

Michael J. Blee, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex • P.O. Box 037 Trenton, NJ 08625-0037 • njcourts.gov • Tel: 609-376-3000 • Fax: 609-376-3002

TO: Assignment Judges
Family Presiding Judges
Trial Court Administrators
Family Division Managers

**Supplement to
Directive #23-21**

FROM: Michael J. Blee, J.A.D., Acting Administrative Director *MJB*

SUBJECT: Family – Revised Plea Form for Use in Domestic
Violence Contempt Matters (CN 12692)

DATE: July 2, 2025

This promulgates for use as soon as practicable a revised plea form for domestic violence contempt matters, originally promulgated by Directive #23-21. The primary changes to the form are revisions to Question 18 and are intended to ensure alignment with all applicable laws while optimizing understandability for defendants regarding the potential immigration consequences of a guilty plea.

Attachment (English version): FO Plea Form (CN 12692 - Updated July 2025)

cc: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Attorney General Matthew Platkin
Public Defender Jennifer Sellitti
Family Division Judges
Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff
AOC Directors and Assistant Directors
Clerks of Court
Assistant Family Division Managers

Notice: This is a public document, which means the document as submitted will be available to the public upon request. Therefore, do not enter personal identifiers on it, such as Social Security number, driver's license number, vehicle plate number, insurance policy number, active financial account number, active credit card number or military status.



New Jersey Judiciary
Family Court Domestic Violence Contempt and
Related Disorderly Persons & Petty Disorderly
Persons Plea Form

County _____
 Prosecutor _____
 File Number _____

(If you are pleading to an indictable offense, please use the standard Criminal Plea Form - CN 10079)

Defendant's Name: _____
 before Judge: _____

1. List the charges to which you are pleading guilty:

| Indictment/ Accusation/ Complaint Number | Count | Nature of Offense | Degree | Statutory Maximum | | |
|---|-------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|
| | | | | Time | Fine | VCCO Assessment* |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | Max | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | Max | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | Max | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | Max | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | Max | _____ | _____ |
| The potential impact of this plea is: | | | | Total | _____ | _____ |

1. a. Did you commit the offense(s) to which you are pleading guilty? Yes No
- b. Do you understand that before the judge can find you guilty, you will have to tell the judge what you did that makes you guilty of the particular offense(s)? Yes No
2. Do you understand what the charges mean? Yes No
3. Do you understand that by pleading guilty you are giving up certain rights? Among these are:
- a. The right to a bench trial in which the State must prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt? Yes No
- b. The right to remain silent? Yes No
- c. The right to confront a witness against you? Yes No
- d. Do you understand that by pleading guilty you are **NOT** waiving your right to an appeal? Yes No
- (1) The denial of a motion to suppress physical evidence (R. 3-5-7(d)) or
- (2) The denial of acceptance into a pretrial intervention program (PTI) (R. 3:28-6(d))

3. e. Do you further understand that by pleading guilty you are waiving your right to appeal the denial of all other pretrial motions except the following? Yes No

4. Do you understand if you plead guilty that:
- a. You will have a criminal record? Yes No
 - b. Unless the plea agreement provides otherwise, you could be sentenced to serve the maximum time in jail or prison, to pay the maximum fine and to pay the maximum Victims of Compensation Office Assessment Fee? Yes No
 - c. You must pay a minimum Victims of Crime Compensation Office Assessment Fee of \$50 (\$100 minimum if you are convicted of a crime of violence) for each count to which you plead guilty? (Penalty is \$30 if offense occurred between January 9, 1986 and December 22, 1991 inclusive, \$25 if offense occurred before January 1, 1986.) If you are pleading guilty to a domestic violence offense, you must pay a \$100 Domestic Violence Surcharge. Yes No
 - d. If the offense occurred on or after February 1, 1993 but was before March 13, 1995, and you are being sentenced to probation or a State correctional facility, you must pay a transaction fee of up to \$1 for each occasion when a payment or installment payment is made? If the offense occurred on or after March 13, 1995 and the sentence is to probation, or the sentence otherwise requires payments of financial obligations to the probation division, you must pay a transaction fee of up to \$2 for each occasion when a payment or installment payment is made? Yes No
 - e. If the offense occurred on or after August 2, 1993 you must pay a \$75 Safe Neighborhood Services Fund assessment for each conviction? Yes No
 - f. If the offense occurred on or after January 5, 1994 and you are being sentenced to probation, you must pay a fee of up to \$25 per month for the term of probation? Yes No
 - g. You will be required to provide a DNA sample and pay for the cost of testing, which could be used by law enforcement for the investigation of criminal activity? Yes No
5. Do you understand that the court could, at its discretion, impose a minimum time in jail or prison to be served before you become eligible for release, and that this period could be as long as one half of the entire sentence imposed? Yes No
6. Do you understand that if you plead guilty of a crime or offense involving domestic violence that a condition of the sentence can restrict your ability to have contact with the victim, the victim's friends, co-workers, or relatives, or an animal - owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either party or a minor child residing in the household? Yes No

