counts upon future violations is to change an original valid concurrent sentence into consecutive sentences. That effect, of course, creates an increase in penalty and violates the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy. *State v. Martinez*, 1982-NMCA-185, 99 N.M. 248, 656 P.2d 911.

**All time served on probation shall be credited** unless defendant is a fugitive. *State v. Kenneman*, 1982-NMCA-145, 98 N.M. 794, 653 P.2d 170, cert. denied, 99 N.M. 47, 653 P.2d 878.

**Time served shall be credited.** — Language in this section unambiguously mandates credit for time served on probation in the case of a defendant whose initial sentence was deferred. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

Subsection B of this section mandates credit for time served, the only exception being where a defendant is a "fugitive from justice" as defined in Subsection C of this section. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Person eligible to receive conditional discharge.** — Although Subsection B of this section refers only to a deferred sentence and not to a conditional discharge, a person who is eligible to receive a conditional discharge is by definition one who is entitled to a deferred sentence. *State v. Leslie*, 2004-NMCA-106, 136 N.M. 244, 96 P.3d 805.

**Revocation of probation and suspended sentence compared.** — A violation of the conditions of the probation during the probationary period was also a violation of the conditions of the suspension, because probation was merely the status of one released under a suspended sentence. Therefore, there was no difference between proceedings to revoke a suspended sentence under 40A-29-20, 1953 Comp. (repealed) and proceedings to revoke an order of probation under this section. *State v. Holland*, 1967-NMSC-186, 78 N.M. 324, 431 P.2d 57.

**Scope of language of suspension.** — In order to avoid the contention that the conditions of the order of suspension do not embrace the conditions and terms of probation, the trial courts, by appropriate language, should expressly provide that the conditions and terms of probation are made conditions and terms of the suspension. *State v. Holland*, 1967-NMSC-186, 78 N.M. 324, 431 P.2d 57.

**Effect of post-conviction relief on improper probation revocation.** — There being nothing in the record indicating that being with a minor after curfew hours was a violation of the conditions of probation, the trial court could not properly rule that defendant was not entitled to post-conviction relief under any state of facts provable under his claim that his probation was revoked because he was with a minor after curfew hours. *Maes v. State*, 1972-NMCA-124, 84 N.M. 251, 501 P.2d 695.

**Credit if probation and suspended sentence.** — Where defendant was released without imprisonment under a suspended sentence and subject to conditions, and at the time of release, defendant was on "probation" as that word is used in the Probation and Parole Act, defendant was entitled to credit for probation time served while his sentence was suspended. *State v. Sublett*, 1968-NMCA-001, 78 N.M. 655, 436 P.2d 515.

**Discretion of court as to credit.** — Under Subsection B of this section, upon revocation of a suspended sentence, the trial court may require the defendant to serve (1) the balance of the sentence imposed - that is, the term remaining after giving credit for allowable probation time or (2) a lesser term. The trial court does not have authority under this statute to withhold credit for allowable probation time. *State v. Sublett*, 1968-NMCA-001, 78 N.M. 655, 436 P.2d 515.

**Meaning of "balance".** — The word "balance" in the statute means "remainder", or that portion of the term of the sentence which remains after deducting therefrom the time during which defendant has been on probation. *State v. Reinhart*, 1968-NMSC-059, 79 N.M. 36, 439 P.2d 554.

**Minimum requirement of court.** — Under Subsection B of this section trial court must, as a minimum, credit allowable probation time on the original sentence that has been invoked. *State v. Sublett*, 1968-NMCA-001, 78 N.M. 655, 436 P.2d 515.

#### IV. FUGITIVE STATUS.

**Proof of fugitive status.** — To support a finding of fugitive status, the state must prove that it issued a warrant for the probationer's arrest and entered it into the national crime information center database and that the state unsuccessfully attempted to serve the warrant on the defendant or that any attempt to serve the defendant would have been futile. *State v. Neal*, 2007-NMCA-086, 142 N.M. 487, 167 P.3d 935.

**Legislative intent.** — In enacting Subsection C of this statute, the legislature intended to ensure that probationers could not defeat the trial court's authority to revoke probation by absconding from the jurisdiction. *State v. Apache*, 1986-NMCA-051, 104 N.M. 290, 720 P.2d 709, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 289, 720 P.2d 708.

**Determination of fugitive status after expiration of probationary term.** — Section 31-21-15(C) NMSA 1978 allows a court to exercise jurisdiction over a probationer after the expiration of the probationary term for the limited purpose of determining fugitive status even when a fugitive defendant is returned to New Mexico prior to the expiration of the original probationary term. *State v. Sosa*, 2014-NMCA-091, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-008.

Where defendant's sentence was suspended and defendant was placed on five years of supervised probation; defendant failed to report to a probation officer on October 20, 2010; the state sought to revoke defendant's probation on the ground that defendant was a fugitive; defendant was arrested in Georgia and returned to New Mexico on

August 4, 2011; the hearing to revoke defendant's probation was held on August 1, 2012; defendant claimed that the district court lost jurisdiction to revoke defendant's probation on December 23, 2011 when defendant's original probationary term expired; the district court found that the state was diligent in its efforts to serve a warrant on defendant and that defendant was a fugitive from October 20, 2010 to August 4, 2011; and the district court did not err in determining that defendant had been a fugitive for a portion of defendant's probationary term, in tolling the probationary term for the time defendant was a fugitive and thereby extending its jurisdiction over defendant, and in determining that it had jurisdiction on August 1, 2012 to revoke defendant's probation. *State v. Sosa*, 2014-NMCA-091, cert. denied, 2014-NMCERT-008.

**Courts of limited jurisdiction have power to revoke probation if a defendant's original probationary period expires while the defendant is an absconder. —**

Where defendant was convicted of battery in magistrate court, received a suspended sentence, placed on probation in lieu of serving a prison sentence, violated the terms of his probation and could not be located to answer for this violation until after the period of his suspended sentence expired, this section does not empower courts of limited jurisdiction to toll the running of a probationary period, but 31-20-8 NMSA 1978 does not deprive a trial court of the power to revoke probation when, at the time the defendant's probationary term expired, the defendant had allegedly violated the terms of probation and the court subsequently issued a bench warrant. *State v. Begay*, 2017-NMSC-009, rev'g 2016-NMCA-039.

**Tolling provision does not apply to persons convicted in magistrate court. —**

Where defendant was convicted of battery in magistrate court, received a suspended sentence, placed on probation in lieu of serving a prison sentence, violated the terms of his probation and could not be located to answer for this violation until after the period of his suspended sentence expired, the district court erred in determining that this section permitted it to toll the running of defendant's sentence and in revoking defendant's probation, because the legislature expressly limited the application of the tolling provision to adult persons convicted of crimes in the district court. *State v. Begay*, 2016-NMCA-039, cert. granted.

**Extradition not required. —** The state was not required to extradite defendant from Arizona so as to prevent his classification as a fugitive under this section and the resulting revocation of probation. *State v. McDonald*, 1991-NMCA-132, 113 N.M. 305, 825 P.2d 238, cert. denied, 113 N.M. 44, 822 P.2d 1127.

**When fugitive status determined. —** It is implicit in this statute that the judicial determination of fugitive status shall be made only after the probationer has been found and brought before the court, regardless of whether this occurs before or after the date on which probation was originally to have expired. *State v. Apache*, 1986-NMCA-051, 104 N.M. 290, 720 P.2d 709, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 289, 720 P.2d 708.

**Inadequate notice of status. —** Where at the probation revocation hearing, the state requested that the court find that defendant violated his probation, find him to be an

absconder, and impose the sentence authorized by law, the state's use of the word "absconder" referring to defendant's failure to report for probation in the two probation violation reports filed, failed to provide adequate notice to defendant that he may be found a fugitive and denied credit pursuant to Subsection C of this section. *State v. Jimenez*, 2004-NMSC-012, 135 N.M. 442, 90 P.3d 461.

**Attempt to serve warrant.** — To establish that probationer is "fugitive" under this provision, the state is required, at a minimum, to show that it attempted to serve a warrant on probationer but was unable to or that it would have failed to serve the warrant if it had attempted to do so. *State v. Thomas*, 1991-NMCA-131, 113 N.M. 298, 825 P.2d 231, cert. denied, 113 N.M. 44, 822 P.2d 1127.

Lack of evidence that authorities actually attempted to serve a warrant does not amount to a failure of proof under Subsection C of this statute which requires a finding that the arrest warrant "cannot be served." *State v. Apache*, 1986-NMCA-051, 104 N.M. 290, 720 P.2d 709, cert. denied, 104 N.M. 289, 720 P.2d 708.

**Effect of fugitive status on credit.** — The trial court's discretion to credit or disallow probation time from violation of probation to arrest depends upon defendant being a fugitive from justice. Whether defendant was a fugitive requires a determination that the warrant for the return of defendant cannot be served. Where the trial court may have made a judicial determination of the above matters in fixing the credit to be given on the reinstated sentence, but the record does not reflect such a determination, since the question of allowable credit is cognizable in a post-conviction motion, defendant is entitled to an evidentiary hearing on the question of the propriety of the credit given. *State v. Murray*, 1970-NMCA-045, 81 N.M. 445, 468 P.2d 416.

**Evidence.** — There was sufficient evidence to support the trial court's ruling that defendant was not entitled to credit for all of the time he was found to have been a fugitive. *State v. Apache*, 1986-NMCA-051, 104 N.M. 290, 720 P.2d 709 (Ct. App.), cert. denied, 104 N.M. 289, 720 P.2d 708.

Where the state made no showing that the warrant was entered into the national crime information center database, that it attempted to serve defendant with a warrant, or that any attempt to serve defendant would have been futile, evidence in the record does not sufficiently demonstrate that defendant was a fugitive under Subsection C of this section. *State v. Jimenez*, 2004-NMSC-012, 135 N.M. 442, 90 P.3d 461.

**Failure to object to status did not preclude appeal.** — Where the petition to revoke defendant's parole did not mention Subsection C of this section or allege that defendant was a fugitive, defendant could not have known that his status as a fugitive was at issue until the district court filed its order revoking probation and denying defendant credit for time served on probation. Under these circumstances, defendant had no opportunity to object to the court's ruling at the time it was made, and thus, the failure to object does not prejudice his ability to raise this claim on appeal. *State v. Jimenez*, 2004-NMSC-012, 135 N.M. 442, 90 P.3d 461.

**Fugitive defendant incarcerated in another jurisdiction.** — A defendant is a fugitive within the meaning of this section if he cannot be taken into actual custody and brought before the court pursuant to an arrest warrant. Thus defendant who could not be taken into custody under authority of the warrant because he was incarcerated in Arizona was properly denied credit against his sentence. *State v. McDonald*, 1991-NMCA-132, 113 N.M. 305, 825 P.2d 238, cert. denied, 113 N.M. 44, 822 P.2d 1127.

**Constitutionality of section.** — This section does not provide for mandatory notice to the probationer before revocation of his probation, thus creating a question of constitutionality. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Legislative intent.** — The legislature intended the Probation and Parole Act to be read along with the criminal code provisions concerning revocation of probation. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Scope of arrest options.** — In revoking an order suspending sentence, an arrest may be accomplished in one of the four following ways: the district court which placed the defendant on probation may issue a warrant upon the filing of a petition by the district attorney; the district court which placed the defendant on probation may issue a notice to appear to answer a charge of violation brought by the probation office; the director of the probation and parole board may arrest the probationer without warrant; and a written statement issued by the director may be used as a warrant for arrest by an officer deputized by the director. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Arrest without warrant by director restricted.** — The procedure whereby the director makes an arrest without a warrant probably should not be utilized when arresting suspected probation violators who are not presently within the jurisdiction of the court which granted probation. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Revocation hearing part of original order.** — The hearing on revocation authorized by this section is a continuation of the original probation order. 1965 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 65-213.

**Commitment under suspended sentence.** — A defendant may not be committed under a suspended sentence until he is given notice of the alleged violation of his probation and has had an opportunity to be heard; to deny either of these is to violate due process of law. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Effect of probation grant.** — Although the granting of probation is a matter of grace, once it has been granted the probationer has a vested right to his conditional liberty and he may not be deprived of this right without due process of law. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Procedure where subsequent criminal charge in another jurisdiction.** — Where a defendant is being held on a subsequent criminal charge in a jurisdiction other than the one which placed him on probation, the board should delay proceeding against him for

violation of probation until the subsequent charge is disposed of. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Bail allowed if violation not criminal offense.** — If a violation of probation is not a criminal offense the defendant should be allowed bail. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Bail where arrested in other county.** — A probationer, arrested in a county other than the county which granted him probation, has a right to be admitted to bail in the county in which he is arrested. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-106.

**Board to pay expenses of returning probationers.** — The state board of probation and parole is responsible for the payment of expenses incurred in the returning of probation violators to the court. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-30.

**Limitation on expenses.** — The phrase "expenses of returning probationers" is not meant to include the cost of detention prior to the return. 1970 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 70-62.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

For survey, "Children's Court Practice in Delinquency and Need of Supervision Cases Under the New Rules," see 6 N.M.L. Rev. 331 (1976).

For article, "Survey of New Mexico Law, 1979-80: Criminal Law and Procedure," see 11 N.M.L. Rev. 85 (1981).

For annual survey of New Mexico criminal law, see 16 N.M.L. Rev. 9 (1986).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 913 et seq.

Right of defendant sentenced after revocation of probation to credit for jail time served as condition of probation, 99 A.L.R.3d 781.

Immunity of public officer from liability for injuries caused by negligently released individual, 5 A.L.R.4th 773.

Admissibility of hearsay evidence in probation revocation hearings, 11 A.L.R.4th 999.

Power of court, after expiration of probation term, to revoke or modify probation for violations committed during the probation term, 13 A.L.R.4th 1240.

Power of court to revoke probation for acts committed after imposition of sentence but prior to commencement of probation term, 22 A.L.R.4th 755.

Propriety of increased sentence following revocation of probation, 23 A.L.R.4th 883.

Defendant's right to credit for time spent in halfway house, rehabilitation center, or other restrictive environment as condition of probation, 24 A.L.R.4th 789.

Revocation of probation based on defendant's misrepresentation or concealment of information from trial court, 36 A.L.R.4th 1182.

Probation officer's liability for negligent supervision of probationer, 44 A.L.R.4th 638.

Probation revocation: insanity as defense, 56 A.L.R.4th 1178.

Determination that state failed to prove charges relied upon for revocation of probation as barring subsequent criminal action based on same underlying charges, 2 A.L.R.5th 262.

Who may institute proceedings to revoke probation, 21 A.L.R.5th 275.

Validity, construction, and application of concurrent-sentence doctrine - state cases, 56 A.L.R.5th 385.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law §§ 1562 to 1564.

### **31-21-16. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1977, ch. 216, § 17, repealed 41-17-30 1953 Comp. (31-21-16 NMSA 1978), relating to discharge of prisoner or parolee.

### **31-21-17. Executive clemency; investigation and reports.**

On request of the governor the board shall investigate and report to him with respect to any case of pardon, commutation of sentence or reprieve.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-31, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 20.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Executive clemency to remove disqualification for office or other disqualification, resulting from conviction of crime, as applicable in case of conviction in federal court or court of another state, 135 A.L.R. 1493.

Revocation of order commuting state criminal sentence, 88 A.L.R.5th 463.



### **31-21-17.1. Medical or geriatric parole; procedures; duties of the corrections department; duties of the board.**

A. The corrections department shall promulgate rules and implement a medical and geriatric parole program, including the application form for medical or geriatric parole.

B. An inmate who is geriatric, permanently incapacitated or terminally ill may seek parole consideration upon written application to the board or consent to submission of an application by and through a family member, attorney or corrections department care provider. When an inmate is physically or mentally incapable of knowingly and voluntarily consenting to submission of an application due to mental or physical infirmity, a family member, attorney, corrections department care provider or other individual with a power of attorney may submit the application on the inmate's behalf.

C. The corrections department shall identify geriatric, permanently incapacitated and terminally ill inmates, notify those inmates of the opportunity to apply for medical or geriatric parole and recommend the release of those inmates who are eligible for medical or geriatric parole.

D. A classification officer shall provide an inmate over the age of fifty-five with a copy of the medical and geriatric parole policy and any other applicable forms at least once a year. An inmate arriving at a long-term care or geriatric unit managed by the corrections department or placed by the corrections department into long-term care or a facility not managed by the department shall be provided with a copy of the medical and geriatric parole policy, written in the inmate's preferred language, during orientation. A copy of the medical and geriatric parole policy shall be placed and maintained in the law library at each institution of the corrections department.

E. An application for medical or geriatric parole shall be submitted to the inmate's classification officer. A classification officer who receives an application shall review the application, make a recommendation, attach any relevant documentation and forward the application package to the appropriate authority as defined by corrections department rule.

F. The corrections department shall determine whether to recommend an inmate for medical or geriatric parole and make any recommendations to the board no later than thirty days after receipt of the application by the classification officer. All applications received by the department shall be processed and forwarded to the board. The recommendation shall include the inmate's age, medical history and prognosis and, if applicable, institutional behavior, adjustment and any evidence suggesting rehabilitation during incarceration. When the department recommends an inmate for medical or geriatric parole, the director shall submit a statement to the board that the inmate's release is not incompatible with the welfare of society. In the event that the department is unable to make a determination of recommendation for medical or geriatric parole within thirty days, the department shall document in writing any justification for the delay.

G. When considering an inmate for medical or geriatric parole, the director may request that reasonable medical and mental health examinations be conducted; provided that the examinations do not cause delay in the processing time of applications required by this section.

H. When determining an inmate's eligibility for medical or geriatric parole, the director shall consider the totality of the circumstances, including:

- (1) the inmate's age;
- (2) the severity of the inmate's illness, disease or infirmity;
- (3) a comprehensive health evaluation of the inmate;
- (4) the inmate's institutional behavior, including evidence indicating rehabilitation;
- (5) the inmate's current level of risk for violence; and
- (6) any alternative to maintaining the geriatric, permanently incapacitated or terminally ill inmate in a traditional setting.

I. Upon receipt of an application and recommendation and supporting documentation from the corrections department for medical or geriatric parole, the board shall review the documentation, schedule a hearing and issue a decision within fifteen days. In the event that a hearing cannot be scheduled and a decision issued within fifteen days, the board shall document in writing any justification for the delay. If an inmate is denied medical or geriatric parole, the board shall notify the inmate and provide service of the copy of the written decision. A copy of the decision shall be sent to the secretary of corrections and the warden of the facility in which the inmate resides.

J. The board shall release an inmate on medical or geriatric parole upon recommendation from the director unless the board finds by clear and convincing evidence that the inmate's release is incompatible with the welfare of society and states in writing its reason for the finding. The board may consider the totality of the circumstances, including an inmate's criminal history, but shall not deny medical or geriatric parole solely because of the nature of the charge resulting in the inmate's conviction or the inmate's criminal history.

K. A rebuttable presumption that an inmate does not constitute a danger to the inmate's self or to society and is therefore eligible for medical or geriatric parole is established if the inmate:

- (1) is fifty-five years of age or older and suffers from a debilitating or chronic infirmity, illness or disease related to aging;

(2) by reason of an existing medical condition, is permanently and irreversibly physically incapacitated; or

(3) has an incurable condition caused by illness or disease that would, within reasonable medical judgment, produce death within six months.

L. Pursuant to Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978, an inmate whose decision is denied by the board pursuant to the provisions of this section may appeal the board's decision in the district court in the jurisdiction where the sentence was imposed. When an inmate is physically or mentally incapable of knowingly and voluntarily consenting to submission of an appeal because of a mental or physical infirmity, a family member, attorney, corrections department health care provider or other individual with a power of attorney may submit an appeal on the inmate's behalf. The notice of appeal shall include a statement of any applicable appellate issues. No later than forty-eight hours after the filing of the notice of appeal with the board, the board shall file the record on appeal with the district court, including any applicable appellee response. The district court shall rule on the appeal no later than seventy-two hours after the record on appeal is filed.

M. An inmate who has not served the inmate's minimum sentence may be considered eligible for parole under the medical and geriatric parole program. Medical and geriatric parole shall be in addition to any other parole for which a geriatric, permanently incapacitated or terminally ill inmate may be eligible.

N. The parole term of a geriatric, permanently incapacitated or terminally ill inmate on medical or geriatric parole shall be for the remainder of the inmate's basic sentence and parole without diminution of sentence for good behavior.

