Sentencing Serious Felonies

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2018 Edition North Carolina Sentencing Handbook with Felony, Misdemeanor, and DWI Sentencing Grids James M. Markham Shea Riggsbee Denning **Î**UNC SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Objectives

- Grid fluency
- Know what the sentence means
- Know enhancement and mitigation options



MAXIMUM SENTENCES

The tables below show the maximum sentence that corresponds to each minimum sentence. For minimum sentences of 340 months or more, the maximum sentence is 120 percent of the minimum sentence, rounded to the next highest month, plus 12 additional months. So. S. 15A:1340.17(e). Sex Crimes: The maximum sentence for a Class 81 through E felony subject to the registration requirements of G.S. Chapter 14, Article 27A is 120 percent of the minimum sentence, rounded to the next highest month, plus 60 additional months, as indicated in parentheses below. G.S. 15A-1340.17(f).

FOR OFF	ENSE CLASSE	S B1 THROUG	H E (Minimur	n Sentence →	Correspondi	ng Maximum (Sex Crimes)]
15+30 (78)	56 ÷ 80 (128)	97 > 129 (177)	138 → 178 (226)	179 + 227 (275)	220 + 276 (324)	261 + 326 (374)	302 + 375 (423)
16÷32 (80)	57 + 81 (129)	98 > 130 (178)	139 + 179 (227)	180 + 228 (276)	221 + 278 (326)	262 + 327 (375)	303 + 376 (424)
17+33 (81)	58 + 82 (130)	99 + 131 (179)	140 + 180 (228)	181 ÷ 230 (278)	222 + 279 (327)	263 + 328 (376)	304 + 377 (425)
18+34 (82)	59 + 83 (131)	100 → 132 (180)	141 ÷ 182 (230)	182 + 231 (279)	223 + 280 (328)	264 * 329 (377)	305 + 378 (426)
19+35 (83)	60 + 84 (132)	101 → 134 (182)	142 ÷ 183 (231)	183 ÷ 232 (280)	224 + 281 (329)	265 + 330 (378)	306 + 380 (428)
20+36 (84)	61 + 86 (134)	102 → 135 (183)	143 ÷ 184 (232)	184 ÷ 233 (281)	225 + 282 (330)	266 + 332 (380)	307 → 381 (429)
21+38 (86)	62 ÷ 87 (135)	103 ÷ 136 (184)	144 + 185 (233)	185 ÷ 234 (282)	226 + 284 (332)	267 + 333 (381)	308 ÷ 382 (430)
22+39 (87)	63 → 88 (136)	104 ÷ 137 (185)	145 → 186 (234)	186 ÷ 236 (284)	227 + 285 (333)	268 ÷ 334 (382)	309 + 383 (431)
23+40 (88)	64 > 89 (137)	105 → 138 (186)	146 ÷ 188 (236)	187 ÷ 237 (285)	228 + 286 (334)	269 ÷ 335 (383)	310 ÷ 384 (432)
24 + 41 (89)	65 ÷ 90 (138)	106 ÷ 140 (188)	147 ÷ 189 (237)	188 ÷ 238 (286)	229 + 287 (335)	270 + 336 (384)	311 + 386 (434)
25 + 42 (90)	66 → 92 (140)	107 → 141 (189)	148 → 190 (238)	189 → 239 (287)	230 ÷ 288 (336)	271 + 338 (386)	312 + 387 (435)
26 > 44 (92)	67 + 93 (141)	108 ÷ 142 (190)	149 ÷ 191 (239)	190 → 240 (288)	231 + 290 (338)	272 + 339 (387)	313 ÷ 388 (436)
27 + 45 (93)	68 + 94 (142)	109 + 143 (191)	150 ÷ 192 (240)	191 + 242 (290)	232 + 291 (339)	273 + 340 (388)	314 + 389 (437)
28 + 46 (94)	69 → 95 (143)	110 + 144 (192)	151 → 194 (242)	192 → 243 (291)	233 * 292 (340)	274 * 341 (389)	315 ÷ 390 (438)
29 > 47 (95)	70 ÷ 96 (144)	111 ÷ 146 (194)	152 + 195 (243)	193 → 244 (292)	234 * 293 (341)	275 + 342 (390)	316 → 392 (440)
30 → 48 (96)	71 → 98 (146)	112 + 147 (195)	153 → 196 (244)	194 → 245 (293)	235 + 294 (342)	276 > 344 (392)	317 → 393 (441)
31 → 50 (98)	72÷99 (147)	113 ÷ 148 (196)	154 ÷ 197 (245)	195 → 246 (294)	236 > 296 (344)	277 * 345 (393)	318 + 394 (442)
32 → 51 (99)	73 ÷ 100 (148)	114 + 149 (197)	155 → 198 (246)	196 → 248 (296)	237 > 297 (345)	278 * 346 (394)	319 + 395 (443)
