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DEBRA J. CRUMLING, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
TAMARA M. BOSCOLA, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
HEGINA A. MUGAVERO, CALENDAR CONTROL
BEVERLY J. FEHNEL, SECRETARY
MARY LOU KING, SECRETARY



CRIMINAL AND CIVIL COURTS
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

EASTON, PA. 18042
PHONE: 215-559-3042
FAX: 215-559-3047

HON. ROBERT A. FREEDBERG	PRESIDENT JUDGE
HON. JAMES C. HOGAN	JUDGE
HON. WILLIAM F. MORAN	JUDGE
HON. F.P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN	JUDGE
HON. ROBERT E. SIMPSON	JUDGE
HON. JACK A. PANELLA	JUDGE
HON. RICHARD D. GRIFO	SA, JUDGE
HON. MICHAEL V. FRANCIOSA	SA, JUDGE
HON. ALFRED T. WILLIAMS	SA, JUDGE

NOTICE

A pre-trial conference has been scheduled in your case on _____ at _____ A.M./P.M. in Courtroom 1, Northampton County Courthouse, Seventh and Washington Streets, Easton, PA 18042. At that time you must decide how you want your case disposed.

You have certain options to dispose of your case. They are:

1. You may plead not guilty and contest the charge(s) against you including having a jury trial, or
2. If you have no prior criminal record, you may apply for the A.R.D. program, or
3. If you make full restitution to the victim and pay all court costs within 60 days from the date of your arraignment, the charge(s) against you may be dismissed pursuant to Rule 314, or
4. You may plead guilty and apply for the Q.D.P. program.

These options are explained below.

1. Plead not guilty - You have an absolute right to plead not guilty and to demand a jury trial. You have an absolute right to be represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, you should contact the Northampton County Public Defender's Office, Northampton County Courthouse, Seventh and Washington Streets, Easton, PA 18042; (610) 559-3040.

2. The A.R.D. Program is as follows:

If you are unable to make full restitution within 60 days from your arraignment date and if you are a first offender, i.e., you do not have a prior criminal record, you may make application for the A.R.D. program. A.R.D. is a pre-indictment probationary program which, if completed successfully, will result in the charges

against you being dropped. THIS PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE A PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD.

If you are accepted into the A.R.D. program, you will be placed on probation with conditions which will include but not be limited to the remitting of full restitution to the victim, pursuant to a payment plan.

In order to be considered for the A.R.D. program, you must complete an A.R.D. application, which may be obtained from your attorney or from the District Attorney's office. If you are accepted into the A.R.D. program and fail to comply with the A.R.D. requirements in any way while on the A.R.D. program, you can be removed from the program and prosecuted on the charges.

3. Dismissal under Rule 314 -

If full restitution and costs are paid within 60 days from the date of your arraignment, the District Attorney may ask the Judge to approve of a dismissal of your charge(s) under Rule 314 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILL NOT ASK FOR A 314 DISMISSAL OF CHARGES LATER THAN 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE ARRAIGNMENT.

4. Plead guilty without jail or fines - The Q.D.P. Program -

Q.D.P. stands for Quick Disposition Program. This program has been designed for selected cases in order to expedite the disposition of criminal charges.

In order to participate in the Quick Disposition Program, you will be required to enter a plea of guilty to the charges against you.

By accepting Q.D.P., you will be granted the following benefits:

- (1) You will avoid the imposition of any jail sentence;
- (2) You will avoid the imposition of any fines.

By accepting Q.D.P., the following will be required of you:

- (1) You will be required to make restitution in full to the victim pursuant to a payment plan supervised by the Probation Department;
- (2) You will be placed on nominal probation for the purposes of making restitution;

- (3) You may be required to participate in a Court ordered remediation and/or education program; and
- (4) You will be required to pay court costs.

Q.D.P. is a conviction, but guarantees no jail and no fines. Participation in Q.D.P. must be with the consent of the District Attorney and the Court.

Under the A.R.D. program and Rule 314, you end up with no criminal conviction by making restitution and paying costs. If you go to trial and are found not guilty, there is no sentence; however, if you go to trial and are found guilty, the judge decides what the sentence shall be. If you plead guilty under the Q.D.P. program, you will have a criminal conviction and will be required to pay restitution and court costs - but there will be no fine and no jail sentence.

The choice is yours. If you have any questions about any of the above, consult your attorney. Be sure to appear in court with your attorney, if you are represented by one. If you fail to appear on the above date, A BENCH WARRANT WILL BE ISSUED DIRECTING THAT YOU BE BROUGHT TO COURT BY THE SHERIFF, YOUR BAIL WILL BE FORFEITED AND YOU MAY BE COMMITTED TO JAIL.

IF YOU DECLINE THE Q.D.P. OPTION AT THE TIME OF YOUR PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHOOSE IT LATER. IF YOU GO TO TRIAL AND ARE CONVICTED, YOU RUN THE RISK OF A FINE AND/OR A JAIL SENTENCE.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS FORM, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ATTORNEY OR PUBLIC DEFENDER.