O. In the event that the inmate is a terminally ill inmate, the corrections department shall determine whether to recommend an inmate for medical or geriatric parole within fifteen days of the receipt of the inmate's application by the classification officer, and the board shall issue a decision within seven days. In the event that the department is unable to determine whether to recommend an inmate for medical or geriatric parole within fifteen days pursuant to this subsection, the department or the board shall document any justification for the delay in writing.

P. An inmate who has been denied parole pursuant to the provisions of this section may reapply if additional information is received or if the inmate's condition so warrants.

Q. An inmate convicted of first degree murder shall not be considered eligible for medical or geriatric parole.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 21, § 2; 2023, ch. 89, § 2.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective July 1, 2023, established medical and geriatric parole procedures; in the section heading, deleted "Administration by" and added "medical or geriatric parole; procedures; duties of the corrections", and "duties of the board"; added Subsections A and B; in Subsection C, after "terminally ill inmates", added "notify those inmates of the opportunity to apply for medical or geriatric parole and recommend the release of those inmates who are", after "eligible for", deleted "geriatric or", after "medical", added "or geriatric", and after "parole", deleted "based on rules established by the board. The department shall forward an application and documentation in support of parole eligibility to the board within thirty days of receipt of an application from an inmate. The documentation shall include information concerning the inmate's age, medical history and prognosis, institutional behavior and adjustment and criminal history. The inmate or inmate's representative may submit an application to the board"; and added Subsections D through Q.

### **31-21-18. Application to persons now on probation or parole.**

The provisions of the Probation and Parole Act [31-21-3 NMSA 1978] apply to all persons who, at the effective date, are on probation or parole, or eligible to be placed on probation or parole under existing laws, with the same effect as if the act had been in operation at the time they were placed on probation or parole or become [became] eligible to be placed thereon.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-32, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 21; 1963, ch. 301, § 14.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Bracketed material.** — The bracketed material was inserted by the compiler and is not part of the law.

**"Effective date" interpreted.** — The phrase "at the effective date" in this section cannot reasonably be read to mean that all subsequent amendments to the Parole Act are retroactive to 1963, the effective date of this section. Therefore, because the petitioner's offenses were committed before February 22, 1980, the effective date of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978, Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978 did not apply to him, he was not entitled to determinate parole, and he could not establish a liberty interest to support his due process claim. *Helker v. Shanks*, 47 F.3d 1065 (10th Cir. 1995).

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

### **31-21-19. Participation of the United States and other states.**

The board, in its discretion and with the written consent of the governor, may accept from the United States or any of its agencies, and from any state of the United States, advisory services, funds, equipment and supplies available to this state for any of the

purposes contemplated by the Probation and Parole Act, and may enter into contracts and agreements with the United States or any of its agencies, and any state of the United States as necessary, proper and convenient.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-33, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 232, § 22; 1959, ch. 48, § 1; 1963, ch. 301, § 15.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole as referring to the corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 91 C.J.S. United States § 222 et seq.

#### **31-21-20. Information from courts.**

The director shall obtain from each district court statistical data regarding dispositions of all defendants, whether found guilty or discharged.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-35, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 301, § 16.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — The propriety of conditioning parole on defendant's not entering specified geographical area, 54 A.L.R.5th 743.

#### **31-21-21. Conditions of probation.**

The board shall adopt general regulations concerning the conditions of probation which apply in the absence of specific conditions imposed by the court. All probationers are subject to supervision of the board unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court in the particular case. Nothing in the Probation and Parole Act limits the authority of the court to impose or modify any general or specific condition of probation. The board may recommend and by order the court may impose and modify any conditions of probation. The court shall transmit to the board and to the probationer a copy of any order.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-36, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 301, § 17.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For state board of probation and parole as referring to the corrections division, see 33-1-7 NMSA 1978.

**Specific condition requiring search of defendant's car overrides contrary manual provisions.** — A specific condition requiring that a defendant submit to a search of his car upon request of his probation officer overrides manual provisions directing that probation officers abstain from searches of probationers. *State v. Gardner*, 1980-NMCA-122, 95 N.M. 171, 619 P.2d 847.

**District court abused its discretion by modifying defendant's probation condition** which had been agreed upon pursuant to a plea bargain. *State v. Trujillo*, 1994-NMSC-066, 117 N.M. 769, 877 P.2d 575.

**Law reviews.** — For annual survey of New Mexico law relating to administrative law, see 12 N.M.L. Rev. 1 (1982).

21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 908 et seq.

Propriety of conditioning probation on defendant's remaining childless or having no additional children during probationary period, 94 A.L.R.3d 1218.

Right of defendant sentenced after revocation of probation to credit for jail time served as condition of probation, 99 A.L.R.3d 781.

Propriety of conditioning probation on defendant's not associating with particular person, 99 A.L.R.3d 967.

Propriety of conditioning probation on defendant's serving part of probationary period in jail or prison, 6 A.L.R.4th 446.

Power of court, after expiration of probation term, to revoke or modify probation for violations committed during the probation term, 13 A.L.R.4th 1240.

Propriety of requirement, as condition of probation, that defendant refrain from use of intoxicants, 19 A.L.R.4th 1251.

Power of court to revoke probation for acts committed after imposition of sentence but prior to commencement of probation term, 22 A.L.R.4th 755.

Defendant's right to credit for time spent in halfway house, rehabilitation center, or other restrictive environment as condition of probation, 24 A.L.R.4th 789.

Propriety of conditioning probation on defendant's not entering specified geographical area, 28 A.L.R.4th 725.

Propriety of conditioning probation on defendant's submission to polygraph or other lie detector testing, 86 A.L.R.4th 709.

Propriety of conditioning probation on defendant's submission to drug testing, 87 A.L.R.4th 929.

Who may institute proceedings to revoke probation, 21 A.L.R.5th 275.

Propriety of probation condition exposing defendant to public shame or ridicule, 65 A.L.R.5th 187.

Propriety, as condition of probation granted pursuant to 18 USCS § 3651, of requiring that probationer refrain from consumption of alcoholic beverages, 37 A.L.R. Fed. 843.

Denial of state prisoner's application for, or revocation of, participation in work or study release program or furlough program as actionable under Civil Rights Act of 1871 (42 USCS § 1983), 55 A.L.R. Fed. 208.

Propriety, in criminal case, of Federal District Court order restricting defendant's right to re-enter or stay in United States, 94 A.L.R. Fed. 619.

24 C.J.S. Criminal Law § 1556.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Validity of requirement that, as condition of probation, defendant submit to warrantless searches, 99 A.L.R.5th 557.

### **31-21-22. Short title.**

Sections 1 through 5 [31-21-22 to 31-21-26 NMSA 1978] of this act may be cited as the "Parole Board Act".

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-37, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 194, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

For note, "Parole Revocation and the Right to Counsel," see 5 N.M. L. Rev. 331 (1975).

### **31-21-23. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Parole Board Act [31-21-22 to 31-21-26 NMSA 1978] is to create a professional parole board.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-38, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 194, § 2; 1999, ch. 202, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1999 amendment**, effective July 1, 1999, deleted "full-time," preceding "professional" and "salaried" preceding "parole board".

### **31-21-24. Parole board; members; appointment; terms; qualifications; compensation; organization.**

A. The "parole board" is created, consisting of fifteen members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate.

B. The terms of the members of the parole board shall be six years. To provide for staggered terms, five members shall be appointed every two years. Members serve until their successors have been appointed and qualified.

C. Members of the parole board may be removed by the governor as provided in Article 5, Section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

D. Members of the parole board shall be persons qualified by such academic training or professional experience as is deemed necessary to render them fit to serve as members of the board. No member of the board shall be an official or employee of any other federal, state or local government entity.

E. Members of the parole board shall receive per diem and mileage as provided for nonsalaried public officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978] and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

F. The governor shall designate one member of the parole board to serve as chair, who in addition to other duties shall coordinate with the corrections department in the furnishing of services pursuant to Section 9-3-11 NMSA 1978.

G. A parole may be granted, denied or revoked by a quorum of two on a panel consisting of three parole board members appointed on a rotating basis by the chair of the board.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-39, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 194, § 3; 1976, ch. 18, § 1; 1989, ch. 23, § 1; 1999, ch. 202, § 1; 2005, ch. 227, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2005 amendment**, effective July 1, 2005, increased the number of members of the parole board from nine to fifteen in Subsection A and provided in Subsection B that five members shall be appointed every two years and that members serve until their successors have been appointed and qualified.

**Temporary provision.** — Laws 2005, ch. 227, § 2 added a temporary provision which provided that members of the parole board serving on July 1, 2005 may continue to



serve until their terms expire and their successors have been appointed and qualified, and that of the six additional members of the parole board to be appointed pursuant to the provisions of this act, two shall serve an initial term of two years, two shall serve an initial term of four years, and two shall serve an initial term of six years. Thereafter, all members shall serve six-year staggered terms.

**The 1999 amendment**, effective July 1, 1999, in Subsection A, substituted "nine members" for "four members" and deleted the last sentence which read: "Each member of the board shall devote his full time to the duties of the board"; inserted "parole" preceding "board" in Subsections C, F and G; inserted "appointment by" preceding "the governor" in Subsection C; and rewrote Subsection E which read: "For purposes of salary for the chairman and the other three members of the board, the provisions of Section 10-9-5 NMSA 1978 shall apply. Members of the board shall be reimbursed as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act in lieu of actual expenses for transportation, lodging and subsistence while on the official business of the board".

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, in Subsection A substituted "four" for "three" in the first sentence, deleted at the end of Subsection B "except that the members of the initial board shall be appointed for staggered terms of one, two and three years respectively", in Subsection E substituted "three" for "two" and "10-9-5 NMSA 1978" for "5-4-31.1 NMSA 1953" in the first sentence, and substituted all of the present language of Subsection G beginning with "majority of the board".

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 59 Am. Jur. 2d Pardon and Parole §§ 17, 32, 45, 76.

16A C.J.S. Constitutional Law §§ 262, 505.

## **31-21-25. Powers and duties of the board.**

A. The parole board shall have the powers and duties of the former state board of probation and parole pursuant to Sections 31-21-6 and 31-21-10 through 31-21-17 NMSA 1978 and such additional powers and duties relating to the parole of adults as are enumerated in this section.

B. The parole board shall have the following powers and duties to:

- (1) grant, deny or revoke parole;
- (2) conduct or cause to be conducted such investigations, examinations, interviews, hearings and other proceedings as may be necessary for the effectual discharge of the duties of the board;
- (3) summon witnesses, books, papers, reports, documents or tangible things and administer oaths as may be necessary for the effectual discharge of the duties of the board;

(4) maintain records of its acts, decisions and orders and notify each corrections facility of its decisions relating to persons who are or have been confined therein;

(5) adopt an official seal of which the courts shall take judicial notice;

(6) employ such officers, agents, assistants and other employees as may be necessary for the effectual discharge of the duties of the board;

(7) contract for services, supplies, equipment, office space and such other provisions as may be necessary for the effectual discharge of the duties of the board; and

(8) adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effectual discharge of the duties of the board.

C. The parole board shall provide a prisoner or parolee with a written statement of the reason or reasons for denying or revoking parole.

D. The parole board shall adopt a written policy specifying the criteria to be considered by the board in determining whether to grant, deny or revoke parole or to discharge a parolee.

E. When the parole board conducts a parole hearing for an offender, and upon request of the victim or family member the board shall allow the victim of the offender's crime or a family member of the victim to be present during the parole hearing. If the victim or a family member of the victim requests an opportunity to speak to the board during the hearing in public or private, the board shall grant that request. As used in this subsection, "family member of the victim" means a mother, father, sister, brother, child or spouse of the victim or a person who has custody of the victim.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-40, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 194, § 4; 1983, ch. 320, § 1; 1989, ch. 210, § 1; 2001, ch. 224, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross references.** — For administrative attachment to the criminal justice department, see 9-3-11 NMSA 1978.

**The 2001 amendment,** effective July 1, 2001, inserted "parole" preceding "board" in Subsections A, C and D; and added Subsection E.

**The 1989 amendment,** effective July 1, 1989, deleted former Subsection E, regarding various notification requirements of the board in connection with its docket and in connection with release of prisoners.

**Generally as to granting or revoking of parole.** — The power to grant parole and to revoke it is exercised pursuant to explicit statutory authority, and that power is exercised by a person or persons experienced in sifting, weighing and evaluating the factors involved in the grant or revocation of conditional freedom. The real problem before the parole board is one of rehabilitation, which must be measured, not by legal rules, but by the judgment of those who make it their professional business. *Robinson v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-210, 77 N.M. 55, 419 P.2d 253.

**Release on parole is act of clemency** or grace resting entirely within the discretion of the parole board. *Robinson v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-210, 77 N.M. 55, 419 P.2d 253.

**Paroled prisoner is not discharged from custody of prison authorities**, but is at all times under the complete custody and control, and subject to the orders of the parole board. *Robinson v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-210, 77 N.M. 55, 419 P.2d 253.

**No constitutional right to hearing prior to revocation.** — A prisoner on probation has no constitutional right to a hearing prior to its revocation, and any such right depends entirely upon the existence of a statutory provision. *Robinson v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-210, 77 N.M. 55, 419 P.2d 253.

**No right to counsel at revocation hearing.** — Neither due process nor the applicable statutes require that parolees be provided with appointed counsel or represented by employed counsel when they appear before the parole board in a revocation hearing. *Robinson v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-210, 77 N.M. 55, 419 P.2d 253.

**Scope of evidence at parole revocation hearing.** — A parole revocation hearing cannot be restricted to legal evidence derived from examinations and cross-examinations of witnesses in open hearing. Any information of probative value, even though it may be in the form of letters, reports of probation officers and similar matter, which can help the board in making its determination may properly be considered. *Robinson v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-210, 77 N.M. 55, 419 P.2d 253.

**Effect of considering hearsay evidence.** — The consideration of the board of hearsay evidence does not invalidate the action taken. *Robinson v. Cox*, 1966-NMSC-210, 77 N.M. 55, 419 P.2d 253.

**Law reviews.** — For note, "Due Process, Equal Protection and the New Mexico Parole System," see 2 N.M.L. Rev. 234 (1972).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 59 Am. Jur. 2d Pardon and Parole §§ 17, 32, 45, 76.

Liability of governmental officer or entity for failure to warn or notify of release of potentially dangerous individual from custody, 12 A.L.R.4th 722.

Probation officer's liability for negligent supervision of probationer, 44 A.L.R.4th 638.

United States Parole Commission Guidelines for federal prisoners, 61 A.L.R. Fed. 135.

16A C.J.S. Constitutional Law §§ 262, 505; 31A C.J.S. Evidence § 159 et seq.; 39 C.J.S. Habeas Corpus § 77.

### **31-21-25.1. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 21, § 3; repealed by Laws 2023, ch. 89, § 3.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2023, ch. 89, § 3 repealed 31-21-25.1 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1994, ch. 21, § 3, relating to parole board, additional powers and duties, medical and geriatric parole program, effective July 1, 2023. For provisions of former section, see the 2022 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

### **31-21-26. Transitional provisions.**

A. The records, property, equipment and unencumbered and unexpended funds previously belonging to or appropriated for the use of the former parole hearing board shall become, on the effective date of the Parole Board Act [31-21-22 to 31-21-26 NMSA 1978], a part of the property of the parole board.

B. The provisions of the Parole Board Act apply to all persons who, on the effective date, are on parole or eligible to be placed on parole with the same effect as if that act had been in effect at the time they were placed on parole or became eligible to be placed on parole.

**History:** 1953 Comp., § 41-17-41, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 194, § 5.

### **31-21-27. Reentry drug court program for inmates; district court supervision.**

A. The corrections department shall develop criteria regarding the eligibility of an inmate for early release into a reentry drug court program, including requirements that the inmate:

(1) was incarcerated following conviction for a nonviolent, drug-related offense; and

(2) is within eighteen months of release or eligibility for parole.

B. The corrections department may petition a district court that operates a reentry drug court program to accept limited jurisdiction of an inmate. If the district court grants the petition, the district court shall have jurisdiction over the inmate and the corrections

department shall retain its jurisdiction over the inmate pursuant to the terms of the inmate's judgment and sentence.

C. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to change the jurisdictional authority of the sentencing court, pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Criminal Procedure for the District Courts, as promulgated by the supreme court. The jurisdictional authority conferred upon a reentry drug court pursuant to this section is limited to acceptance and supervision of a released inmate by the reentry drug court program.

D. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to limit the statutory authority vested in the adult probation and parole division of the corrections department, pursuant to the provisions of the Probation and Parole Act [31-21-22 to 31-21-26 NMSA 1978].

**History:** Laws 2001, ch. 35, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For Rules of Criminal procedure for the District Courts, see Rule 5-101 NMRA et seq.

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2001, ch. 35, § 2 made the act effective on July 1, 2001.

## **ARTICLE 22**

### **Crime Victims Reparations**

#### **31-22-1. Short title.**

Chapter 31, Article 22 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Crime Victims Reparation Act".

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 1; 1993, ch. 207, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1993 amendment,** effective June 18, 1993, substituted "Chapter 31, Article 22 NMSA 1978" for "This act".

**Compiler's notes.** — Laws 1990, ch. 10, § 4 repealed Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 26, as amended, which had provided for delayed repeals of sections of this article on specified dates.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — 21A Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 1321 et seq.

Statutes providing for governmental compensation for victims of crime, 20 A.L.R.4th 63.

### **31-22-2. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Crime Victims Reparation Act is to protect the citizens of New Mexico from the impact of crime and to promote a stronger criminal justice system through the encouragement of all citizens to cooperate with law enforcement efforts. Implementation of the Crime Victims Reparation Act will promote the public health, welfare and safety of the citizens of New Mexico.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 2.

### **31-22-3. Definitions.**

As used in the Crime Victims Reparation Act:

A. "child" means an unmarried person who is under the age of majority and includes a stepchild and an adopted child;

B. "collateral source" includes benefits for economic loss otherwise reparable under the Crime Victims Reparation Act which the victim or claimant has received or which are readily available to him from:

- (1) the offender;
- (2) social security, medicare and medicaid;
- (3) workers' compensation;
- (4) proceeds of a contract of insurance payable to the victim;
- (5) a contract providing prepaid hospital and other health care services or benefits for disability, except for the benefits of any life insurance policy;
- (6) applicable indigent funds; or
- (7) cash donations;

C. "commission" means the crime victims reparation commission;

D. "dependents" means those relatives of the deceased or disabled victim who are more than fifty percent dependent upon the victim's income at the time of his death or disability and includes the child of a victim born after his death or disability;

E. "family relationship group" means any person related to another person within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity;

F. "injury" means actual bodily harm or disfigurement and includes pregnancy and extreme mental distress. For the purposes of this subsection, "extreme mental distress" means a substantial personal disorder of emotional processes, thought or cognition that impairs judgment, behavior or ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life;

G. "permanent total disability" means loss of both legs or arms, loss of one leg and one arm, total loss of eyesight, paralysis or other physical condition permanently incapacitating the worker from performing any work at any gainful occupation;

H. "relative" means a person's spouse, parent, grandparent, stepfather, stepmother, child, grandchild, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister or spouse's parents; and

I. "victim" means:

(1) a person in New Mexico who is injured or killed by any act or omission of any other person that is a crime enumerated in Section 31-22-8 NMSA 1978;

(2) a resident of New Mexico who is injured or killed by such a crime occurring in a state other than New Mexico if that state does not have an eligible crime victims compensation program; or

(3) a resident of New Mexico who is injured or killed by an act of international terrorism, as provided in 18 U.S.C. Section 2331.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 3; 1985 (1st S.S.), ch. 5, § 1; 1989, ch. 246, § 1; 1990, ch. 10, § 1; 1993, ch. 207, § 2; 1997, ch. 268, § 1; 2001, ch. 214, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2001 amendment**, effective June 15, 2001, deleted former Paragraph B(4), which read "any program of any employer for continuation of wages in the event of the illness or injury of an employee" and renumbered the remaining paragraphs accordingly; added Subsection G and renumbered the remaining subsections accordingly; and in Subsection H, deleted "minor" preceding "brother", "sister", "half-brother", and "half-sister".

**The 1997 amendment**, effective July 1, 1997, added Paragraph H(3) and made a stylistic change.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, added Paragraphs (7) and (8) to Subsection B, making related grammatical changes.

**The 1990 amendment**, effective May 16, 1990, in Subsection H, inserted the paragraph designation "(1)", substituted "person that" for "person which", added "or" at the end, and added Paragraph (2).

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, made a minor stylistic change in Subsection B(3), substituted the present language of Subsection B(4) for "wage continuation programs of any employer", and added all of the language of Subsection B(6) following "disability".