33 → 52 (100)	74 > 101 (149)	115 → 150 (198)	156 → 200 (248)	197 → 249 (297)	238 * 298 (346)	279 * 347 (395)	320 + 396 (444)
34 → 53 (101)	75 ÷ 102 (150)	116 ÷ 152 (200)	157 → 201 (249)	198 → 250 (298)	239 > 299 (347)	280 + 348 (396)	321 + 398 (446)
35 → 54 (102)	76 ÷ 104 (152)	117 → 153 (201)	158 ÷ 202 (250)	199 → 251 (299)	240 ÷ 300 (348)	281 ÷ 350 (398)	322 + 399 (447)
36 → 56 (104)	77 ÷ 105 (153)	118 + 154 (202)	159 + 203 (251)	200 + 252 (300)	241 + 302 (350)	282 + 351 (399)	323 + 400 (448)
37 + 57 (105)	78 ÷ 106 (154)	119 + 155 (203)	160 + 204 (252)	201 + 254 (302)	242 + 303 (351)	283 + 352 (400)	324 + 401 (449)
38 → 58 (106)	79 → 107 (155)	120 → 156 (204)	161 → 206 (254)	202 + 255 (303)	243 + 304 (352)	284 + 353 (401)	325 ÷ 402 (450)
39 > 59 (107)	80 + 108 (156)	121 + 158 (206)	162 + 207 (255)	203 + 256 (304)	244 + 305 (353)	285 + 354 (402)	326 ÷ 404 (452)
40 + 60 (108) 41 + 62 (110)	81 + 110 (158) 82 + 111 (159)	122 → 159 (207) 123 → 160 (208)	163 + 208 (256) 164 + 209 (257)	204 + 257 (305) 205 + 258 (306)	245 + 306 (354) 246 + 308 (356)	286 + 356 (404) 287 + 357 (405)	327 + 405 (453) 328 + 406 (454)
42 + 63 (111)	83 + 112 (160)	124 + 161 (209)	165 ÷ 210 (258)	206 + 260 (308)	247 ÷ 309 (357)	288 ÷ 358 (406)	329 ÷ 407 (455)
43 + 64 (112)	84 + 113 (161)	125 + 162 (210)	166 + 212 (260)	207 + 261 (309)	248 ÷ 310 (358)	289 ÷ 359 (407)	330 + 408 (456)
44 > 65 (113)	85 + 114 (162)	126 + 164 (212)	167 ÷ 213 (261)	208 + 262 (310)	249 ÷ 311 (359)	290 + 360 (408)	331 + 410 (458)
45 + 66 (114)	86 + 116 (164)	127 + 165 (213)	168 + 214 (262)	209 + 263 (311)	250 + 312 (360)	291 + 362 (410)	332 + 411 (459)
46 + 68 (116)	87 + 117 (165)	128 ÷ 166 (214)	169 + 215 (263)	210 + 264 (312)	251 + 314 (362)	292 + 363 (411)	333 + 412 (460)
47 > 69 (117)	88 + 118 (166)	129 + 167 (215)	170 + 216 (264)	211 + 266 (314)	252 + 315 (363)	293 + 364 (412)	334 + 413 (461)
48 > 70 (118)	89 + 119 (167)	130 + 168 (216)	171 + 218 (266)	212 + 267 (315)	253 + 316 (364)	294 + 365 (413)	335 + 414 (462)
49 > 71 (119)	90 + 120 (168)	131 + 170 (218)	172 + 219 (267)	213 + 268 (316)	254 + 317 (365)	295 + 366 (414)	336 + 416 (464)
50 + 72 (120)	91 + 122 (170)	132 + 171 (219)	173 + 220 (268)	214 + 269 (317)	255 + 318 (366)	296 + 368 (416)	337 + 417 (465)
51 + 74 (122)	92 + 123 (171)	133 + 172 (220)	174 + 221 (269)	215 + 270 (318)	256 + 320 (368)	297 + 369 (417)	338 + 418 (466)
52 > 75 (123)	93 + 124 (172)	134 + 173 (221)	175 + 222 (270)	216 + 272 (320)	257 + 321 (369)	298 + 370 (418)	339 → 419 (467)
53 + 76 (124)	94 + 125 (173)	135 + 174 (222)	176 + 224 (272)	217 + 273 (321)	258 + 322 (370)	299 + 371 (419)	-,,
54+77 (125)	95 + 126 (174)	136 + 176 (224)	177 + 225 (273)	218 + 274 (322)	259 + 323 (371)	300 + 372 (420)	
55 + 78 (126)	96 + 128 (176)	137 + 177 (225)	178 + 226 (274)	219 + 275 (323)	260 + 324 (372)	301 + 374 (422)	

FOR OFFENSE	CLASSES F1	THROUGH I [M	inimum Sente	nce 🔷 Corres	ponding Maxi	mum]
0 - 30	15.27	21.25	27 - 42	22 - 40	20 - 55	45 - 6

3 → 13	9+20	15+27	21+35	27+42	33 + 49	39 → 56	45 → 63
4 → 14	10 → 21	16 → 29	22+36	28 → 43	34 → 50	40 → 57	46 → 65
5 → 15	11+23	17 → 30	23+37	29 → 44	35 → 51	41 → 59	47 → 66
6÷17	12 → 24	18+31	24+38	30 → 45	36 → 53	42 → 60	48 → 67
7 → 18	13 → 25	19 → 32	25+39	31 → 47	37 → 54	43 + 61	49 → 68
8 → 19	14 → 26	20 → 33	26+41	32 → 48	38 → 55	44 > 62	