7. Do you understand that your guilty plea can result in the court entering an order directing the possession of an animal owned, possessed, leased, kept or held by either party or a minor child residing in the household? Yes No
8. Do you understand that when you plead guilty to a crime or offense involving domestic violence, you will be prohibited from purchasing, owning, possessing, or controlling a firearm pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1979, c.179 (C.2C:39-7) and from receiving or retaining a firearms purchaser identification card or permit to purchase a handgun pursuant to N.J.S.2C:58-3 under N.J.S.A. 2C; 25-27c(1)? Yes No
9. Do you understand that a person convicted of a second or subsequent offense of domestic violence contempt must serve a mandatory minimum sentence of at least 30 days in the County Jail? N.J.S.A 2C:25-30 Yes No
10. Are you currently on probation or parole? Yes No
 a. Do you realize that a guilty plea can result in a violation of your probation or parole? Yes No
11. Are you currently serving a jail or prison sentence on another charge? Yes No
 a. Do you understand that a guilty plea can affect your parole eligibility? Yes No
12. Do you understand that if you have plead guilty to, or have been found guilty on other charges, or are currently serving a jail or prison term and the plea agreement doesn't specify otherwise, the court can require that all sentences will run consecutively (one after the other)? Yes No

13. List any charges the prosecutor has agreed to recommend for dismissal:

Indictment/Accusation/
Complaint Number

Count

Nature of Offense and Degree

| Complaint Number | Count | Nature of Offense and Degree |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

14. Specify any sentence the prosecutor has agreed to recommend:

15. Has the prosecutor agreed NOT to speak at sentencing? Yes No

16. Do you understand that you might have to pay restitution if the court finds there is a victim who has suffered a loss? Yes No

17. Do you understand that if you are a public office holder or employee, you can be required to forfeit your office or job because of your guilty plea? Yes No
18. If you are not a citizen of the United States, this guilty plea may have serious immigration consequences. Please answer the following questions regardless of your immigration status.
- a. If you are not a citizen of the United States, pleading guilty to this offense could result in your removal or deportation from the United States, denial of naturalization, denial of re-entry, or exclusion from admission – now or in the future – even if you are lawfully present or have lived in the United States for many years. Do you understand that? Yes No
- b. Do you understand that you have the right to seek advice from an attorney about the effect your guilty plea will have on your immigration status? Yes No
- c. Have you discussed with your attorney whether and how your citizenship or immigration status could be affected by your plea, conviction, or sentence? If yes, proceed to 18(e). If no, proceed to 18(d). Yes No
- d. Would you like the opportunity to do so? Yes No
- e. Having been advised of any possible immigration consequences of a guilty plea, and your right to get legal advice about those consequences, do you still want to plead guilty? Yes No
19. a. Do you understand that pursuant to the rules of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision if you are living outside the State of New Jersey at the time of sentencing, or upon entry of a guilty plea (if a guilty plea is a condition of admission to the Pretrial Intervention Program), that return to your home can be delayed pending acceptance of the transfer of your supervision by your home state? Yes No
- b. Do you understand that pursuant to the same Interstate Compact, transfer of your supervision to another state can be denied or restricted by that state at any time after sentencing, or upon entry of a guilty plea (if a guilty plea is a condition of admission to the Pretrial Intervention Program), if that state determines you are required to register as a sex offender in that state or if New Jersey has required you to register as a sex offender? Yes No
20. Have you discussed the legal doctrine of “merger” (when a defendant commits multiple crimes within one incident, they may end up being convicted of only one criminal conviction) with your attorney? Yes No
21. Do you understand you are giving up your right at sentencing to argue that there are charges you pleaded guilty to for which you cannot be given a separate sentence? Yes No

22. List any other promises or representations that have been made by you, the prosecutor, your defense attorney, or anyone else a part of this guilty plea:

23. Do you understand that the judge is not bound by any promises or recommendations of the prosecutor and that the judge has the right to reject the plea before sentencing you and the right to impose a more severe sentence? Yes No

24. Do you understand that if the judge decides to impose a more severe sentence than recommended by the prosecutor, that you can take back your guilty plea? Yes No

25. Do you understand that if you are permitted to take back your guilty plea because of the judge's sentence, that anything you say in furtherance of the guilty plea cannot be used against you at trial? Yes No

26. Are you satisfied with the advice you have received from your lawyer? Yes No

27. Do you understand if there is a restraining order, or any other order of the court or agreement that prohibits or limits your contact with the victim or any protected party, you MUST abide by the court order or agreement? Yes No

28. Do you have any questions about this guilty plea? Yes No

Date _____ Defendant _____

Defense Attorney _____

Prosecutor _____

This plea is the result of the judge's confidential indications of the maximum sentence that would be imposed independent of the prosecutor's recommendation. Accordingly, the "Supplemental Plea Form for Non-Negotiated Pleas" has been completed.