#### **31-22-4. Crime victims reparation commission created; membership; reimbursement.**

A. There is created in the executive branch of government a "crime victims reparation commission" which shall consist of five members appointed by the governor for staggered terms of four years each. Not more than three of the members shall belong to the same political party. One of the members shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in the state, one of the members shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state and one of the members shall be a representative of a law enforcement agency. In making the initial appointments, the governor shall appoint three members for a term of two years each and two members for a term of four years each. Thereafter, appointments shall be for a term of four years. The governor may appoint a person to fill a vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term.

B. The members of the commission shall annually elect from their membership a chairman and vice chairman.

C. Members of the commission, while in the actual performance of their duties pursuant to the Crime Victims Reparation Act, shall be reimbursed as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978].

D. The commission may employ a director and such staff as is necessary to perform its functions.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 4; 1989, ch. 246, § 2; 1993, ch. 207, § 3.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, deleted "and" following "practice law in the state" and added the language beginning "and one of the members" to the end, in the third sentence of Subsection A.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, inserted "a director and" in Subsection D.

#### **31-22-4.1. Domestic violence homicide review team; creation; membership; duties; confidentiality; civil liability.**

A. The "domestic violence homicide review team" is created within the commission for the purpose of reviewing the facts and circumstances of domestic violence related



homicides and sexual assault related homicides in New Mexico, identifying the causes of the fatalities and their relationship to government and nongovernment service delivery systems and developing methods of domestic violence prevention.

B. The team shall consist of the following members appointed by the director of the commission:

- (1) medical personnel with expertise in domestic violence;
  - (2) criminologists;
  - (3) representatives from the New Mexico district attorneys association;
  - (4) representatives from the attorney general;
  - (5) victim services providers;
  - (6) civil legal services providers;
  - (7) representatives from the public defender department;
  - (8) members of the judiciary;
  - (9) law enforcement personnel;
  - (10) representatives from the department of health, the aging and long-term services department and the children, youth and families department who deal with domestic violence victims' issues;
  - (11) representatives from tribal organizations who deal with domestic violence;
- and
- (12) any other members the director of the commission deems appropriate.

C. The domestic violence homicide review team shall:

- (1) review trends and patterns of domestic violence related homicides and sexual assault related homicides in New Mexico;
- (2) evaluate the responses of government and nongovernment service delivery systems and offer recommendations for improvement of the responses;
- (3) identify and characterize high-risk groups for the purpose of recommending developments in public policy;

(4) collect statistical data in a consistent and uniform manner on the occurrence of domestic violence related homicides and sexual assault related homicides; and

(5) improve collaboration between tribal, state and local agencies and organizations to develop initiatives to prevent domestic violence.

D. The following items are confidential:

(1) all records, reports or other information obtained or created by the domestic violence homicide review team for the purpose of reviewing domestic violence related homicides or sexual assault related homicides pursuant to this section; and

(2) all communications made by domestic violence homicide review team members or other persons during a review conducted by the team of a domestic violence related homicide or a sexual assault related homicide.

E. The following persons shall honor the confidentiality requirements of this section and shall not make disclosure of any matter related to the team's review of a domestic violence related homicide or a sexual assault related homicide, except pursuant to appropriate court orders:

(1) domestic violence homicide review team members;

(2) persons who provide records, reports or other information to the team for the purpose of reviewing domestic violence related homicides and sexual assault related homicides; and

(3) persons who participate in a review conducted by the team.

F. Nothing in this section shall prevent the discovery or admissibility of any evidence that is otherwise discoverable or admissible merely because the evidence was presented during the review of a domestic violence related homicide or a sexual assault related homicide pursuant to this section.

G. Domestic violence homicide review team members shall not be subject to civil liability for any act related to the review of a domestic violence related homicide or a sexual assault related homicide; provided that the members act in good faith, without malice and in compliance with other state or federal law.

H. An organization, institution, agency or person who provides testimony, records, reports or other information to the domestic violence homicide review team for the purpose of reviewing domestic violence related homicides or sexual assault related homicides shall not be subject to civil liability for providing the testimony, records, reports or other information to the team; provided that the organization, institution,

agency or person acts in good faith, without malice and in compliance with other state or federal law.

I. At least thirty days prior to the convening of each regular session of the legislature, the domestic violence homicide review team shall transmit a report of its activities pursuant to this section to:

- (1) the governor;
- (2) the legislative council;
- (3) the chief justice of the supreme court;
- (4) the secretary of public safety;
- (5) the secretary of children, youth and families;
- (6) the secretary of health; and
- (7) any other persons the team deems appropriate.

**History:** Laws 2007, ch. 235, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2007, ch. 235, § 2 made this section effective July 1, 2007.

#### **31-22-5. Claims; review; hearings and evidence.**

A. Where an application is made to the commission pursuant to the Crime Victims Reparation Act, the director of the commission shall determine if a claim for a reparation award is eligible for consideration pursuant to the provisions of the Crime Victims Reparation Act. All claims arising from the injury or death of a person as a direct result of a single crime shall be considered together by a single staff member. When the director determines that a claim for a reparation award is not eligible for consideration, the director shall notify the commission of his determination at the next regular meeting of the commission. If the commission concurs with the director's determination that a claim for a reparation award is not eligible for consideration, the claimant shall be notified that his claim was denied. When the director determines that a claim for a reparation award is eligible for consideration, the director shall order that the claim be processed and he shall assign the claim to a member of the commission staff.

B. The staff member to whom such claim is assigned shall examine the papers filed in support of the claim and shall cause an investigation to be conducted into the validity of the claim. The investigation may include, but not be limited to, an examination of police, court and official records and reports concerning the crime and an examination

of medical and hospital reports relating to the injury or death upon which the claim is based and other benefits received or to be received.

C. The staff member to whom a claim is assigned may make his recommendation regarding the claim on the basis of the papers filed in support thereof and the report of the investigation of the claim. If the staff member is unable to make a recommendation upon the basis of the papers and report, he shall present the claim to the commission without a recommendation.

D. When the claim has been processed, the director shall assign the claim to a commission member.

E. After examining the papers filed in support of the claim and the report of investigation and after a hearing, if any, the commission member to whom the claim was assigned shall make a recommendation to the entire commission either granting an award or denying the claim.

F. A quorum of the commission shall act upon the recommendation of the commission member. A quorum of the commission, by majority vote, may affirm, increase, decrease or deny the award.

G. Upon a request from a victim or claimant, the commission shall grant the victim or claimant an informal appearance at a commission meeting. The purpose of the informal appearance shall be for the victim or claimant to present any evidence or information in support of his claim.

H. A formal hearing may be called for by a majority of the commission. The purpose of the hearing shall be for the commission to hear evidence to assist it in making a determination regarding a claim.

I. At the hearing, the claimant and the commission's legal advisor shall be entitled to appear and be heard, and any other person may appear and be heard who has satisfied the commission member that he has a substantial interest in the proceedings. In any case in which the claimant is a child or is mentally incompetent, the application may be made on behalf of such claimant by his parent, guardian, custodian or any other person authorized to administer his estate.

J. Where any person is entitled to appear and be heard, that person may appear in person or by his attorney. All hearings shall be open to the public unless in a particular case the member of the commission assigned to the claim determines that the hearing or a portion thereof shall be held in private, having regard to the fact that the offender has not been convicted or in the interest of the victim of an alleged sexual offense.

K. Every person appearing under the provisions of this section shall have the right to produce evidence and to cross-examine witnesses. The commission member may receive in evidence any statement, document, information or matter that may, in his

opinion, contribute to the functions of the hearing under the Crime Victims Reparation Act, whether or not such statement, document, information or other matter would be admissible in a court of law.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 5; 1989, ch. 246, § 3; 1991, ch. 36, § 1; 1993, ch. 207, § 4.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, in Subsection A, substituted the language beginning "determine if a claim" for "assign the claim to a member of the commission staff" at the end of the first sentence and added the last three sentences; in Subsection B, substituted "may" for "shall" before "include" in the second sentence; and in Subsection D, deleted "and a claim summary has been prepared" after "processed".

**The 1991 amendment**, effective July 1, 1991, in Subsection A, in the first sentence, substituted "director" for "chairman" and "to a member" for "to himself or to another member" and added "staff", in the second sentence, and, in Subsections B and C, substituted "staff member" for "commission member"; in the second sentence of Subsection C substituted "make a" for "decide his" and added the language beginning with "present the claim"; deleted former Subsections D to F pertaining to the appearance of a claimant at the hearings; added Subsection D; redesignated former Subsections G and H as Subsections E and F; and added Subsections G to K.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, in Subsection H substituted "A quorum of the commission" for "The entire commission" in the first sentence and "The commission" in the second sentence, and deleted the former third sentence which read: "No decision shall be valid unless a majority of the commission members are in agreement on the decision."

### **31-22-6. Medical examination; attorneys' fees; penalty.**

A. The commission may appoint an impartial physician, licensed in New Mexico, to examine any person making an application for reparation under the Crime Victims Reparation Act, and the fees for the examination shall be paid from funds appropriated for the commission's administrative expenses.

B. None of the appropriation in this act [31-22-1 to 31-22-21 NMSA 1978] shall be used to pay attorney fees either as part of or in addition to awards of reparation. In cases where no reparation is awarded, attorney fees shall not be paid.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 6.

### **31-22-7. Eligibility for reparation.**

A. If a person is injured or killed by an act or omission of another person coming within the criminal jurisdiction of the state after July 1, 1981, which act or omission includes a crime enumerated in Section 31-22-8 NMSA 1978, and upon application for reparation, the commission may award reparation in accordance with the Crime Victims Reparation Act:

- (1) to the victim;
- (2) in the case of the victim's death, to or for the benefit of any one or more of the deceased victim's dependents; or
- (3) to any individual who voluntarily assumes funeral or medical expenses of the victim.

B. For the purpose of the Crime Victims Reparation Act, a person shall be deemed to have intentionally committed an act or omission constituting a crime, notwithstanding that by reason of age, insanity, drunkenness or otherwise the person was legally incapable of forming a criminal intent.

C. In determining whether to make an order under this section, the commission may consider any circumstances it determines to be relevant. The commission shall consider the behavior of the victim and whether, because of provocation or otherwise, the victim bears responsibility for the act or omission constituting a crime that caused the victim's injury or death and shall reduce the amount of reparation in accordance with its assessment of the degree of responsibility attributable to the victim.

D. An order may be made under this section whether or not any person is prosecuted for or convicted of a crime enumerated in Section 31-22-8 NMSA 1978; provided an arrest has been made or the act or omission constituting a crime has been reported to the police in a reasonable time or the act or omission constituting a crime has been reported to a licensed medical, mental health or counseling provider, or tribal health provider. No order may be made under this section unless the commission finds that:

- (1) the act or omission constituting a crime did occur;
- (2) the injury or death of the victim resulted from the act or omission constituting a crime; and
- (3) the claimant or victim fully cooperated with the appropriate law enforcement agencies or the commission finds that the claimant or victim acted reasonably under the circumstances.

E. Upon application from the district attorney of the appropriate district, the commission may suspend proceedings under the Crime Victims Reparation Act for such

period as it deems desirable on the grounds that a prosecution for the act or omission constituting a crime has commenced or is imminent.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 7; 1993, ch. 207, § 5; 2019, ch. 211, § 8.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2019 amendment**, effective July 1, 2019, expanded the eligibility for reparation by including that the act or omission constituting a crime may be reported to a licensed medical, mental health or counseling provider, or tribal health provider, and provided that the commission may award reparation upon a finding that the victim fully cooperated with the appropriate law enforcement agencies or that the claimant acted reasonably under the circumstances; in Subsection D, after "police in a reasonable time", added "or the act or omission constituting a crime has been reported to a licensed medical, mental health or counseling provider, or tribal health provider", and in Paragraph D(3), after "law enforcement agencies", added "or the commission finds that the claimant or victim acted reasonably under the circumstances".

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, substituted "31-22-8 NMSA 1978" for "9 of that act" in the introductory language of Subsection A and for "9 of the Crime Victims Reparation Act" in the first sentence of Subsection D; and made stylistic changes in Subsection A(3) and in Subsection E.

### **31-22-8. Crimes enumerated.**

A. The crimes to which the Crime Victims Reparation Act applies and for which reparation to victims may be made are the following enumerated offenses and all other offenses in which any enumerated offense is necessarily included:

- (1) arson resulting in bodily injury;
- (2) aggravated assault or aggravated battery;
- (3) dangerous use of explosives resulting in bodily injury;
- (4) negligent use of a deadly weapon;
- (5) murder;
- (6) voluntary manslaughter;
- (7) involuntary manslaughter;
- (8) kidnapping;
- (9) criminal sexual penetration;

- (10) criminal sexual contact of a minor;
- (11) failure to give information and render aid, as provided in Section 66-7-201 or 66-7-203 NMSA 1978;
- (12) homicide by vehicle or great bodily injury by vehicle, as provided in Section 66-8-101 NMSA 1978;
- (13) abandonment or abuse of a child;
- (14) aggravated indecent exposure, as provided in Section 30-9-14.3 NMSA 1978;
- (15) stalking;
- (16) human trafficking;
- (17) assault against a household member; and
- (18) battery against a household member.

B. No award shall be made for any loss or damage to property.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 8; 1983, ch. 319, § 1; 1989, ch. 246, § 4; 1990, ch. 10, § 2; 1997, ch. 268, § 2; 2001, ch. 214, § 2; 2013, ch. 200, § 4; 2015, ch. 10, § 1; 2018, ch. 33, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2018 amendment**, effective May 16, 2018, added failure to give information and render aid to the list of crimes for which crime victim reparation may be made under the Crime Victims Reparation Act; and added a new Paragraph A(11) and redesignated the succeeding paragraphs accordingly.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, provided for new crimes to which the Crime Victims Reparation Act applies, and removed certain crimes from the list to which the Crime Victims Reparation Act applies; deleted former Paragraph (2) of Subsection A and renumbered the succeeding paragraphs accordingly; in Subsection A, Paragraph (3), after "explosives", added "resulting in bodily injury"; in Subsection A, Paragraph (14), deleted "aggravated" preceding "stalking", and after "stalking", deleted "as provided in Section 30-3A-3.1 NMSA 1978"; and added new Paragraphs (16) and (17).

**The 2013 amendment**, effective July 1, 2013, added the crime of human trafficking; and added Paragraph (16) of Subsection A.



**The 2001 amendment**, effective June 15, 2001, rewrote Paragraph A(15), which formerly read "stalking, as provided in Section 30-3A-3 NMSA 1978, when the offender has at least one prior conviction for stalking".

**The 1997 amendment**, effective July 1, 1997, added Paragraphs A(14) and A(15) and made stylistic changes.

**The 1990 amendment**, effective May 16, 1990, inserted "as defined in Section 66-8-101 NMSA 1978" in Paragraph (12) of Subsection A.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, substituted "kidnaping" for "kidnapping" in Subsection A(9), and added Subsection A(13).

### **31-22-9. Award of reparation.**

The commission may order payment of reparation for:

- A. expenses actually and reasonably incurred as a result of the victim's injury or death;
- B. loss to the victim of earning power as a result of total or partial incapacity;
- C. any other pecuniary loss directly resulting from the victim's injury or death which the commission determines to be reasonable and proper; and
- D. any expenses incurred for rehabilitation services provided to a victim of child abuse or neglect, including child sexual abuse, but awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be made directly to the provider of the rehabilitation services for payment of those services.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 9; 1989, ch. 246, § 5.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, added Subsection D.

### **31-22-10. Relationship to offender.**

Except for amounts payable pursuant to Subsection D of Section 31-22-9 NMSA 1978, no reparation shall be awarded if the victim:

- A. was a member of the offender's family relationship group where payment of reparation would unjustly enrich the offender; or
- B. was an accomplice of the offender.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 10; 1989, ch. 246, § 6; 1990, ch. 10, § 3.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1990 amendment**, effective May 16, 1990, deleted former Subsection A which read "is a relative of the offender" and redesignated former Subsections B and C as present Subsections A and B.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, added "Except for amounts payable pursuant to Subsection D of Section 31-22-9 NMSA 1978" at the beginning of the undesignated introductory paragraph, and added all of the language of Subsection B following "group".

### **31-22-11. No award to certain confined persons.**

No award shall be made pursuant to the provisions of the Crime Victims Reparation Act to a victim injured while confined in a county or municipal jail, penitentiary or other correctional facility.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 11.

### **31-22-12. Recovery from offender.**

Whenever an award of reparation is made pursuant to the Crime Victims Reparation Act, the state is, upon payment of the award, subrogated to the right of action of the victim or his dependents against the person responsible for the injury or death and may bring an action against such person for the amount of the reparation paid.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 12.

### **31-22-13. Terms of order.**

Any order for the payment of reparation under the Crime Victims Reparation Act may be made on such terms as the commission deems appropriate. The order may provide for apportionment of reparation or for the holding of reparation or any part thereof in trust and for the payment of reparation in a lump sum or in periodic installments. All such orders shall contain words clearly informing the claimant that all awards and orders for reparation under the Crime Victims Reparation Act are subject to the making of an appropriation by the legislature to pay the claim.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 13.

### **31-22-14. Limitations on award; collateral recovery; preliminary award.**

A. No order for the payment of reparation shall be made unless application has been made within two years after the date of the injury or death and the injury or death was the result of a crime enumerated in Section 31-22-8 NMSA 1978. An application for reparation shall be made within two years after the injury or death, except for minors who are victims of criminal activity under the provisions of Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978, regarding abandonment or abuse of a child, Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978, regarding criminal sexual penetration, or Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978, regarding criminal sexual contact of a minor.

B. No award of reparation shall be in excess of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) per victim, except that the commission may award up to an additional thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for extraordinary pecuniary losses, if the personal injury to a victim is catastrophic and results in a permanent total disability. The extraordinary losses compensated may include:

- (1) loss of wages;
- (2) the cost of home health care;
- (3) the cost of making a home or automobile accessible;
- (4) the cost of training in the use of special application; or
- (5) job training.

C. Except as provided by Subsection E of this section, the commission shall deduct from any reparation awarded any payments received from a collateral source or from the United States or the state or any of its political subdivisions for injury or death subject to reparation under the Crime Victims Reparation Act. If the claimant receives an award of reparation from the commission and also receives payment as set forth in the preceding sentence for which no deduction was made, the claimant shall refund to the state the lesser of the amount of reparation paid or the sums not so deducted.

D. If the claimant receives an award of reparation from the commission and also receives an award pursuant to a civil judgment arising from a criminal occurrence for which a reparation award was paid, the claimant shall refund to the state the amount of the reparation paid to the claimant. The commission may negotiate a reasonable settlement regarding repayment of the reparation award if special circumstances exist.

E. If it appears that a final award of reparation will be made by the commission, a preliminary award may be authorized by the director of the commission or the commission's designee when the commission chair concurs. The amount of the preliminary award shall be deducted from any final award made by the commission.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 14; 1989, ch. 246, § 7; 1991, ch. 37, § 1; 1993, ch. 207, § 6; 1997, ch. 268, § 3; 2001, ch. 214, § 3; 2015, ch. 10, § 2; 2019, ch. 211, § 9.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment**, effective July 1, 2019, removed the requirement that crimes covered by the act have to be reported to the police within thirty days, and removed certain waivers to the requirement that a crime be reported to police within thirty days; in Subsection A, deleted "that had been reported to the police within thirty days after its occurrence unless a longer period is allowed pursuant to Subsection F of this section", and deleted "The date of incident for minors who are victims of these types of criminal activity shall be the date the victim attains the age of eighteen years or the date that the criminal activity is reported to a law enforcement agency, whichever occurs first. The commission may extend the time for filing an application for good cause shown by a claimant or a victim."; and deleted former Subsection F, which related to waivers to the thirty-day reporting requirement.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, provided the crime victims reparation commission the authority to extend the time for filing an application for reparation upon good cause shown by a claimant or a victim; in Subsection A, after "Subsection F of this section.", deleted "In no event shall reparation be given unless application has been" and added "An application for reparation shall be", and added the last sentence of the subsection relating to extending the time for filing an application for reparation.

**The 2001 amendment**, effective June 15, 2001, inserted "unless a longer period is allowed pursuant to Subsection F of this section" in Subsection A; added the exception and Paragraphs B(1) through B(5) in Subsection B; deleted "not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500)" following "preliminary award" in Subsection E; and added Subsection F.

**The 1997 amendment**, effective July 1, 1997, in Subsection A, substituted "two year" for "one year" near the beginning of the first sentence, and deleted language at the end of the first sentence and deleted the former second sentence relating to application allowed for good cause and providing for regulations specifying good cause; added Subsection D and redesignated former Subsection D as Subsection E, and made stylistic changes in Subsections A and C.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, substituted a reference to 30-9-13 NMSA 1978 for a reference to 30-9-14 NMSA 1978 near the end of the third sentence of Subsection A; and added "when the commission chairman concurs" to the end of the first sentence of Subsection D.

**The 1991 amendment**, effective July 1, 1991, in Subsection A, added the exception at the end of the third sentence and added the last sentence.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, added "preliminary award" to the catchline; in Subsection A made a minor stylistic change in the first sentence and added all of the language of that sentence beginning with "unless", and added the second and third sentences; in Subsection B substituted "twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)" for

"twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500)"; in Subsection C added "Except as provided by Subsection D of this section" at the beginning of the first sentence; and added Subsection D.

### **31-22-15. Exemption from execution.**

No reparation payable under the Crime Victims Reparation Act shall be, prior to its actual receipt by the victim or dependents entitled thereto or their legal representatives, assignable or subject to garnishment, execution, attachment or other process whatsoever, including process to satisfy an order or judgment for support or alimony.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 15.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For rules governing garnishment and writs of execution in the district, magistrate, and metropolitan courts, see Rules 1-065.1, 2-801, and 3-801 NMRA, respectively.

For form for claim of exemptions on executions, see Rule 4-803 NMRA.

For form for order on claim of exemption and order to pay in execution proceedings, see Rule 4-804 NMRA.

For form for application for writ of garnishment and affidavit, see Rule 4-805 NMRA.

For form for notice of right to claim exemptions from execution, see Rule 4-808A NMRA.

For form for claim of exemption from garnishment, see Rule 4-809 NMRA.

### **31-22-16. Survival or abatement.**

The rights to reparation created by the Crime Victims Reparation Act are personal and shall not survive the death of the victim or dependents entitled thereto; provided that if such death occurs after an application for reparation has been filed with the commission, the proceeding shall not abate, but may be continued by the legal representative of the decedent's estate.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 16.

### **31-22-17. Rule-making powers.**

In performance of its functions the commission may adopt, amend and repeal rules and regulations in accordance with the State Rules Act [Chapter 14, Article 4 NMSA 1978], not inconsistent with the Crime Victims Reparation Act, prescribing procedures to be followed in the filing of applications and the proceedings under the Crime Victims

Reparation Act and such other matters as the commission deems appropriate. Unless otherwise provided by law, no regulation affecting any person or agency outside the commission shall be adopted, amended or repealed without a public hearing on the proposed action before the commission or a hearing officer designated by them. Notice of the subject matter of the regulation, the action proposed to be taken, the time and place of the hearing, the manner in which interested persons may present their views and the method by which copies of the proposed regulation, proposed amendment or repeal of an existing regulation may be obtained shall be published once at least thirty days prior to the hearing date in a newspaper of general circulation and mailed at least thirty days prior to the hearing date to all persons who have made a written request for advance notice of hearing. All rules and regulations shall be filed in accordance with the State Rules Act. In filing the rule or regulation with the state records center, the commission shall certify that the record contains arguments presented both for and against each rule or regulation promulgated.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 17.

### **31-22-18. Confidentiality of records, reports and claim files.**

Any record or report acquired by the commission, the confidentiality of which is protected by law, rule or regulation, shall be disclosed only under the same terms and conditions which protected its confidentiality prior to such acquisition. The claim file, which contains confidential reports, records and personal information, shall not be released.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 18; 1993, ch. 207, § 7; 2001, ch. 214, § 4.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2001 amendment**, effective June 15, 2001, substituted "confidential reports, records and personal information" for "the victim's name, address, telephone number and other personal information regarding the victim" in the last sentence.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, substituted "reports and claim files" for "and reports" in the catchline and added the second sentence.

### **31-22-19. Annual report.**

At least thirty days prior to the convening of each regular session of the legislature, the commission shall transmit to the governor, the department of finance and administration and the legislature a report of its activities under the Crime Victims Reparation Act. The department of finance and administration shall, within five days after the opening of the legislative session, transmit the report, together with a tabulation of the total amount awarded and the amount of any judgments collected, to the senate finance committee and to the house appropriations and finance committee or any successor committees.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 19; 1989, ch. 246, § 8; 1993, ch. 207, § 8.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1993 amendment**, effective June 18, 1993, deleted "including a brief description of the facts in each case and the amount, if any, of reparation awarded" from the end of the first sentence.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective June 16, 1989, deleted "the name of each applicant," following "including" in the first sentence.

### **31-22-20. Penalty.**

Any person who knowingly makes a false claim or a false statement in connection with a claim filed pursuant to the Crime Victims Reparation Act shall be guilty of a fourth degree felony and for conviction thereof shall:

A. be punished by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for a determinate term of not less than one year nor more than five years; or by the payment of a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or both such imprisonment and fine in the discretion of the court; and

B. forfeit any reparation paid pursuant to the Crime Victims Reparation Act.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 20.

### **31-22-21. Crime victims reparation fund created; purposes.**

A. There is created in the state treasury the "crime victims reparation fund".

B. Money in the crime victims reparation fund may be expended by the commission to:

(1) pay any award of reparation to victims made pursuant to the Crime Victims Reparation Act;

(2) pay costs and expenses including staff salaries and expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of the Crime Victims Reparation Act; and

(3) contract with one or more attorneys or law firms on a per hour basis to provide legal services to the commission.

C. The provisions of this section are effective July 1, 1990.

**History:** Laws 1981, ch. 325, § 21; 1989, ch. 324, § 24.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1989 amendment**, effective July 1, 1990, in Subsection A, inserted "in the state treasury" and deleted the former second sentence which read " The fund and any income from the fund shall be held in trust, deposited in a segregated account and invested by the department of finance and administration with the prior approval of the state board of finance".

### **31-22-22. Distribution of money received as result of crime; escrow account.**

A. Every firm, person, corporation, association or other legal entity contracting with a person or the representative or assignee of any person charged or convicted of a violent crime in this state, with respect to the reenactment of the crime in a movie, book, magazine article, tape recording, phonograph record, radio or television presentation or live entertainment or with respect to the expression of the accused or convicted person's thoughts, feelings, opinions or emotions regarding the crime shall submit a copy of the contract to the crime victims reparation commission and pay to the commission any money that would otherwise by terms of such contract be owing to the accused or convicted person or his representatives. The commission shall deposit the money in an escrow account.

B. Money placed in an escrow account pursuant to this section shall be available to satisfy a civil judgment against the convicted person or the accused person, if eventually convicted of the crime, in favor of a victim of the crime if the court in which the civil judgment is taken finds that the judgment is for damages incurred by the victim caused by the commission of the crime.

C. Upon dismissal of charges or acquittal of any accused person, the commission shall immediately pay over to the accused person the money in the escrow account.

D. For purposes of this section, a person found not guilty by reason of insanity at the time of commission of an offense shall be deemed to be a convicted person.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections A through C of this section, the commission shall make payments from the escrow account to any person accused or convicted of a crime upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction after a showing by such person that the money shall be used for the exclusive purpose of retaining legal representation at any stage of the criminal proceedings against such person, including the appeals process.

F. Upon a showing by any accused or convicted person that five years have elapsed from the establishment of the escrow account, that any claims brought pursuant to this section have been disposed of and that no such claims are pending against him, the commission shall immediately pay over to such accused or convicted person any money in the escrow account.



G. Any action taken by any person accused or convicted of a crime, whether by way of execution of a power of attorney, creation of corporate entities or otherwise to defeat the purpose of this section, shall be null and void as against the public policy of the state.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-22-22, enacted by Laws 1983, ch. 321, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Validity, construction, and application of "Son of Sam" laws regulating or prohibiting distribution of crime-related book, film, or comparable revenues to criminals, 60 A.L.R.4th 1210.

### **31-22-23. Authority to compel production.**

The commission has the power to compel the production of books, records and papers pertinent to any investigation or hearing authorized by the Crime Victims Reparation Act and can seek enforcement of any subpoena so issued through the district court in the county in which the custodian of the document is located to be held in camera.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-22-23, enacted by Laws 1989, ch. 246, § 9.

### **31-22-24. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 207, § 10; 2000, ch. 4, § 3; repealed by Laws 2005, ch. 208, § 27.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2005, ch. 208, § 27 repealed 31-22-24 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1993, ch. 207, § 10, relating to termination of the crime victims reparation commission, effective June 17, 2005. For provisions of former section, see the 2004 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

## **ARTICLE 23**

### **Crime Victims Immunity**

#### **31-23-1. Civil action; crime; damages; immunity.**

No person shall be liable to a plaintiff in any civil action for damages if by a preponderance of the evidence the damages were incurred as a consequence of:

A. the commission, attempted commission or flight subsequent to the commission of a crime by the plaintiff; and

B. the use of force or deadly force by the defendant which is justified pursuant to common law or the law of the state.

**History:** Laws 1985, ch. 152, § 1.

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **Crime Victims' and Witnesses' Bill of Rights (Repealed.)**

**31-24-1 to 31-24-7. Repealed.**

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 15 repealed 31-24-1 to 31-24-7 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1989, ch. 210, §§ 2, 3 and Laws 1987, ch. 19, §§ 1-7, relating to crime victims' and witnesses' bill of rights, effective January 1, 1995. For provisions of former sections, see the 1993 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*. For present comparable provisions, see 31-26-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **ARTICLE 25**

### **Victim Counselor Confidentiality**

**31-25-1. Short title.**

This act [31-25-1 to 31-25-6 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Victim Counselor Confidentiality Act".

**History:** Laws 1987, ch. 349, § 1.

**31-25-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Victim Counselor Confidentiality Act:

A. "confidential communication" means any information exchanged between a victim and a victim counselor in private or in the presence of a third party who is necessary to facilitate communication or further the counseling process and which is disclosed in the course of the counselor's treatment of the victim for any emotional or psychological condition resulting from a sexual assault or family violence;

B. "victim" means a person who consults a victim counselor for assistance in overcoming adverse emotional or psychological effects of a sexual assault or family violence;

C. "victim counseling" means assessment, diagnosis and treatment to alleviate the adverse emotional or psychological impact of a sexual assault or family violence on the victim. Victim counseling includes crisis intervention;

D. "victim counseling center" means a private organization or unit of a government agency which has as one of its primary purposes the treatment of victims for any emotional or psychological condition resulting from a sexual assault or family violence; and

E. "victim counselor" means any employee or supervised volunteer of a victim counseling center or other agency, business or organization that provides counseling to victims who is not affiliated with a law enforcement agency or the office of a district attorney, has successfully completed forty hours of academic or other formal victim counseling training or has had a minimum of one year of experience in providing victim counseling and whose duties include victim counseling.

**History:** Laws 1987, ch. 349, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Exclusion of victim advocates from definition of "victim counselor"** in the Victim Counselor Confidentiality Act indicates the possibility that their work might be viewed as counseling. *State v. Blackmer*, 2005-NMSC-008, 137 N.M. 258, 110 P.3d 66.

### **31-25-3. Confidential communications; information; privileged.**

A. A victim, a victim counselor without the consent of the victim or a minor or incapacitated victim without the consent of a custodial guardian or a guardian ad litem appointed upon application of either party shall not be compelled to provide testimony or to produce records concerning confidential communications for any purpose in any criminal action or other judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding.

B. A victim counselor or a victim shall not be compelled to provide testimony in any civil or criminal proceeding that would identify the name, address, location or telephone number of a safe house, abuse shelter or other facility that provided temporary emergency shelter to the victim of the offense or occurrence that is the subject of a judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding unless the facility is a party to the proceeding.

**History:** Laws 1987, ch. 349, § 3.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Consistent with court rule.** — The Victim Counselor Confidentiality Act is consistent with the psychotherapist-patient privilege in Rule 11-504 NMRA and it is to be given

effect. *Albuquerque Rape Crisis Center v. Blackmer*, 2005-NMSC-032, 138 N.M. 398, 120 P.3d 820.

**Law reviews.** — For note and comment, "The Unstated Tension in Albuquerque Rape Crisis Center v. Blackmer: A Divergence Between Formalism and Functionalism", see 36 N.M. L. Rev. 661 (2006).

### **31-25-4. Waiver.**

A. A victim does not waive the protections afforded by the Victim Counselor Confidentiality Act by testifying in court about the crime; provided that if the victim partially discloses the contents of a confidential communication in the course of his testimony, then either party to the action may request the court to rule that justice requires the protections of that act be waived to the extent they apply to that portion of the communication. Waiver shall apply only to the extent necessary to require any witness to respond to questions concerning the confidential communication that are relevant to the facts and circumstances of the case.

B. A victim counselor shall not have authority to waive the protections afforded to a victim under the Victim Counselor Confidentiality Act; provided that if a victim brings suit against a victim counselor or the agency, business or organization in which the victim counselor was employed or served as a volunteer at the time of the counseling relationship and the suit alleges malpractice during the counseling relationship, the victim counselor may testify or produce records regarding confidential communications with the victim without liability for those actions.

**History:** Laws 1987, ch. 349, § 4.

### **31-25-5. Interpretation.**

The Victim Counselor Confidentiality Act shall not be construed to relieve a victim counselor of a duty to report suspected child abuse or neglect pursuant to Section 32-1-15 NMSA 1978 [repealed], to report any evidence that the victim is about to commit a crime or to limit any testimonial privileges available to any person pursuant to other provisions of law.

**History:** Laws 1987, ch. 349, § 5.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Compiler's notes.** — Section 32-1-15 NMSA 1978 was repealed in 1993. For present comparable provisions, see 32A-4-3 NMSA 1978.

### **31-25-6. Rules.**

The supreme court may adopt rules of procedure and evidence to govern and implement the provisions of the Victim Counselor [Counselor] Confidentiality Act.

**History:** Laws 1987, ch. 349, § 6.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Bracketed material.** — The bracketed material was inserted by the compiler and is not part of the law.

## **ARTICLE 26**

### **Victims of Crime**

#### **31-26-1. Short title.**

Chapter 31, Article 26 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Victims of Crime Act".

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 1; 2005, ch. 283, § 2.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2005 amendment,** effective June 17, 2005, added the statutory reference to the act.

**Law reviews.** — For note and comment, "Complying with Nunez: The Necessary Procedure for Obtaining Forfeiture of Property and Avoiding Double Jeopardy after State v. Esparza," see 34 N.M. L. Rev. 561 (2004).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Validity, construction, and application of state constitutional or statutory victims' bill of rights, 91 A.L.R.5th 343.

#### **31-26-2. Purpose of act.**

Recognizing the state's concern for victims of crime, it is the purpose of the Victims of Crime Act to assure that:

- A. the full impact of a crime is brought to the attention of a court;
- B. victims of violent crimes are treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity at all stages of the criminal justice process;
- C. victims' rights are protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges as vigorously as are the rights of criminal defendants; and

D. the provisions of Article 2, Section 24 of the constitution of New Mexico are implemented in statute.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 2.

### **31-26-3. Definitions.**

As used in the Victims of Crime Act:

A. "court" means magistrate court, metropolitan court, children's court, district court, the court of appeals or the supreme court;

B. "criminal offense" means:

- (1) negligent arson resulting in death or bodily injury, as provided in Subsection B of Section 30-17-5 NMSA 1978;
- (2) aggravated arson, as provided in Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978;
- (3) aggravated assault, as provided in Section 30-3-2 NMSA 1978;
- (4) aggravated battery, as provided in Section 30-3-5 NMSA 1978;
- (5) dangerous use of explosives, as provided in Section 30-7-5 NMSA 1978;
- (6) negligent use of a deadly weapon, as provided in Section 30-7-4 NMSA 1978;
- (7) murder, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;
- (8) voluntary manslaughter, as provided in Section 30-2-3 NMSA 1978;
- (9) involuntary manslaughter, as provided in Section 30-2-3 NMSA 1978;
- (10) kidnapping, as provided in Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978;
- (11) criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978;
- (12) criminal sexual contact of a minor, as provided in Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978;
- (13) armed robbery, as provided in Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978;
- (14) homicide by vehicle, as provided in Section 66-8-101 NMSA 1978;

(15) great bodily injury by vehicle, as provided in Section 66-8-101 NMSA 1978;

(16) abandonment or abuse of a child, as provided in Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

(17) stalking or aggravated stalking, as provided in the Harassment and Stalking Act [Chapter 30, Article 3A NMSA 1978];

(18) aggravated assault against a household member, as provided in Section 30-3-13 NMSA 1978;

(19) assault against a household member with intent to commit a violent felony, as provided in Section 30-3-14 NMSA 1978;

(20) battery against a household member, as provided in Section 30-3-15 NMSA 1978; or

(21) aggravated battery against a household member, as provided in Section 30-3-16 NMSA 1978;

C. "court proceeding" means a hearing, argument or other action scheduled by and held before a court;

D. "family member" means a spouse, child, sibling, parent or grandparent;

E. "formally charged" means the filing of an indictment, the filing of a criminal information pursuant to a bind-over order, the filing of a petition or the setting of a preliminary hearing;

F. "victim" means an individual against whom a criminal offense is committed. "Victim" also means a family member or a victim's representative when the individual against whom a criminal offense was committed is a minor, is incompetent or is a homicide victim; and

G. "victim's representative" means an individual designated by a victim or appointed by the court to act in the best interests of the victim.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 3; 1997, ch. 10, § 6; 2003, ch. 411, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2003 amendment**, effective July 1, 2003, inserted "Harassment and" in Paragraph B(17) and added Paragraphs B(18) to (21).

**The 1997 amendment**, effective July 1, 1997, inserted "negligent" and "death or" in Paragraph B(1), substituted "kidnapping" for "kidnaping" in Paragraph B(10), added Paragraph B(13) and redesignated the remaining paragraphs, and added Paragraph B(17).

**Victim advocates.** — Because victim advocates perform many tasks similar to those of other members of the prosecution, even if some of their duties differ, victim advocates are part of the prosecution team and the relevant rules of attorney-client confidentiality and state disclosure are applicable. *State v. Blackmer*, 2005-NMSC-008, 137 N.M. 258, 110 P.3d 66.

### **31-26-4. Victim's rights.**

A victim shall have the right to:

- A. be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity and privacy throughout the criminal justice process;
- B. timely disposition of the case;
- C. be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process;
- D. notification of court proceedings;
- E. attend all public court proceedings the accused has the right to attend;
- F. confer with the prosecution;
- G. make a statement to the court at sentencing and at any post-sentencing hearings for the accused;
- H. restitution from the person convicted of the criminal offense that caused the victim's loss or injury;
- I. information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, escape or release of the accused;
- J. have the prosecuting attorney notify the victim's employer, if requested by the victim, of the necessity of the victim's cooperation and testimony in a court proceeding that may necessitate the absence of the victim from work for good cause;
- K. promptly receive any property belonging to the victim that is being held for evidentiary purposes by a law enforcement agency or the prosecuting attorney, unless there are compelling evidentiary reasons for retention of the victim's property;



L. be informed by the court at a sentencing proceeding that the offender is eligible to earn meritorious deductions from the offender's sentence and the amount of meritorious deductions that may be earned by the offender; and

M. be notified by the district attorney of the availability of and procedures to apply for crime victims reparation.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 4; 1999, ch. 238, § 6; 2019, ch. 211, § 10.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment**, effective July 1, 2019, required that victims be notified by the district attorney of the availability of and procedures to apply for crime victims reparation; and added Subsection M.

**The 1999 amendment**, effective July 1, 1999, added Subsection L.

**Victim impact testimony.** — The application of N.M. Const., art. II, § 24 and Subsection G of this section, granting the representatives of a murder victim the right to make a statement to the court at sentencing and at any post-sentencing hearings, does not violate ex post facto prohibitions. Nor do these provisions prevent the jury from hearing victim impact testimony. *State v. Clark*, 1999-NMSC-035, 128 N.M. 119, 990 P.2d 793.

The Rules of Evidence requiring relevance and the balancing of unfair prejudice also apply to testimony and exhibits that are introduced in a capital felony sentencing proceeding for the purpose of showing victim impact. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

Defendant was not unfairly prejudiced by impact evidence that included a videotaped depiction of the victim prior to her death in addition to the testimony of two witnesses. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

Testimony of the victim's mother regarding actions of defendant while he was awaiting trial should not have been admitted as victim impact testimony because it was not relevant to the crimes for which he was standing trial. *State v. Jacobs*, 2000-NMSC-026, 129 N.M. 448, 10 P.3d 127, *overruled on other grounds by State v. Martinez*, 2021-NMSC-002.

**Crimes committed before effective date of victim's rights laws** — The effective date of the victim's rights laws did not affect the admission of victim impact evidence in a death penalty case. States are free to admit this type of evidence following the United States supreme court's ruling in *Payne v. Tennessee*, 501 U.S. 808 (1991), and Section 31-20A-1C NMSA 1978 (repealed) and Section 31-20A-2B NMSA 1978 already provide

authority for the admission of this type of evidence. *State v. Allen*, 2000-NMSC-002, 128 N.M. 482, 994 P.2d 728, cert. denied, 530 U.S. 1218, 120 S. Ct. 2225, 147 L. Ed. 2d 256 (2000).

Court may consider letters or statements from non-victims when sentencing a defendant in a non-capital case. *State v. Aker*, 2005-NMCA-063, 137 N.M. 561, 113 P.3d 384, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-005, 137 N.M. 522, 113 P.3d 345.

**Error did not warrant reversal.** — Where defense counsel claims that it was only able to review 120 of the 192 letters of the victim's unit before the sentencing hearing, and even though the state erred in submitting the letters to the court without notifying defendant, while this error may have deprived defense counsel of an opportunity to fully review the letters, the state's error does not warrant reversal because there is no evidence that defendant was prejudiced by the admission of the letters. *State v. Aker*, 2005-NMCA-063, 137 N.M. 561, 113 P.3d 384, cert. denied, 2005-NMCERT-005, 137 N.M. 522, 113 P.3d 345.

**Law reviews.** — For comment, "State v. Jacobs: A Comment on One State's Choice to Restrict Victim Impact Evidence at Death Penalty Sentencing," see 31 N.M.L. Rev. 539 (2001).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** — Victim impact evidence in capital sentencing hearings - post-*Payne v. Tennessee*, 79 A.L.R.5th 33.

### **31-26-5. Exercise of rights; requirements for victim.**

A victim may exercise his rights pursuant to the provisions of the Victims of Crime Act only if he:

A. reports the criminal offense within five days of the occurrence or discovery of the criminal offense, unless the district attorney determines that the victim had a reasonable excuse for failing to do so;

B. provides the district attorney with current and updated information regarding the victim's name, address and telephone number; and

C. fully cooperates with and fully responds to reasonable requests made by law enforcement agencies and district attorneys.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 5.

### **31-26-6. When rights and duties take effect; termination of rights and duties.**

The rights and duties established pursuant to the provisions of the Victims of Crime Act take effect when an individual is formally charged by a district attorney for allegedly

committing a criminal offense against a victim. Those rights and duties remain in effect until final disposition of the court proceedings attendant to the charged criminal offense.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 6.

### **31-26-7. Designation or appointment of victim's representative.**

A. A victim may designate a victim's representative to exercise all rights provided to the victim pursuant to the provisions of the Victims of Crime Act. A victim may revoke his designation of a victim's representative at any time.

B. When a victim is deceased, incompetent or unable to designate a victim's representative, the court may appoint a victim's representative for the victim. If a victim regains his competency, he may revoke the court's appointment of a victim's representative.

C. When the victim is a minor, the victim's parent or grandparent may exercise the victim's rights; provided, that when the person accused of committing the criminal offense against the victim is the parent or grandparent of the victim, the court may appoint a victim's representative for the victim.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 7.

### **31-26-8. Procedures for providing victims with preliminary information; law enforcement agencies.**

The law enforcement agency that investigates a criminal offense shall:

A. inform the victim of medical services and crisis intervention services available to victims;

B. provide the victim with the police report number for the criminal offense and a copy of the following statement: "If within thirty days you are not notified of an arrest in your case, you may call (telephone number for the law enforcement agency) to obtain information on the status of your case."; and

C. provide the victim with the name of the district attorney for the judicial district in which the criminal offense was committed and the address and telephone number for that district attorney's office.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 8.

### **31-26-9. Procedures for providing victims with notice of rights and information regarding prosecution of a criminal offense; district attorneys.**

A. Within seven working days after a district attorney files a formal charge against the accused for a criminal offense, the district attorney shall provide the victim of the criminal offense with:

- (1) a copy of Article 2, Section 24 of the constitution of New Mexico, regarding victims' rights;
- (2) a copy of the Victims of Crime Act;
- (3) a copy of the charge filed against the accused for the criminal offense;
- (4) a clear and concise statement of the procedural steps generally involved in prosecuting a criminal offense; and
- (5) the name of a person within the district attorney's office whom the victim may contact for additional information regarding prosecution of the criminal offense.

B. The district attorney's office shall provide the victim with oral or written notice, in a timely fashion, of a scheduled court proceeding attendant to the criminal offense.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 9; 2005, ch. 283, § 3.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2005 amendment**, effective June 17, 2005, changed the former reference to the legislation that implements the provisions of art. 11, § 24 of the N.M. Const. to the Victims of Crime Act in Subsection A(2) and deleted the phrase "if requested by the victim" in Subsection B.

### **31-26-10. Procedures for providing victims with notice of a court proceeding; courts; district attorneys.**

A court shall provide a district attorney's office with oral or written notice no later than seven working days prior to a scheduled court proceeding attendant to a criminal offense, unless a shorter notice period is reasonable under the circumstances. The district attorney's office shall convey the information concerning the scheduled court proceeding to the victim, as provided in Subsection B of Section 9 [31-26-9 NMSA 1978] of the Victims of Crime Act.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 10.

### **31-26-10.1. Crime victim presence at court proceedings; plea agreement notification.**

A. At any scheduled court proceeding, the court shall inquire on the record whether a victim is present for the purpose of making an oral statement or submitting a written statement respecting the victim's rights enumerated in Section 31-26-4 NMSA 1978. If the victim is not present, the court shall inquire on the record whether an attempt has been made to notify the victim of the proceeding. If the district attorney cannot verify that an attempt has been made, the court shall:

- (1) reschedule the hearing; or
- (2) continue with the hearing but reserve ruling until the victim has been notified and given an opportunity to make a statement; and
- (3) order the district attorney to notify the victim of the rescheduled hearing.

B. The provisions of this section shall not limit the district attorney's ability to exercise prosecutorial discretion on behalf of the state in a criminal case.

C. The provisions of this section shall not require the court to continue or reschedule any proceedings if it would result in a violation of a jurisdictional rule.

**History:** Laws 2005, ch. 283, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2005, ch. 283 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 17, 2005, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-26-11. Procedures when an inmate or delinquent child escapes; corrections department; children, youth and families department.**

A. The corrections department or the children, youth and families department shall immediately notify the sentencing judge or the children's court judge, the district attorney of the judicial district from which the inmate or delinquent child was committed and the probation officer who authored the presentence report when an inmate or delinquent child:

- (1) escapes from a correctional facility or juvenile justice facility under the jurisdiction of the corrections department or the children, youth and families department; or
- (2) convicted in New Mexico of a capital, first degree or second degree felony and transferred to a facility under the jurisdiction of another state escapes from that facility.

B. The district attorney shall immediately notify any person known to reside in his district who was a victim of the criminal or delinquent offense for which the inmate or delinquent child was committed.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 11; 1999, ch. 103, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 1999 amendment**, effective July 1, 1999, inserted "or delinquent child" and "children, youth and families department" in the catchline and throughout the section; in Subsection A inserted "or the children's court judge" in the introductory language and "or juvenile justice facility" in Paragraph (1); and inserted "or delinquent" preceding "offense" in Subsection B.

### **31-26-12. Procedures when an inmate is released from incarceration; adult parole board; corrections department; procedures when a delinquent child is released from custody; juvenile parole board; children, youth and families department; district attorneys.**

A. The adult parole board and the children, youth and families department shall provide a copy of their respective regular release dockets to each district attorney in the state at least ten working days before the docket is considered. The district attorney shall notify any person known to reside in the district who was a victim of the criminal offense for which the inmate was incarcerated or the delinquent child was committed.

B. The adult parole board or the children, youth and families department shall provide a copy of a supplemental, addendum or special docket to each district attorney at least five working days before the release docket is considered.

C. Following consideration of a release docket by the adult parole board or the children, youth and families department, the board and department shall promptly notify each district attorney of recommendations for release of an inmate from incarceration or a delinquent child from custody. The district attorney shall notify any person known to reside in the district attorney's district who was a victim of the criminal offense for which the inmate was incarcerated or the delinquent child was committed.

D. In the case of an inmate scheduled to be released from incarceration without parole or prior to parole for any reason, or a delinquent child scheduled to be released from custody, the corrections department or the children, youth and families department shall notify each district attorney at least fifteen working days before the inmate's or delinquent child's release. The district attorney shall notify any person known to reside in the district who was a victim of the criminal offense for which the inmate was incarcerated or the delinquent child was committed.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 12; 1999, ch. 103, § 2; 2009, ch. 239, § 5.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2009 amendment**, effective July 1, 2009, in Subsections A, after "adult parole board and the", deleted "juvenile parole board" and added "children, youth and families department"; in Subsections B, after "adult parole board or the", deleted "juvenile parole board" and added "children, youth and families department"; and in Subsections C, after "adult parole board or the", deleted "juvenile parole board, each board" and added "children, youth and families department, the board and department"; after "recommendations", deleted "adopted by the board"; and after "reside in the district", added "attorney's district".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2009, ch. 239, § 71, provided that the provisions of this act apply to all children who, on July 1, 2009, are on release or are otherwise eligible to be placed on release as if the Juvenile Public Safety Advisory Board Act had been in effect at the time they were placed on release or became eligible to be released.

**The 1999 amendment**, effective July 1, 1999, inserted "adult" in the catchline and in Subsections A and B; added "procedures when a delinquent child is released from custody; juvenile parole board; children, youth and families department" to the catchline; inserted references to the juvenile parole board and "release" throughout the section; in Subsection A added the second sentence; in Subsection C added "or a delinquent child from custody" at the end of the first sentence and added "or the delinquent child was committed" at the end of the second sentence; in Subsection D in the first sentence, inserted the language beginning "or prior" and ending "from custody", inserted "or the children, youth and families department", and inserted "or delinquent child's", and at the end of the second sentence added "or the delinquent child was committed"; and made minor stylistic changes.

### **31-26-13. Disclaimer.**

Nothing in the Victims of Crime Act creates a cause of action on behalf of a person against a public employer, public employee, public agency, the state or any agency responsible for the enforcement of rights or provision of services set forth in that act.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 13.

### **31-26-14. Effect of noncompliance.**

A person accused or convicted of a crime against a victim shall have no standing to object to any failure by any person to comply with the provisions of the Victims of Crime Act.

**History:** Laws 1994, ch. 144, § 14.

### **31-26-15. Identity theft passport; database.**

A. The attorney general, in cooperation with the department of public safety and the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department, shall issue an identity theft passport to a person who claims to be a victim of identity theft pursuant to Section 30-16-24.1 NMSA 1978 and who provides to the attorney general:

(1) a certified copy of a court order obtained pursuant to Section 5 [31-26-16 NMSA 1978] of this 2009 act or a full set of fingerprints;

(2) a driver's license or other government-issued identification or record; and

(3) other information as required by the attorney general.

B. An identity theft passport shall contain a picture of the person to whom it was issued and other information as the attorney general deems appropriate.

C. The attorney general may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department for the development and issuance of a secure form of identity theft passport. When an identity theft passport is issued, the motor vehicle division shall note on the person's driver record that an identity theft passport has been issued.

D. An identify [identity] theft passport shall be accepted as evidence of identity by law enforcement officers and others who may challenge the person's identity.

E. The attorney general shall maintain a database of identity theft victims who have reported to a law enforcement agency or have been issued an identity theft passport. The attorney general may provide access to the database only to criminal justice agencies. For purposes of identification and authentication, the attorney general may allow access to specific information about a person who has become a victim of identity theft to that person or to that person's authorized representative.

F. The attorney general shall keep on file each application for an identity theft passport and each police report of identity theft submitted by a law enforcement agency.

G. The attorney general shall prepare and make available to local law enforcement agencies and to the general public an information packet that includes information on how to prevent and stop identity theft.

**History:** Laws 2009, ch. 95, § 4.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Bracketed material.** — The bracketed word "identity" in Subsection D was inserted by the compiler to correct a typographical error and is not part of the law.



**Effective dates.** — Laws 2009, ch. 95, § 6 made Laws 2009, ch. 95, § 4 effective July 1, 2009.

## **31-26-16. Repealed.**

**History:** Laws 2009, ch. 95, § 5; repealed by Laws 2019, ch. 203, § 8.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Repeals.** — Laws 2019, ch. 203, § 8 repealed 31-26-16 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 2009, ch. 95, § 5, relating to expungement from police and court records, effective January 1, 2020. For provisions of former section, see the 2019 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

## **ARTICLE 27**

### **Forfeiture**

#### **31-27-1. Short title.**

Chapter 31, Article 27 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Forfeiture Act".

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 1; 2015, ch. 152, § 1.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross references.** — For forfeitures for violations of hunting and fishing regulations, see 17-2-20.1 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures under the Cultural Properties Act, see 18-6-9.3 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures for offenses of shooting at or from motor vehicles, see 30-3-8.1 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures for offense of unlawful possession of a handgun, see 30-7-2.3 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures under the Unauthorized Recording Act, see 30-16B-9 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures under the Controlled Substances Act, see 30-31-35 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures under the Imitation Controlled Substances Act, see 30-31A-10 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures under the Racketeering Act, see 30-42-4 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures under the Computer Crimes Act, see 30-45-7 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures for crimes related to the unlawful sale of alcoholic beverages, see 60-7A-4.1 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures under the Liquor Control Act, see 60-7A-5 NMSA 1978.

For forfeitures for crimes related to unlawful manufacture or transportation of alcoholic beverages, see 60-7A-6 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, changed the statutory reference of the Forfeiture Act from "Sections 1 through 8 of this act" to "Chapter 31, Article 27 NMSA 1978".

## **31-27-2. Purpose of act; applicability; no additional remedies.**

A. The purposes of the Forfeiture Act are to:

- (1) make uniform the standards and procedures for the seizure and forfeiture of property subject to forfeiture;
- (2) protect the constitutional rights of persons whose property is subject to forfeiture and of innocent owners holding interests in property subject to forfeiture;
- (3) deter criminal activity by reducing its economic incentives;
- (4) increase the pecuniary loss from criminal activity;
- (5) protect against the wrongful forfeiture of property; and
- (6) ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in this state and only pursuant to state law.

B. The Forfeiture Act:

(1) applies to all seizures, forfeitures and dispositions of property subject to forfeiture pursuant to laws that specifically apply the Forfeiture Act in this state; and

(2) does not apply to:

(a) contraband, which is subject to seizure pursuant to applicable state laws, but is not subject to forfeiture pursuant to the Forfeiture Act;

(b) animals that are subject to seizure, impoundment, alteration, permanent removal from custody or destruction for animal welfare, public health and safety or compliance and enforcement purposes pursuant to applicable state and local laws;

(c) real property or personal property that is located on that real property that is subject to destruction pursuant to state and local laws to protect public health and safety; and

(d) forfeiture that results from a lien for charges or assessments that are provided for or fixed by state or local laws.

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 2; 2015, ch. 152, § 2; 2019, ch. 133, § 1.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, clarified that the purposes of the Forfeiture Act are to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in this state and only pursuant to state law, and revised the applicability provisions of the Forfeiture Act; in Subsection A, in Paragraph A(6), after "in this state", added "and only pursuant to state law"; and in Subsection B, in Paragraph B(1), after "applies to", added "all", after "the Forfeiture Act", added "in this state", and in Paragraph B(2), added subparagraph designation "(a)" and new Subparagraphs B(2)(b) through B(2)(d).

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, provided for additional purposes of the Forfeiture Act; removed the reference to seizures and forfeitures pursuant to other laws consistent with the Forfeiture Act; in the catchline, added "no additional remedies"; at the end of Paragraph (1) of Subsection A, deleted "and"; in Paragraph (2) of Subsection A, after "rights of persons", deleted "accused of a crime" and added "whose property is subject to forfeiture", and after "innocent", deleted "persons" and added "owners"; added new Paragraphs (3) through (6) of Subsection A; and in Subsection B, deleted all the language in Paragraph (2) and added the new language.

**Civil forfeiture ordinance preempted by New Mexico Forfeiture Act.** — Where the City of Santa Fe (city) appealed the district court's order directing the return of claimant's car, which was seized pursuant to the city's forfeiture ordinance, which provides that a motor vehicle is declared to be a nuisance and subject to immediate forfeiture if the vehicle is operated by a person in the commission of a DWI offense or by a person whose license is suspended or revoked as a result of a DWI arrest, the New Mexico Forfeiture Act (NMFA), §§ 31-27-1 to 31-27-11 NMSA 1978, a general law

that is intended to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in this state, expressly denies municipalities' authority to enforce civil asset forfeiture proceedings. The NMFA comprehensively addresses asset forfeiture, and because the city's civil forfeiture ordinance is at odds with the NMFA, the NMFA preempts the ordinance. *City of Santa Fe ex rel. Santa Fe Police Dep't v. 1989 Black Saab Sedan*, 2019-NMCA-028, cert. denied.

**Forfeiture of cash.** — State police officers who seize cash under the authority of the Controlled Substances Act are required to comply with the requirements of the Forfeiture Act. *Albin v. Bakas*, 2007-NMCA-076, 141 N.M. 742, 160 P.3d 923, cert. denied, 2007-NMCERT-006, 142 N.M. 16, 162 P.3d 171.

**Municipal civil forfeiture ordinance preempted by New Mexico Forfeiture Act.** — Where the city of Albuquerque (city) seized plaintiff's vehicle pursuant to the city's civil forfeiture ordinance, which provides that a motor vehicle is declared to be a nuisance and subject to immediate forfeiture if the vehicle is operated by a person in the commission of a DWI offense or by a person whose license is suspended or revoked as a result of a DWI conviction or arrest, the district court erred in dismissing plaintiff's complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief, because the New Mexico Forfeiture Act (NMFA), 31-27-1 to 31-27-11 NMSA 1978, a general law that is intended to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in this state, expressly denies home-rule municipalities' authority to enforce civil asset forfeiture proceedings. The NMFA comprehensively addresses asset forfeiture, and because the city's civil forfeiture ordinance is at odds with the NMFA, the NMFA preempts the ordinance. *Espinoza v. City of Albuquerque*, 2019-NMCA-014.

**New Mexico Forfeiture Act preempts municipal forfeiture ordinance.** — A state law preempts a local ordinance if the local ordinance interferes with the state law's objectives or purposes, and one of the New Mexico Forfeiture Act's (NMFA) stated purposes is to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in New Mexico. This purpose limiting forfeitures to criminal actions is expressly at odds with the city of Albuquerque's civil forfeiture ordinance. The NMFA also states that one of its purposes is to make uniform the standards and procedures for the seizure and forfeiture of property subject to forfeiture. The New Mexico legislature's desire for uniformity in the standards and procedures also suggests that it intends to supplant local forfeiture laws, which might have different standards and procedures. *Harjo v. City of Albuquerque*, 307 F.Supp.3d 1163 (D. N.M. 2018).

### **31-27-3. Definitions.**

As used in the Forfeiture Act:

A. "abandoned property":

(1) is not subject to the provisions of Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978;

(2) means personal property the rights to which and the control of which an owner has intentionally relinquished; and

(3) does not mean real property;

B. "actual knowledge" means a direct and clear awareness of information, a fact or a condition;

C. "contraband" means goods that may not be lawfully imported, exported or possessed, including drugs that are listed in Schedule I, II, III, IV or V of the Controlled Substances Act [Chapter 30, Article 31 NMSA 1978] and that are possessed without a valid prescription;

D. "conveyance" means a device used for transportation and:

(1) includes a motor vehicle, trailer, snowmobile, airplane, vessel and any equipment attached to the conveyance; but

(2) does not include property that is stolen or taken in violation of a law;

E. "conviction" or "convicted" means that a person has been found guilty of a crime in a trial court whether by a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or otherwise and whether the sentence is deferred or suspended;

F. "crime" means a violation of a criminal statute for which property of the offender is subject to seizure and forfeiture;

G. "instrumentality" means all property that is otherwise lawful to possess that is used in the furtherance or commission of an offense to which forfeiture applies and includes land, a building, a container, a conveyance, equipment, materials, a product, a computer, computer software, a telecommunications device, a firearm, ammunition, a tool, money, a security and a negotiable instrument and other devices used for exchange of property;

H. "law enforcement agency" means the employer of a law enforcement officer who is authorized to seize or has seized property pursuant to the Forfeiture Act;

I. "law enforcement officer":

(1) means a state or municipal police officer, county sheriff, deputy sheriff, conservation officer, motor transportation enforcement officer or other state employee authorized by state law to enforce criminal statutes; but

(2) does not mean a correctional officer;

J. "owner" means a person who has a legal or equitable ownership interest in property;

K. "property" means tangible or intangible personal property or real property;

L. "property subject to forfeiture" means property or an instrumentality declared to be subject to forfeiture by the Forfeiture Act or a state law outside of the Forfeiture Act; and

M. "secured party" means a person with a security or other protected interest in property, whether the interest arose by mortgage, security agreement, lien, lease or otherwise; the purpose of which interest is to secure the payment of a debt or protect a potential debt owed to the secured party.

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 3; 2015, ch. 152, § 3; 2019, ch. 133, § 2.

### ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, revised the definition of "abandoned property" as used in the Forfeiture Act; in Subsection A, added new Paragraph A(1) and redesignated former Paragraphs A(1) and A(2) as Paragraphs A(2) and A(3), respectively.

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, added definitions for "abandoned property", "actual knowledge", "contraband", "conveyance", and "instrumentality" and amended certain definitions as used in the Forfeiture Act; added new Subsections A through D and redesignated former Subsections A and B as Subsections E and F, respectively; in Subsection E, after "guilty of a crime in", deleted "the" and added "a"; added new Subsection G and redesignated Subsections C through H as Subsections H through M, respectively; in Subsection H, after "law enforcement officer that", deleted "has made a seizure of" and added "is authorized to seize or has seized"; in Subsection I, after "means:", added the designation for Paragraph (1), and after "criminal statutes; but", deleted "law enforcement officer", added the designation for Paragraph (2), and after "does not", deleted "include" and added "mean a", and after "correctional", deleted "officers" and added "officer"; in Subsection L, after "property", added "or an

instrumentality", and after "subject to forfeiture by", added "the Forfeiture Act or"; and in Subsection M, after "whether", deleted "arising" and added "the interest arose".

### **31-27-4. Forfeiture; conviction required; seizure of property; with process; without process.**

A. A person's property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to state law if:

- (1) the person was arrested for an offense to which forfeiture applies;
- (2) the person is convicted by a criminal court of the offense; and
- (3) the state establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the property is subject to forfeiture as provided in Subsection B of this section.

B. Following a person's conviction for an offense to which forfeiture applies, a court may order the person to forfeit:

- (1) property the person acquired through commission of the offense;
- (2) property directly traceable to property acquired through the commission of the offense; and
- (3) any instrumentality the person used in the commission of the offense.

C. Nothing in this section shall prevent property from being forfeited by the terms of a plea agreement to a felony that is approved by a court or by other agreement of the parties to a criminal proceeding.

D. Subject to the provisions of Section 31-27-5 NMSA 1978, at any time, at the request of the state, a court may issue an ex parte preliminary order to seize property that is subject to forfeiture and for which forfeiture is sought and to provide for the custody of the property. The execution on the order to seize the property and the return of the property, if applicable, are subject to the Forfeiture Act and other applicable state laws. Before issuing an order pursuant to this subsection, the court shall make a determination that:

- (1) there is a substantial probability that:
  - (a) the property is subject to forfeiture;
  - (b) the state will prevail on the issue of forfeiture; and
  - (c) failure to enter the order will result in the property being destroyed, removed from the state or otherwise made unavailable for forfeiture; and

(2) the need to preserve the availability of the property through the entry of the requested order outweighs the hardship to the owner and other parties known to be claiming interests in the property.

E. Property subject to forfeiture may be seized at any time, without a prior court order, if:

(1) the seizure is incident to a lawful arrest for a crime or a search lawfully conducted pursuant to a search warrant and the law enforcement officer making the arrest or executing the search has probable cause to believe the property is subject to forfeiture and that the subject of the arrest or search warrant is an owner of the property;

(2) the property subject to seizure is the subject of a previous judgment in favor of the state; or

(3) the law enforcement officer making the seizure has probable cause to believe the property is subject to forfeiture and that the delay occasioned by the need to obtain a court order would result in the removal or destruction of the property or otherwise frustrate the seizure.

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 4; 2015, ch. 152, § 4; 2019, ch. 133, § 3.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment,** effective April 2, 2019, clarified that the purposes of the Forfeiture Act are to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in this state and only pursuant to state law, and clarified that nothing in this section prohibits forfeitures by the terms of a plea agreement to a felony that is approved by a court or by other agreement of the parties to a criminal proceeding; in Subsection A, in the introductory clause, after "subject to forfeiture", added "pursuant to state law"; and in Subsection C, after "plea agreement", added "to a felony".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment,** effective July 1, 2015, provided that a conviction of a criminal offense is required before property is subject to forfeiture; in the catchline, added



"Forfeiture; conviction required", and "with process; without process"; at the beginning of the section, deleted "Property may be seized by a law enforcement officer."; in former Subsection A, deleted "pursuant to an order of seizure issued by a district court based on a sworn application of a law enforcement officer from which a determination is made by the court"; added new Subsections A through C; added Subsection D with an introductory paragraph; designated Paragraphs (1) and (2) of former Subsection A as Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Subsection D; designated former Subsection B as Subsection E and added "Property subject to forfeiture may be seized at any time", after "court order, if", deleted "the property alleged to be property subject to forfeiture is not a residence or a business, when"; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection E, after "incident to", deleted "an" and added "a lawful", after "arrest for a crime", added "or", after "search", added "lawfully", after "search warrant", deleted "or an inspection conducted pursuant to an administrative inspection warrant", after "executing the search", deleted "or inspection warrant" in two places, after "believe the property", deleted "to be property" and added "is", after "subject to arrest", added "or", after "search warrant", deleted "or inspection warrant", after the semicolon, deleted "or"; added a new Paragraph (2) of Subsection E and redesignated the succeeding paragraph accordingly; and in Paragraph (3) of Subsection E, after "property is", deleted "property", and after "court order would", added "result in the removal or destruction of the property or otherwise".

**Civil forfeiture ordinance preempted by New Mexico Forfeiture Act.** — Where the City of Santa Fe (City) appealed the district court's order directing the return of claimant's car, which was seized pursuant to the City's forfeiture ordinance, which provides that a motor vehicle is declared to be a nuisance and subject to immediate forfeiture if the vehicle is operated by a person in the commission of a DWI offense or by a person whose license is suspended or revoked as a result of a DWI arrest, the New Mexico Forfeiture Act (NMFA), NMSA 1978, §§ 31-27-1 to -11, a general law that is intended to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in this state, expressly denies municipalities' authority to enforce civil asset forfeiture proceedings. The NMFA comprehensively addresses asset forfeiture, and because the City's civil forfeiture ordinance is at odds with the NMFA, the NMFA preempts the ordinance. *City of Santa Fe ex rel. Santa Fe Police Dep't v. 1989 Black Saab Sedan*, 2019-NMCA-028, cert. denied.

**Municipal civil forfeiture ordinance preempted by New Mexico Forfeiture Act.** — Where the city of Albuquerque (city) seized plaintiff's vehicle pursuant to the city's civil forfeiture ordinance, which provides that a motor vehicle is declared to be a nuisance and subject to immediate forfeiture if the vehicle is operated by a person in the commission of a DWI offense or by a person whose license is suspended or revoked as a result of a DWI conviction or arrest, the district court erred in dismissing plaintiff's complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief, because the New Mexico Forfeiture Act (NMFA), 31-27-1 to -11 NMSA 1978, a general law that is intended to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in this state, expressly denies home-rule municipalities' authority to enforce civil asset forfeiture proceedings. The NMFA comprehensively addresses asset forfeiture, and because the City's civil forfeiture ordinance is at odds

with the NMFA, the NMFA preempts the ordinance. *Espinoza v. City of Albuquerque*, 2019-NMCA-014.

**New Mexico Forfeiture Act preempts municipal forfeiture ordinance.** — A state law preempts a local ordinance if the local ordinance interferes with the state law's objectives or purposes, and one of the New Mexico Forfeiture Act's (NMFA) stated purposes is to ensure that only criminal forfeiture is allowed in New Mexico. This purpose limiting forfeitures to criminal actions is expressly at odds with the city of Albuquerque's civil forfeiture ordinance. The NMFA also states that one of its purposes is to make uniform the standards and procedures for the seizure and forfeiture of property subject to forfeiture. The New Mexico legislature's desire for uniformity in the standards and procedures also suggests that it intends to supplant local forfeiture laws, which might have different standards and procedures. *Harjo v. City of Albuquerque*, 307 F.Supp.3d 1163 (D. N.M. 2018).

### **31-27-4.1. Receipt for seized property; replevin hearing.**

A. When a law enforcement officer seizes property that is subject to forfeiture, the officer shall provide an itemized receipt to the person possessing the property or, in the absence of a person to whom the receipt could be given, shall leave the receipt in the place where the property was found, if possible.

B. Within five business days of the seizure, the law enforcement officer shall provide notice by personal service or first class mail to all owners of record of the seized property.

C. Following the seizure of property, the defendant in the related criminal matter or another person who claims an interest in the seized property may, at any time before the one-hundred-twentieth day following the filing of the forfeiture action in court, claim an interest in the seized property by a motion requesting the court to issue a writ of replevin. A motion filed pursuant to this section shall include facts to support the person's alleged interest in the seized property.

D. A person who makes a timely motion pursuant to this section shall have a right to a hearing on the motion before the resolution of any related criminal matter or forfeiture proceeding and within sixty days of the date on which the motion is filed.

E. At least ten days before a hearing on a motion filed pursuant to this section, the state shall file an answer or responsive motion that shows probable cause for the seizure.

F. A court shall grant a claimant's motion if the court finds that:

(1) it is likely that the final judgment will require the state to return the property to the claimant;

(2) the property is not reasonably required to be held for investigatory reasons; or

(3) the property is the only reasonable means for a defendant to pay for legal representation in a related criminal or forfeiture proceeding and the law enforcement agency did not make a prima facie showing that the property was stolen or proceeds from or is an instrumentality of a crime.

G. In its discretion, the court may order the return of funds or property sufficient for a defendant to obtain legal counsel but less than the total amount seized. If the court makes such an order, it shall require an accounting. An accounting report of reasonable legal fees held before the resolution of the relevant criminal and forfeiture proceedings shall be held in camera. If the court finds in favor of the state in both the criminal and forfeiture proceedings, the court shall:

(1) hear arguments by the parties as to what portion of the funds or property should be paid to the defendant's counsel and what portion should be forfeited; and

(2) issue an order on how the funds or property shall be distributed.

H. In lieu of ordering the issuance of a writ of replevin, a court may order:

(1) the state to give security or written assurance for satisfaction of any judgment, including damages, that may be rendered in a related forfeiture action; or

(2) any other relief the court deems to be just; provided that the relief does not prejudice an innocent owner, including a secured lienholder.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-27-4.1, enacted by Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 5; 2019, ch. 133, § 4.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, revised the procedures related to forfeiture proceedings; added new Subsection B and redesignated former Subsections B through G as Subsections C through H, respectively; in Subsection C, after "at any time before", deleted "sixty days prior to a related criminal trial" and added "the one-hundred-twentieth day following the filing of the forfeiture action in court"; in Subsection D, after "forfeiture proceeding and within", deleted "thirty" and added "sixty"; in Subsection F, in Paragraph F(3), after "criminal or forfeiture proceeding", added "and the law enforcement agency did not make a prima facie showing that the property was stolen or proceeds from or is an instrumentality of a crime"; in Subsection G, in the introductory paragraph, after "property sufficient", added "for a defendant", after "total amount seized", deleted "and it may" and added "If the court makes such an order, it shall", and after "require an accounting", added the remainder of the introductory paragraph, and added new Paragraphs G(1) and G(2); and in Subsection H, in

Paragraph H(2), after "deems to be just;", added "provided that the relief does not prejudice an innocent owner, including a secured lienholder".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

### **31-27-5. Notice of intent to forfeit; service of process.**

A. Within thirty days of making a seizure of property or simultaneously upon filing a related criminal indictment, the state shall file a notice of intent to forfeit or return the property to the person from whom it was seized. The notice shall include:

- (1) a description of the property seized;
- (2) the date and place of seizure of the property;
- (3) the name and address of the law enforcement agency making the seizure;
- (4) the specific statutory and factual grounds for the seizure;
- (5) whether the property was seized pursuant to an order of seizure, and if the property was seized without an order of seizure, an affidavit from a law enforcement officer stating the legal and factual grounds why an order of seizure was not required; and
- (6) in the notice, the names of persons known to the state who may claim an interest in the property and the basis for each person's alleged interest.

B. The notice shall be served upon the person from whom the property was seized, the person's attorney of record and all persons known or reasonably believed by the state to claim an interest in the property. A copy of the notice shall also be published on the sunshine portal until the forfeiture proceeding is resolved.

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 5; 2015, ch. 152, § 6; 2019, ch. 133, § 5.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, revised the notice procedures related to forfeiture proceedings; in the section heading, deleted "complaint of forfeiture" and added "Notice of intent to forfeit"; in Subsection A, in the introductory paragraph, after "the state shall file a", deleted "complaint of ancillary forfeiture proceedings" and added "notice of intent to forfeit", and after "from whom it was seized.", deleted "A complaint of ancillary forfeiture proceedings" and added "The notice", in Paragraph A(6), after "in the", deleted "complaint caption and in the complaint" and added "notice"; and in Subsection B, after "The", deleted "complaint" and added "notice", after "A copy of the", deleted "complaint" and added "notice", and after "shall also be published", deleted "at least three times in a newspaper of general circulation in the district of the court having jurisdiction or".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, amended the procedures for service of process on a complaint of forfeiture; in Subsection A, after "making a seizure", added "of property or simultaneously upon filing a related criminal indictment", after "file a complaint", added "ancillary", after "forfeiture", added "proceedings" in two places, and after "A complaint of", added "ancillary"; in Paragraph (5) of Subsection A, deleted "if" and added "whether", after "seizure", deleted "the sworn application of the law enforcement officer for the order"; in Paragraph (6) of Subsection A, added "in the complaint caption and in the complaint", and after "property", deleted "set forth in both the caption and in the complaint"; in Subsection B, after "property was seized", deleted "and, if that person is a criminal defendant, upon", after "attorney of record and", deleted "upon", after "shall also be published", deleted "no less than" and added "at least", and after "jurisdiction", added "or on the sunshine portal until the forfeiture proceeding is resolved".

**Triggering event under former 31-27-5(A) NMSA 1978.** — Under 31-27-5(A) NMSA 1978 (2002), the state was required to file a forfeiture complaint within thirty days of making a seizure, that is, within thirty days of when the state first interfered with a person's possessory interests in his or her property. *State v. Benally*, 2016-NMSC-010, *aff'g* 2015-NMCA-053, 348 P.3d 1039.

Where law enforcement officers seized, impounded and sealed a vehicle belonging to defendant, officers "seized" the vehicle and also made a seizure of the contents of the vehicle because it deprived defendant of his possessory interests in them; where

officers filed a forfeiture complaint thirty-four days after seizing defendant's property, but within thirty days of discovering a large amount of currency in defendant's vehicle, the forfeiture complaint was untimely because the state, under the former version of the statute, was required to file the forfeiture complaint within thirty days of when the state first interfered with defendant's property interests in the contents of the vehicle, including the money subject to the forfeiture complaint. *State v. Benally*, 2016-NMSC-010, *aff'g* 2015-NMCA-053, 348 P.3d 1039.

**Triggering event for 30-day time limit.** — The legislature intended forfeiture complaints to be filed within thirty days of the date the state takes possession of the subject property, rather than when the property subject to forfeiture may have been discovered. *State v. Benally*, 2015-NMCA-053, cert. granted, 2015-NMCERT-005.

Where officers impounded defendant's vehicle, searched the vehicle six days later and discovered certain property subject to forfeiture, filed a complaint for forfeiture 28 days after discovering the subject property, but 34 days after seizing the vehicle which contained the subject property, the court of appeals held that because the officers meaningfully interfered with defendant's possessory interests, the impoundment of the vehicle was a seizure of the vehicle, and the contents of the vehicle were also seized by virtue of being in the impounded vehicle, and therefore the thirty-day time limit began to run when the officers impounded defendant's car and its contents, rather than when the subject property was discovered, the state failed to file a complaint for forfeiture within thirty days of the seizure and the district court properly dismissed the forfeiture action. *State v. Benally*, 2015-NMCA-053, cert. granted, 2015-NMCERT-005.

### **31-27-6. Forfeiture proceedings; determination; substitution of property; constitutionality; appeal.**

A. A person who claims an interest in seized property shall file a response within thirty days of the date of service of the notice of intent to forfeit. The response shall include facts to support the claimant's alleged interest in the property.

B. The district courts have jurisdiction over forfeiture proceedings, and venue for a forfeiture proceeding is in the same court in which venue lies for the criminal matter related to the seized property.

C. The forfeiture proceeding shall begin after the conclusion of the trial for the related criminal matter in an ancillary proceeding that relates to a defendant's property before the same judge and jury, if applicable, and the court, and the jury, if applicable, may consider the forfeiture of property seized from other persons at the same time or in a later proceeding. If the criminal defendant in the related criminal matter is represented by the public defender department, the chief public defender or the district public defender may authorize department representation of the defendant in the forfeiture proceeding.

D. Discovery conducted in an ancillary forfeiture proceeding is subject to the rules of criminal procedure.

E. An ancillary forfeiture proceeding that relates to the forfeiture of property valued at less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) shall be held before a judge only.

F. If the state fails to prove, by clear and convincing evidence, that a person whose property is alleged to be subject to forfeiture is an owner of the property:

(1) the forfeiture proceeding shall be dismissed and the property shall be delivered to the owner, unless the owner's possession of the property is illegal; and

(2) the owner shall not be subject to any charges by the state for storage of the property or expenses incurred in the preservation of the property.

G. The court shall enter a judgment of forfeiture and the seized property shall be forfeited to the state if the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) the seized property is subject to forfeiture;

(2) the criminal prosecution of the owner of the seized property resulted in a conviction; and

(3) the value of the property to be forfeited does not unreasonably exceed:

(a) the pecuniary gain derived or sought to be derived by the crime;

(b) the pecuniary loss caused or sought to be caused by the crime; or

(c) the value of the convicted owner's interest in the property.

H. A court shall not accept a plea agreement or other arrangement by which a defendant contributes or donates property to a person, charity or other organization in full or partial fulfillment of responsibility established in the court's proceeding.

I. Following a person's conviction, the state may make a motion for forfeiture of substitute property owned by the person that is equal to but does not exceed the value of the property that is subject to forfeiture but that the state is unable to seize. The court shall order the forfeiture of substitute property only if the state proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the person intentionally transferred, sold or deposited property with a third party to avoid the court's jurisdiction and the forfeiture of the property.

J. A person is not jointly and severally liable for orders for forfeiture of another person's property. When ownership of property is unclear, a court may order each

person to forfeit the person's property on a pro rata basis or by another means the court deems equitable.

K. Within the time period for filing an appeal following the conclusion of a forfeiture proceeding, the person whose property was forfeited may petition the court to determine whether the forfeiture was unconstitutionally excessive pursuant to the state or federal constitution.

L. At a non-jury hearing on the petition, the petitioner has the burden of establishing by a preponderance of the evidence that the forfeiture was grossly disproportional to the seriousness of the criminal offense for which the person was convicted.

M. In determining whether the forfeiture is unconstitutionally excessive, the court may consider all relevant factors, including:

- (1) the seriousness of the criminal offense and its impact on the community, the duration of the criminal activity and the harm caused by the defendant;
- (2) the extent to which the defendant participated in the offense;
- (3) the extent to which the property was used in committing the offense;
- (4) the sentence imposed for the commission of the crime that relates to the property that is subject to forfeiture; and
- (5) whether the criminal offense was completed or attempted.

N. In determining the value of the property subject to forfeiture, the court may consider relevant factors, including the fair market value of the property and the hardship from the loss of a primary residence, motor vehicle or other property to the defendant's family members or others if the property is forfeited, in addition to any non-monetary intrinsic value of property that would cause the defendant to suffer if the forfeiture is realized.

O. The court shall not consider the value of the property to the state when it determines whether the forfeiture of the property is constitutionally excessive.

P. A party to a forfeiture proceeding may appeal a district court's decision regarding the seizure, forfeiture and distribution of property.

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 6; 2015, ch. 152, § 7; 2019, ch. 133, § 6.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, revised procedures related to forfeiture proceedings; in Subsection A, after "shall file", deleted "an answer to the complaint of



forfeiture" and added "a response", after "date of service of the", deleted "complaint" and added "notice of intent to forfeit", and after "The", deleted "answer" and added "response"; in Subsection G, in Paragraph G(1), after "the", added "seized"; in Subsection K, after the subsection designation, deleted "At any time" and added "Within the time period for filing an appeal"; in Subsection N, deleted paragraph designation "(1)", deleted former Paragraph N(2) and deleted paragraph designation "(3)", and after "if the property is forfeited,", added "in addition to any non-monetary intrinsic value of property that would cause the defendant to suffer if the forfeiture is realized"; and in Subsection P, after "distribution of property", deleted "pursuant to the Forfeiture Act".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, amended the procedures in forfeiture proceedings; in the catchline, deleted "Court hearing and" and added "forfeiture proceedings" and "substitution of property; constitutionality; appeal"; in Subsection A, added "A person who", after "claims", deleted "to the" and added "an interest in seized", after "property shall", deleted "be filed by way of" and added "file an", after "complaint of forfeiture", deleted "and shall be filed", and added the last sentence; in Subsection B, after "criminal matter", deleted "for which" and added "related to", after "the", added "seized", and after "property", deleted "is alleged to be subject to forfeiture"; in Subsection C, after "proceeding shall", deleted "be brought in the same proceeding as the criminal matter and presented to the same trier of fact; provided" and deleted Paragraphs (1) and (2) and the paragraph designation for Paragraph (3), added "begin after the conclusion of the trial for the related criminal matter in an ancillary proceeding that relates to a defendant's property before the same judge and jury, if applicable, and the court, and the jury, if applicable, may consider the forfeiture of property seized from other persons at the same time or in a later proceeding", and after "If the criminal defendant", added "in the related criminal matter"; added new Subsections D and E and redesignated former Subsections D and E as Subsections F and G, respectively; in Subsection F, after "evidence, that", deleted "the" and added "a", after "person", deleted "charged with the crime for which the" and added "whose", after "alleged to be", deleted "property, and after "subject to forfeiture is", deleted "the" and added "an"; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection F, after "unless", added "the owner's"; in Subsection G, after "forfeiture and the", added "seized"; in Paragraph (2) of Subsection G, after "owner", deleted "has" and added "of the seized property"; and added new Subsections H through P.

### **31-27-7. Title to seized property; disposition of forfeited property and abandoned property; proceeds.**

A. The state acquires provisional title to seized property at the time the property was used or acquired in connection with an offense that subjects the property to forfeiture. Provisional title authorizes the state to hold and protect the property. Title to the property shall vest with the state when a trier of fact renders a final forfeiture verdict and the title relates back to the time when the state acquired provisional title; provided that the title is not subject to claims by third parties that are adjudicated pursuant to the Forfeiture Act.

B. Unless possession of the property is illegal or a different disposition is specifically provided for by law and except as provided in this section, forfeited property that is not currency shall be delivered along with any abandoned property to the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designee for disposition at a public auction. Forfeited currency and all proceeds of the sale of forfeited or abandoned property shall be distributed by the state treasurer as follows:

(1) first, to reimburse the reasonable expenses related to the storage, protection and transfer of the property incurred by a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer;

(2) second, to pay any reasonable expenses incurred to dispose of the property by a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer; and

(3) third, any remaining balance shall be deposited in the general fund.

C. Proceeds from the sale of forfeited property received by the state from another jurisdiction shall be deposited in the general fund.

D. A law enforcement agency or public body that receives reimbursement pursuant to Subsection B of this section shall inform the state auditor of that fact at the time of the agency's or body's annual audit.

E. A forfeited property interest is subject to the interest of a secured party unless, in the forfeiture proceeding, the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that the secured party had actual knowledge of the crime that relates to the seizure of the property.

F. Abandoned property shall be disposed of in the same manner as provided in Subsection B of this section.

G. Property subject to forfeiture that is in a law enforcement agency's possession becomes abandoned property and may be disposed of as such without a conviction if:

(1) there is no innocent owner; and

(2) the criminal prosecution of the owner of the seized property cannot proceed because for a period in excess of one year and one day:

(a) a bench warrant has been pending as a result of the defendant failing to appear; or

(b) the owner fugitives.

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 7; 2015, ch. 152, § 8; 2019, ch. 133, § 7.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, included abandoned property in the provisions related to the disposition of forfeited property, provided the order in which the proceeds of the sale of forfeited or abandoned property shall be distributed, and required law enforcement agencies that receive proceeds from the sale of forfeited or abandoned property to provide this information to the state auditor; in the section heading, after "forfeited property and", added "abandoned property"; in Subsection B, in the introductory paragraph, after "state treasurer", added "or the state treasurer's designee", and after "property shall be", added "distributed by the state treasurer as follows:"; added new Paragraphs B(1) and B(2) and new paragraph designation "(3)", in Paragraph B(3), after the paragraph designation, added "third, any remaining balance shall be"; added new Subsection D and redesignated former Subsection D as Subsection E; in Subsection E, after "A", added "forfeited", and after "property interest", deleted "forfeited to the state pursuant to the Forfeiture Act"; and added new Subsections F and G.

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, amended the provisions relating to title of seized property; in the catchline, added "Title to seized property", and "and proceeds"; added a new Subsection A and redesignated former Subsection A as Subsection B; in new Subsection B, after "provided in", deleted "Subsection C of", after "forfeited property", deleted "if it" and added "that", after "currency shall be", deleted "sold at public sale by the law enforcement agency in possession of the property" and added "delivered along with any abandoned property to the state treasurer for disposition at a public auction", after "sale or forfeited", added "or abandoned", and after "property shall

be", deleted "distributed", and deleted Paragraphs (1) through (3); added a new Subsection C and redesignated former Subsection B as Subsection D; in new Subsection D, deleted "Any" and added "A", after "forfeited to the state", deleted "and disposed of", after "unless", deleted "at" and added "in", after "secured party", deleted "knew or should have known" and added "had actual knowledge", and after "crime", added "that relates to the seizure of the property"; and deleted former Subsections C and D.

### **31-27-7.1. Innocent owners.**

A. The property of an innocent owner, as provided in this section, shall not be forfeited.

B. A person who claims to be an innocent owner has the burden of production to show that the person:

(1) holds a legal right, title or interest in the property seized; and

(2) held an ownership interest in the seized property at the time the illegal conduct that gave rise to the seizure of the property occurred or was a bona fide purchaser for fair value.

C. The state shall immediately return property to an established innocent owner who has an interest in homesteaded property, a motor vehicle valued at less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or a conveyance that is encumbered by a security interest that was perfected pursuant to state law or that is subject to a lease or rental agreement, unless the secured party or lessor had actual knowledge of the criminal act upon which the forfeiture was based.

D. If a person establishes that the person is an innocent owner pursuant to Subsection B of this section and the state pursues a forfeiture proceeding with respect to that person's property, other than property described in Subsection D of Section 31-27-7 NMSA 1978, to successfully forfeit the property, the state shall prove by clear and convincing evidence that the innocent owner had actual knowledge of the underlying crime giving rise to the forfeiture.

E. A person who acquired an ownership interest in property subject to forfeiture after the commission of a crime that gave rise to the forfeiture and who claims to be an innocent owner has the burden of production to show that the person has legal right, title or interest in the property seized under this section.

F. If a person establishes that the person is an innocent owner as provided in Subsection B of this section and the state pursues a forfeiture proceeding against the person's property, to successfully forfeit the property, the state shall prove by clear and convincing evidence that at the time the person acquired the property or an interest in the property, the person:

- (1) had actual knowledge that the property was subject to forfeiture; or
- (2) was not a bona fide purchaser who was without notice of any defect in title and who gave valuable consideration.

G. If the state fails to meet its burdens as provided in Subsections C and D of this section, the court shall find that the person is an innocent owner and shall order the state to relinquish all claims of title to the innocent owner's property without delay and the property shall be released without assessment of fees or costs.

H. Seized property that is firearms, ammunition or explosives subject to forfeiture under the protections of this section and that is not returned to an innocent owner shall be destroyed upon a motion by the law enforcement agency and an order of the court.

**History:** 1978 Comp., § 31-27-7.1, enacted by Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 9; 2019, ch. 133, § 8.

### ANNOTATIONS

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, revised the procedures related to seized firearms, ammunition or explosives subject to forfeiture and that are not returned to an innocent owner; in Subsection F, after "the person acquired the property", added "or an interest in the property"; in Subsection G, after "innocent owner's property", added "without delay and the property shall be released without assessment of fees or costs"; and added new Subsection H.

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

### **31-27-8. Safekeeping of seized property pending disposition.**

With regard to seized property in the state courts:

A. seized currency alleged to be subject to forfeiture shall be deposited with the clerk of the district court in an interest-bearing account;

B. seized property other than currency or real property, not required by federal or state law to be destroyed, shall be placed under seal at a place designated by the district court;

C. seized property shall be kept by the custodian in a manner to protect it from theft or damage and, if ordered by the district court, insured against those risks; and

D. unless it is returned to an owner, a law enforcement agency shall dispose of forfeited or abandoned property as provided in Section 31-27-7 NMSA 1978.

**History:** Laws 2002, ch. 4, § 8; 2015, ch. 152, § 10; 2019, ch. 133, § 9.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, revised the procedures related to storage, transfer and destruction of seized property; in the section heading, after "disposition", deleted "selling or retaining seized property prohibited"; after the section heading, added "With regard to seized property in the state courts:"; in Subsection B, deleted paragraph designations "(1)" and "(2)", after "placed under seal", deleted "and removed to" and added "at", and deleted Paragraph B(3); and in Subsection D, after the subsection designation, added "unless it is returned to an owner", after "law enforcement agency shall", deleted "not return" and added "dispose of", and after "abandoned property", added "as provided in Section 31-27-7 NMSA 1978".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

**The 2015 amendment**, effective July 1, 2015, prohibited a law enforcement agency from retaining forfeited or abandoned property; in the catchline, added "selling or retaining seized property prohibited"; in Subsection C, added "Seized"; and added Subsection D.

### **31-27-9. Reporting.**

A. Within sixty days following the conclusion of each fiscal year, every law enforcement agency shall prepare on a form approved by the department of public safety an annual report of the agency's seizures and forfeitures conducted pursuant to

applicable state law, and seizures and forfeitures conducted pursuant to federal forfeiture law, and the report shall include:

- (1) the total number of seizures of currency and the total amount of currency seized in each seizure;
- (2) the total number of seizures of property and the number and types of items seized in each seizure;
- (3) the market value of each item of property seized;
- (4) the total number of occurrences of each class of crime that resulted in the agency's seizure of property;
- (5) the costs incurred by the agency for storage, maintenance and transportation of seized property; and
- (6) any proceeds received through equitable sharing, along with the federal case number and the final disposition of the case.

B. A law enforcement agency shall submit its annual reports to the department of public safety and to the district attorney's office in the agency's district. An agency that did not engage in seizure or forfeiture pursuant to the Forfeiture Act or local, state or federal forfeiture law shall report that fact in its annual report.

C. The department of public safety shall compile the reports submitted by each law enforcement agency and issue an aggregate report of all forfeitures in the state.

D. By November 1 of each year, the department of public safety shall publish on its website the department's aggregate report and individual law enforcement agency reports submitted for the previous fiscal year.

**History:** Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 11; 2019, ch. 133, § 10.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2019 amendment**, effective April 2, 2019, revised the reporting requirements related to an agency's seizures and forfeitures conducted pursuant to state law; in Subsection A, in the introductory clause, after the subsection designation, added "Within sixty days following the conclusion of each fiscal year", after "shall prepare", added "on a form approved by the department of public safety", and after "pursuant to", deleted "the Forfeiture Act" and added "applicable state law", and added new Paragraphs A(5) and A(6); in Subsection B, after "Forfeiture Act", added "or local, state"; and in Subsection D, after "By", deleted "April" and added "November", and after "submitted for the previous", added "fiscal".

**Applicability.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 13 provided that the provisions of the Forfeiture Act apply to seized and abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on and after April 2, 2019.

**Temporary provisions.** — Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 11 provided that the New Mexico supreme court shall issue procedural court rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Laws 2019, ch. 133, § 12 provided that abandoned property in the possession of a law enforcement agency or the state treasurer on April 2, 2019 shall be disposed of pursuant to Section 29-1-14 NMSA 1978.

### **31-27-10. Return of property; damages; costs.**

A. A law enforcement agency that holds seized property shall return the seized property to the owner of the property within a reasonable period of time that does not exceed five days after:

- (1) a court finds that a person had a bona fide security interest in the property;
- (2) a court finds that the owner was an innocent owner;
- (3) the acquittal of or dismissal of related criminal charges against the owner of the property; or
- (4) the disposal of the criminal charge that was the basis of the forfeiture proceedings by nolle prosequi.

B. A law enforcement agency that holds seized property is responsible for any damages, storage fees and related costs applicable to property that is returned to an owner pursuant to this section.

**History:** Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 12.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 21 made Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 12 effective July 1, 2015.

### **31-27-11. Transfer of forfeitable property to the federal government.**

A. A law enforcement agency shall not directly or indirectly transfer seized property to a federal law enforcement authority or other federal agency unless:

- (1) the value of the seized property exceeds fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), excluding the potential value of the sale of contraband; and



(2) the law enforcement agency determines that the criminal conduct that gave rise to the seizure is interstate in nature and sufficiently complex to justify the transfer of the property; or

(3) the seized property may only be forfeited under federal law.

B. The law enforcement agency shall not transfer property to the federal government if the transfer would circumvent the protections of the Forfeiture Act that would otherwise be available to a putative interest holder in the property.

**History:** Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 13.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 21 made Laws 2015, ch. 152, § 13 effective July 1, 2015.

## **ARTICLE 28**

### **Crime Reduction Grant**

#### **31-28-1. Short title.**

Chapter 31, Article 28 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Crime Reduction Grant Act".

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 192, § 5; 2022, ch. 56, § 31.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2022 amendment**, effective May 18, 2022, changed "Section 5 through 10 of this act" to "Chapter 31, Article 28 NMSA 1978".

#### **31-28-2. Definition.**

As used in the Crime Reduction Grant Act, "commission" means the New Mexico sentencing commission.

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 192, § 6; 2023, ch. 60, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, removed the definition of "grant administrative agency" from the Crime Reduction Grant Act; and deleted former Subsection B.

### **31-28-3. Criminal justice coordinating councils created; composition; duties.**

A. A criminal justice coordinating council is created for each judicial district and shall include representation from within the district for:

- (1) each court in the district;
- (2) the district attorney;
- (3) the district public defender office;
- (4) law enforcement agencies;
- (5) jails;
- (6) behavioral health programs; and
- (7) other agencies and entities agreed upon by the council.

B. Each criminal justice coordinating council shall be convened by the chief judge of the district court in the judicial district. The commission shall assist in the organization of the criminal justice coordinating councils.

C. Each criminal justice coordinating council shall select a chair at its first meeting. The first meeting of each council shall take place by August 1, 2019, and the council shall subsequently meet at the call of the chair, but not less than ten months per year.

D. Each criminal justice coordinating council shall organize itself and adopt rules in a manner appropriate to accomplish its duties pursuant to the Crime Reduction Grant Act.

E. A criminal justice coordinating council shall develop a strategic plan to meet the requirements of this section and shall:

- (1) review the criminal justice system in the judicial district, including judicial processes, law enforcement, community corrections alternatives and sufficiency of jail and detention facilities;
- (2) identify criminal justice system problems in the judicial district;
- (3) develop data-driven policies and evidence-based best practices designed to improve public safety outcomes, cost-effective responses to crime and fair and efficient adjudication processes;

(4) facilitate applications from its members for crime reduction grants pursuant to the Crime Reduction Grant Act;

(5) facilitate sharing of criminal justice information between agencies as permitted by law; and

(6) in consultation with the commission, develop data-sharing agreements and methods of data sharing to allow system-wide analysis of criminal justice operations within the judicial district and throughout the state.

F. Executive agencies and the administrative office of the courts shall provide prompt responses to criminal justice coordinating council requests for information.

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 192, § 7; 2023, ch. 60, § 2.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, removed discretionary language and added mandatory language related to the composition of a criminal justice coordinating council, removed representation from correctional facilities from the mandatory composition of a criminal justice coordinating council, and required the New Mexico sentencing commission to assist in the organization of criminal justice coordinating councils, and revised the duties of criminal justice coordinating councils; in Subsection A, in the introductory clause, after "judicial district and", deleted "may" and added "shall", and deleted former Paragraph A(6) and redesignated former Paragraphs A(7) and A(8) as Paragraphs A(6) and A(7), respectively; in Subsection B, after "judicial district", added "The commission shall assist in the organization of the criminal justice coordinating councils."; and in Subsection E, in the introductory clause, after "shall", deleted "to the extent possible", and in Paragraph E(4), deleted "apply as necessary to grant administration agencies" and added "facilitate applications from its members".

### **31-28-4. Applications for grants; purposes; conditions.**

A. A member of a criminal justice coordinating council with the consent of the council may apply to the commission for a grant to accomplish any of the enumerated purposes provided in Subsection B of this section.

B. Crime reduction grants may be made to:

(1) develop, expand and improve evidence-based treatment and supervision alternatives to incarceration;

(2) reduce barriers to participation by criminal offenders in preprosecution diversion or specialty court programs;

(3) develop or improve pretrial service programs;

- (4) develop or improve coordination of services between law enforcement agencies and treatment programs;
- (5) establish law enforcement crisis intervention teams;
- (6) coordinate access to programs for transitional or reentry homes for individuals recently released from incarceration;
- (7) recruit or retain law enforcement officers, prosecutors, public defenders, corrections officers and mental health workers;
- (8) develop or expand digitized records;
- (9) develop or expand the ability of a criminal justice coordinating council member to share data with, and access data on, the statewide criminal justice data integration platform;
- (10) develop or expand data-driven policing programs and pretrial services;
- (11) staff a criminal justice coordinating council; and
- (12) purchase equipment or provide training to support any of the purposes provided in this section.

C. Crime reduction grants shall be conditioned on the criminal justice coordinating council and the recipient member complying with the following:

- (1) using not more than five percent of a grant for administrative costs of the recipient;
- (2) in consultation with the commission, developing data-sharing agreements and methods of data sharing among criminal justice agencies and with the commission to allow system-wide analysis of criminal justice operations within the judicial district and statewide;
- (3) using or developing evidence-based best practices for any programs operated with crime reduction grants;
- (4) developing performance measures in consultation with the commission relevant to the grantee's application;
- (5) collecting data to evaluate the effectiveness of programs operated with crime reduction grants;

(6) evaluating quarterly the process, outputs, outcomes and other performance measures of programs funded with grants for compliance with all provisions of the Crime Reduction Grant Act;

(7) providing a quarterly report to the commission for review and comparison with other programs receiving grants for similar purposes; and

(8) providing an annual report to the commission by October 1 of each year regarding program outcomes from use of the grant.

D. The commission shall assist with the implementation of data-sharing agreements to ensure compliance with crime reduction grants.

E. The commission may consider any outcome reported to it by a grant recipient from a previous year in making a determination of whether to make subsequent grants or the amount of a subsequent grant.

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 192, § 8; 2022, ch. 56, § 32; 2023, ch. 60, § 3.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, authorized members of criminal justice coordinating councils to apply to the New Mexico sentencing commission for crime reduction grants, removed language authorizing council members to apply to grant administration agencies for crime reduction grants, added, to an existing list of authorized crime reduction grant purposes, the development or expansion of digitized records and the development or expansion of council members ability to share data with, and access data on, the statewide criminal justice data integration platform, and made technical changes to conform with these amendments; in Subsection A, after "may apply to", deleted "a grant administration agency" and added "the commission"; in Subsection B, added Paragraphs B(8) and B(9) and redesignated former Paragraphs B(8) through B(10) as Paragraphs B(10) through B(12), respectively; in Subsection C, Paragraph C(4), after "commission", deleted "and the grant administration agency", and in Paragraph C(8), after "report to the", deleted "grant administration agency" and added "commission"; deleted former Subsection E, which related to grant administration agencies, and redesignated former Subsection F as Subsection E; and in Subsection E, deleted "A grant administration agency" and added "The commission".

**The 2022 amendment**, effective May 18, 2022, expanded the purposes for which crime reduction grants may be awarded; and in Subsection B, added new Paragraphs B(4) through B(9) and redesignated former Paragraph B(4) as Paragraph B(10).

## **31-28-5. Rules.**

The commission shall promulgate uniform procedural rules necessary to administer the provisions of the Crime Reduction Grant Act.

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 192, § 9; 2023, ch. 60, § 4.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, removed references to "grant administration agencies"; after "commission", deleted "in consultation with each grant administration agency", and deleted "Each grant administration agency shall adopt the uniform procedures along with other grant award criteria unique to the grant administration agency."

### **31-28-6. Reports.**

The commission shall report to the legislature annually by November 1 of each year regarding the:

A. applications for grants made during the previous fiscal year by each criminal justice coordinating council;

B. purpose and amount of each grant approved by the commission for each member for the previous fiscal year; and

C. processes, outputs and outcomes resulting from the use of the grant.

**History:** Laws 2019, ch. 192, § 10; 2023, ch. 60, § 5.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**The 2023 amendment**, effective June 16, 2023, revised reporting procedures related to crime reduction grants; redesignated former Paragraphs A(1) through A(3) as Subsections A through C, respectively; in the introductory clause, deleted "Each grant administration agency" and added "The commission", and after "shall report to the", deleted "commission" and added "legislature"; in Subsection B, after "approved by the", deleted "grant administration agency" and added "commission"; and deleted former Subsection B, which related to certain data sharing reporting requirements.

### **31-28-7. Crime reduction grant fund created; purpose.**

The "crime reduction grant fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The commission shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is subject to appropriation to the commission to administer the provisions of the Crime Reduction Grant Act and award crime reduction grants to members of criminal justice coordinating councils to spur local innovation in criminal justice reform, pursuant to the Crime Reduction Grant Act. Expenditures from the fund shall be made on warrant of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the chair of the commission or the chair's authorized representative. The commission may expend no more than three

percent of the balance of the fund each fiscal year for administering the Crime Reduction Grant Act. No money in the fund may be expended in any way except as provided by the Crime Reduction Grant Act.

**History:** Laws 2023, ch. 60, § 6.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2023, ch. 60 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective June 16, 2023, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

## **ARTICLE 29**

### **Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction**

#### **31-29-1. Short title.**

This act [31-29-1 to 31-29-16 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act".

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 1.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 1 effective January 1, 2022.

#### **31-29-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act:

A. "collateral consequence" means a collateral sanction or a disqualification;

B. "collateral sanction" means a penalty, disability or disadvantage, however denominated, imposed on an individual as a result of the individual's conviction of an offense that applies by operation of law, whether or not the penalty, disability or disadvantage is included in the judgment or sentence. "Collateral sanction" does not include imprisonment, probation, parole, supervised release, forfeiture, restitution, fine, assessment or costs of prosecution;

C. "convicted" and "conviction" include an adjudication as a youthful offender or serious youthful offender that results in an adult sentence;

D. "decision-maker" means the state acting through the following entities or their employees:

- (1) a department;
- (2) an agency;
- (3) an officer; or
- (4) an instrumentality, including a political subdivision, an educational institution, a board or a commission or a government contractor, including a subcontractor, made subject to the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act by contract, by law other than the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act or by ordinance;

E. "disqualification" means a penalty, disability or disadvantage, however denominated, that an administrative agency, governmental official or court in a civil proceeding is authorized, but not required, to impose on an individual on grounds relating to the individual's conviction of an offense;

F. "identification agency" means the New Mexico sentencing commission, acting in conjunction with the district attorneys of New Mexico and the attorney general;

G. "offense" means a felony pursuant to the law of New Mexico, another state or the United States;

H. "person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity; and

I. "state" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 2.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 2 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-3. Limitation on scope.**

A. The Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act does not provide a basis for:

- (1) invalidating a plea, conviction or sentence;



(2) a cause of action for money damages; or

(3) a claim for relief from or defense to the application of a collateral consequence based on a failure to comply with the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act.

B. The Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act does not affect:

(1) the duty an individual's attorney owes to the individual, except as provided in Section 5 [31-29-5 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act;

(2) a claim or right of a victim of an offense; or

(3) a right or remedy pursuant to law other than the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act available to an individual convicted of an offense.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 3.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 3 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-4. Identification, collection and publication of laws regarding collateral consequences.**

A. The identification agency:

(1) shall identify or cause to be identified:

(a) any provision in the constitution of New Mexico and New Mexico's statutes published in the New Mexico Statutes Annotated that imposes a collateral sanction or authorizes the imposition of a disqualification; and

(b) any provision of law that may afford relief from a collateral consequence;

(2) not later than six months after the effective date of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, shall prepare or cause to be prepared a collection of citations to, and the text or short descriptions of, the provisions identified pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this subsection;

(3) shall update or cause to be updated the collection provided for in Paragraph (2) of this subsection within three months after the laws enacted during each session of the legislature are published in the New Mexico Statutes Annotated; and

(4) in complying with Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, may rely on the study of New Mexico's collateral sanctions, disqualifications and relief provisions prepared by the national institute of justice described in Section 510 of the federal Court Security Improvement Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-177.

B. As required by Subsection A of this section, the identification agency shall include or cause to be included the following statements in a prominent manner at the beginning of the collection:

(1) "This collection has not been enacted into law and does not have the force of law.";

(2) "An error or omission in this collection, or in any reference work cited in this collection, is not a reason for invalidating a plea, conviction or sentence or for not imposing a collateral sanction or authorizing a disqualification.";

(3) "The laws of other jurisdictions and New Mexico counties and municipalities and the New Mexico Administrative Code are not included in this collection and may impose additional collateral sanctions and authorize additional disqualifications."; and

(4) "This collection does not include any law or other provision regarding the imposition of or relief from a collateral sanction or a disqualification enacted or adopted after [insert date the collection was prepared or last updated].".

C. The identification agency shall publish or cause to be published in the manner provided in Subsection D of this section the collection prepared and updated as required by Subsection A of this section. If available, the identification agency shall publish or cause to be published, as part of the collection, the title and internet address of:

(1) the most recent collection of collateral consequences imposed by federal law; and

(2) any provision of federal law that may afford relief from a collateral consequence.

D. The collection provided for in Subsection C of this section shall be published on the website of the identification agency and shall be available to the public on the internet without charge not later than three weeks after it is created or updated.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 4.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 4 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-5. Notice of collateral consequences in pretrial proceeding and at guilty plea.**

A. Except as provided in Subsection C of this section, counsel representing an individual charged with an offense shall cause written notice substantially similar to the following to be communicated to the individual:

#### **"NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL LEGAL CONSEQUENCES**

If you plead guilty or no contest to an offense, or are convicted of an offense, you may suffer additional legal consequences beyond jail or prison, probation, periods of parole and fines. These consequences may include:

1. being unable to get or keep some licenses, permits or jobs;
2. being unable to get or keep benefits such as public housing or education;
3. receiving a harsher sentence if you are convicted of another offense in the future;
4. having the government take your property; and
5. being unable to vote or possess a firearm.

If you are not a United States citizen, a guilty plea or no contest plea or conviction may also result in your deportation, removal or exclusion from admission to the United States or denial of citizenship.

The law may provide ways to obtain some relief from these consequences.

Further information about the consequences of conviction is available on the internet at *[insert internet address of the collection of laws published pursuant to Subsections C and D of Section 4 [31-29-4 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act]*."

B. Before a court accepts a plea of guilty or no contest from an individual, the court shall confirm that the individual received and understands the notice required by Subsection A of this section and has had an opportunity to discuss the notice with counsel.

C. The notice required pursuant to Subsection A of this section need not be given until six months have elapsed after the collection of laws required pursuant to Section 4 of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act is first available on the internet pursuant to Subsections C and D of Section 4 of that act.

D. This section does not limit the duty that an individual's counsel otherwise owes to the individual.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 5.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 5 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-6. Notice of collateral consequences at sentencing and upon release.**

A. An individual convicted of an offense shall be given notice as provided in Subsections B and C of this section:

- (1) that collateral consequences may apply because of the conviction;
- (2) of the internet address of the collection of laws published pursuant to Subsections C and D of Section 4 [31-29-4 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act;
- (3) that there may be ways to obtain relief from collateral consequences;
- (4) of contact information for government or nonprofit agencies, groups or organizations, if any, offering assistance to individuals seeking relief from collateral consequences; and
- (5) of when an individual convicted of an offense may vote pursuant to New Mexico law.

B. Except as provided in Subsection D of this section, the court shall provide the notice set forth in Subsection A of this section as a part of sentencing.

C. Except as provided in Subsection D of this section, if an individual is sentenced to imprisonment or other incarceration, the officer or agency releasing the individual shall provide the notice set forth in Subsection A of this section not more than thirty and, if practicable, at least five days before release.

D. The notice required pursuant to Subsection A of this section need not be given until six months have elapsed after the collection of laws required pursuant to Section 4 of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act is first available on the internet pursuant to Subsections C and D of Section 4 of that act.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 6.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 6 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-7. Authorization required for sanction; ambiguity.**

A. A collateral sanction may be imposed only by statute or ordinance or by a rule authorized by law and adopted in accordance with applicable law.

B. A law creating a collateral consequence that is ambiguous as to whether it imposes a collateral sanction or authorizes a disqualification shall be construed as authorizing a disqualification.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 7.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 7 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-8. Decision to disqualify.**

In deciding whether to impose a disqualification, a decision-maker shall undertake an individualized assessment to determine whether the benefit or opportunity at issue should be denied the individual. In making that decision, the decision-maker may consider, if substantially related to the benefit or opportunity at issue, the particular facts and circumstances involved in the offense and the essential elements of the offense. A conviction itself shall not be considered except as having established the elements of the offense. The decision-maker shall also consider other relevant information, including the effect on third parties of granting the benefit or opportunity and whether the individual has been granted relief such as an order of limited relief.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 8.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 8 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-9. Effect of conviction by another state or the United States; relieved or pardoned conviction.**

A. For purposes of authorizing or imposing a collateral consequence in New Mexico, a conviction of an offense in a court of another state or the United States is

deemed a conviction of the offense in New Mexico with the same elements. If there is no offense in New Mexico with the same elements, the conviction is deemed a conviction of the most serious offense in New Mexico that is established by the elements of the offense. A misdemeanor in the jurisdiction of conviction shall not be deemed a felony in New Mexico, and an offense lesser than a misdemeanor in the jurisdiction of conviction shall not be deemed a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor in New Mexico.

B. For purposes of authorizing or imposing a collateral consequence in New Mexico, a juvenile adjudication in another state or the United States shall not be deemed a conviction of a felony, misdemeanor or offense lesser than a misdemeanor in New Mexico.

C. A conviction that is reversed, overturned or otherwise vacated by a court of competent jurisdiction of New Mexico, another state or the United States on grounds other than rehabilitation or good behavior shall not serve as the basis for authorizing or imposing a collateral consequence in New Mexico.

D. A pardon issued by another state or the United States has the same effect for purposes of authorizing, imposing and relieving a collateral consequence in New Mexico as it has in the issuing jurisdiction.

E. A conviction that has been relieved by expungement, sealing, annulment, set-aside or vacation by a court of competent jurisdiction of another state or the United States on grounds of rehabilitation or good behavior, or for which civil rights are restored pursuant to statute, has the same effect for purposes of authorizing or imposing collateral consequences in New Mexico as it has in the jurisdiction of conviction; provided, however, that such relief or restoration of civil rights does not relieve collateral consequences applicable pursuant to the law of New Mexico for which relief could not be granted pursuant to Section 11 [31-29-11 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act or for which relief was expressly withheld by the court order or by the law of the jurisdiction that relieved the conviction. An individual convicted in another jurisdiction may seek relief pursuant to Section 10 [31-29-10 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act from any collateral consequence for which relief was not granted in the issuing jurisdiction except those consequences listed in Section 11 of that act.

F. A charge or prosecution in any jurisdiction that has been finally terminated without a conviction and imposition of sentence based on participation in a deferred adjudication or diversion program shall not serve as the basis for authorizing or imposing a collateral consequence in New Mexico. This subsection does not affect the validity of any restriction or condition imposed by law as part of participation in the deferred adjudication or diversion program before or after the termination of the charge or prosecution.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 9.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 9 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-10. Order of limited relief.**

A. An individual convicted of an offense may petition for an order of limited relief from one or more collateral sanctions related to employment, education, housing, public benefits or occupational licensing. The petition shall be presented to the sentencing court before sentencing.

B. Except as otherwise provided in Section 11 [31-29-11 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, the court may issue an order of limited relief relieving one or more of the collateral sanctions described in Subsection A of this section only if, after reviewing the petition, the individual's criminal history, any filing by a victim pursuant to Section 14 [31-29-14 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act or a prosecutor and any other relevant evidence, the court finds the individual has established by a preponderance of the evidence that:

- (1) granting the petition will materially assist the individual in obtaining or maintaining employment, education, housing, public benefits or occupational licensing;
- (2) the individual has substantial need for the relief requested in order to live a law-abiding life; and
- (3) granting the petition would not pose an unreasonable risk to the safety or welfare of the public or any individual.

C. An order of limited relief may be issued as a part of sentencing. The order of limited relief shall specify:

- (1) the collateral sanction from which relief is granted; and
- (2) any restriction imposed pursuant to Subsection A of Section 12 [31-29-12 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act.

D. An order of limited relief relieves a collateral sanction to the extent provided in the order.

E. If a collateral sanction has been relieved pursuant to this section, a decision-maker may consider the conduct underlying a conviction as provided in Section 8 [31-29-8 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 10.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 10 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-11. Collateral sanctions not subject to order of limited relief.**

An order of limited relief shall not be issued to relieve the following collateral sanctions:

- A. requirements imposed by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act;
- B. a motor vehicle license suspension, revocation, limitation or ineligibility pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Code [66-1-1 NMSA 1978], for which restoration or relief is available pursuant to law other than the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act;
- C. ineligibility for certification as a law enforcement officer pursuant to the Law Enforcement Training Act [Chapter 29, Article 7 NMSA 1978] or for employment as a correctional officer pursuant to the Corrections Act [33-1-1 to 33-1-9 NMSA 1978]; or
- D. prohibitions imposed pursuant to Section 30-7-16 NMSA 1978 making it unlawful for felons to receive, transport or possess a firearm or destructive device while in this state.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 11.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 11 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-12. Issuance of order of limited relief.**

- A. The prosecutor shall be notified of a request for an order of limited relief. The court may issue an order of limited relief subject to restriction, condition or additional requirement.
- B. The court shall order any test, report, investigation or disclosure by the individual it reasonably believes necessary to its decision to issue an order of limited relief. If there are disputed issues of material fact or law, the individual and any prosecutor notified pursuant to Subsection A of this section or another prosecutorial agency designated by a prosecutor notified pursuant to Subsection A of this section may submit evidence and be heard on those issues.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 12.



## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 12 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-13. Reliance on order as evidence of due care.**

In a judicial or administrative proceeding alleging negligence or other fault, an order of limited relief may be introduced as evidence of a person's due care in hiring, retaining, licensing, leasing to, admitting to a school or program or otherwise transacting business or engaging in activity with the individual to whom the order was issued if the person knew of the order at the time of the alleged negligence or other fault.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 13.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 13 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-14. Victim's rights.**

A victim of an offense may participate in a proceeding for issuance of an order of limited relief in the same manner as at a sentencing proceeding pursuant to the Victims of Crime Act [Chapter 31, Article 26 NMSA 1978].

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 14.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 14 effective January 1, 2022.

### **31-29-15. Uniformity of application and construction.**

In applying and construing the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, consideration shall be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 15.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 15 effective January 1, 2022.

## **31-29-16. Saving and transitional provisions.**

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act applies to collateral consequences whenever enacted or imposed unless the law creating the collateral consequence expressly states that the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act does not apply.

B. The Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act does not apply to the imposition of a collateral sanction on an individual until the date that is six months after the collection of laws required pursuant to Section 4 [31-29-4 NMSA 1978] of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act is first available on the internet pursuant to Subsections C and D of Section 4 of that act, but a collateral sanction validly imposed before that date may be the subject of relief pursuant to that act.

**History:** Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 16.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 17 made Laws 2021, ch. 58, § 16 effective January 1, 2022.

## **ARTICLE 30**

### **Violence Intervention Program**

#### **31-30-1. Short title.**

Sections 38 through 46 [31-30-1 to 31-30-9 NMSA 1978] of this act may be cited as the "Violence Intervention Program Act".

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 38.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 38 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

#### **31-30-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Violence Intervention Program Act:

A. "commission" means the New Mexico sentencing commission;

B. "community-based service provider" means an entity that is eligible to be awarded a contract to provide services that accomplish the purposes of the Violence Intervention Program Act;

C. "department" means the department of health; and

D. "grantee" means a state agency, county, municipality or tribal government that has applied for and received funding pursuant to the Violence Intervention Program Act for the purposes of addressing gun violence and aggravated assaults in a locally focused geographic area.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 39.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 39 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-30-3. Violence intervention program fund; created; purpose.**

The "violence intervention program fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The department shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is appropriated to the department to administer the provisions of the Violence Intervention Program Act and award violence intervention program grants to state agencies, counties, municipalities or tribal governments that the department finds are disproportionately impacted by violent crimes, including homicides, shootings and aggravated assaults. Expenditures from the fund shall be made on warrant of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of health. The department may expend no more than three percent of the balance of the fund each fiscal year for administering the Violence Intervention Program Act. No money in the fund may be expended in any way except as provided by the Violence Intervention Program Act.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 40.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 40 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-30-4. Violence intervention program requirements.**

A violence intervention program shall:

A. use an evidence- or research-based public health approach to reduce gun violence and aggravated assaults;

B. use focused deterrence, problem-oriented policing and proven law enforcement strategies to reduce gun violence and aggravated assaults;

C. target a population that is at high risk for victimization or retaliation that results from gun violence or aggravated assault through engaging in the cycles of violence in the community;

D. use data-driven methods for program development; and

E. use program funding in a manner that is directly related to the reduction of gun violence and aggravated assaults.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 41.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 41 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-30-5. Grant awards.**

A. On or after July 1, 2022, the department shall receive and review applications for grants from the violence intervention program fund. The department may make grants from the fund to state agencies, counties, municipalities or tribal governments that the department finds are disproportionately impacted by violent crimes, including homicides, shootings and aggravated assaults.

B. The department shall make awards of grants from the fund in accordance with the following limitations:

(1) grant awards shall be made to at least two counties, municipalities or tribal governments with a population of fifty thousand or less according to the most recent annual university of New Mexico intercensal population estimate;

(2) at least twenty percent of the total annual amount appropriated to the fund shall be awarded to counties or municipalities with a population of five hundred forty thousand or greater according to the most recent federal decennial census; and

(3) the department of health shall utilize the funds in accordance with department of finance and administration guidelines.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 42.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 42 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### 31-30-6. Application requirements.

A. Each application for a grant from the violence intervention program fund shall include:

- (1) clearly defined, measurable objectives for a proposal to improve public health and safety through evidence-based violence reduction interventions;
- (2) a comprehensive violence reduction strategic plan, including consistent quality improvement and quality assurance measures, and a description of the strategies and tasks developed by a state agency, county, municipality or tribal government describing the goals of the plan, including community-based services or joint community-based services and law enforcement intervention strategies;
- (3) a description of how a grant award would be used if awarded; and
- (4) a list of community-based service providers in the locally focused geographic area in which the grant funds would be used, including those with an expressed commitment to participating in a violence intervention program.

B. The commission shall provide state agencies, counties, municipalities and tribal governments with data relevant to grant applications.

C. An applicant shall notify the appropriate criminal justice coordinating council established pursuant to Section 31-28-3 NMSA 1978 of its grant application.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 43.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 43 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### 31-30-7. Conditions of grant.

A. As a condition of each grant made pursuant to the Violence Intervention Program Act, the department shall require each grantee to use at least fifty percent of its grant for the purpose of entering into contracts with one or more community-based service providers.

B. Each grantee shall report to the appropriate criminal justice coordinating council established pursuant to Section 31-28-3 NMSA 1978 regarding outcomes of the grant.

C. A grant may be awarded to a county or municipality, but shall not be awarded to both a county and a municipality falling within the county.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 44.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 44 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-30-8. Rules.**

The department shall adopt rules necessary to administer the provisions of the Violence Intervention Program Act, including standardized rules pertaining to the collection and sharing of data by grantees.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 45.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 45 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

### **31-30-9. Reports.**

A. Each grantee shall report to the department and the commission by November 1 of each year regarding the:

(1) purpose and amount of each grant received by the grantee for the previous fiscal year; and

(2) processes, outputs and outcomes resulting from each grant approved by the department for the previous fiscal year, including relevant data as required by department rules.

B. Each year through 2027, the department and the commission shall report to the legislature by December 1 regarding the awards and outcomes of each grantee.

**History:** Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 46.

#### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2022, ch. 56, § 46 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, was effective May 18, 2022, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.