The original period of probation for a felony sentenced under Structured Sentencing must fall within the following limits:

 Community—12 to 30 months •Intermediate—18 to 36 months

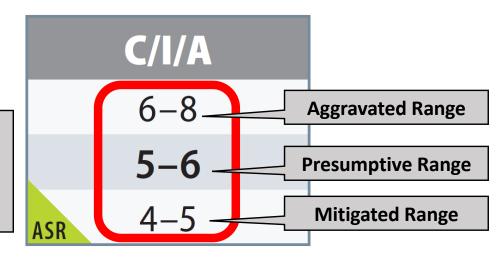
The court may depart from those ranges with a finding that a longer or shorter period is required. The maximum permissible period with a finding is 5 years, G.S. 15A-1343.2.

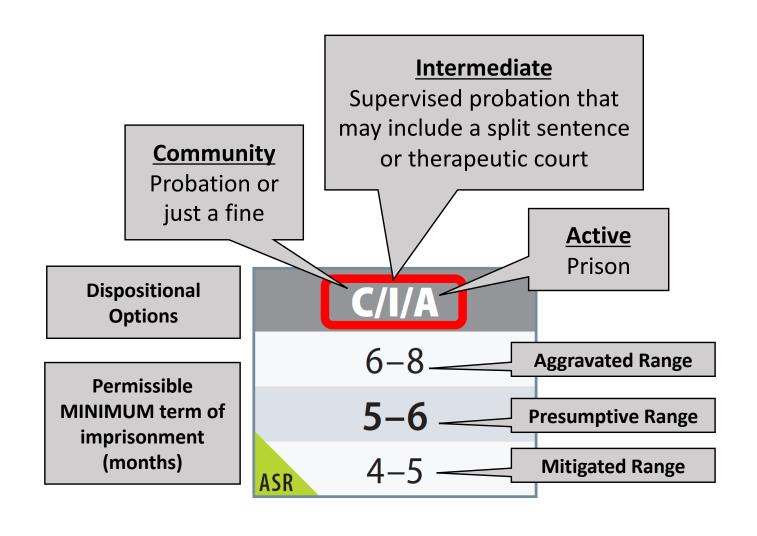
Post-Release Supervision

Class F-1 felony—9 months Class B1–E felony—12 months Crimes requiring sex offender registration—5 years

Any felony sentence may include a fine. Unless otherwise provided for a specific offense, the amount of the fine is in the discretion of the court. G.S. 15A-1340.17(b).

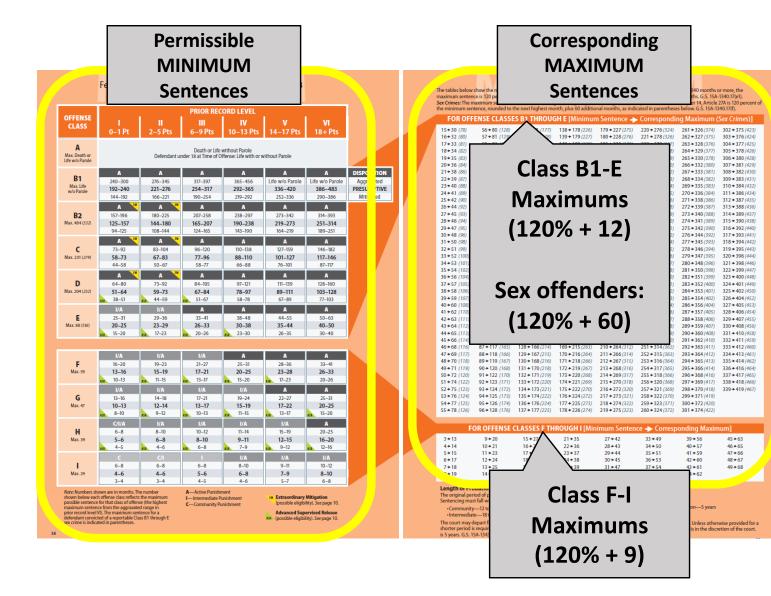
Permissible
MINIMUM term of
imprisonment
(months)





PRIOR RECORD LEVEL OFFENSE CLASS 0-1 Pt 2-5 Pts 6-9 Pts 10-13 Pts 14-17 Pts 144-192 252-336 290-386 166-221 190-254 219-292 **B2** Max. 484 (532) 207-258 273-342 314-393 238-297 125-157 190-238 219-273 251-314 Judge's 83-104 96-120 110-138 127-159 146-182 87-117 discretion 51-64 103-128 44-59 77-103 38-51 58-78 A 20-25 23-29 30-38 35-44 40-50 17-23 20-26 23-30 25-31 28-36 33-41 Mandatory 15-19 10-13 13-17 15-20 20-26 **Non-Active G** Max. 47 10-13 13-17 15-19 20-25 16-20 12-16 4-6 4-6 5-6 6-8 7-9 8-10 3-4 3-4 4-5

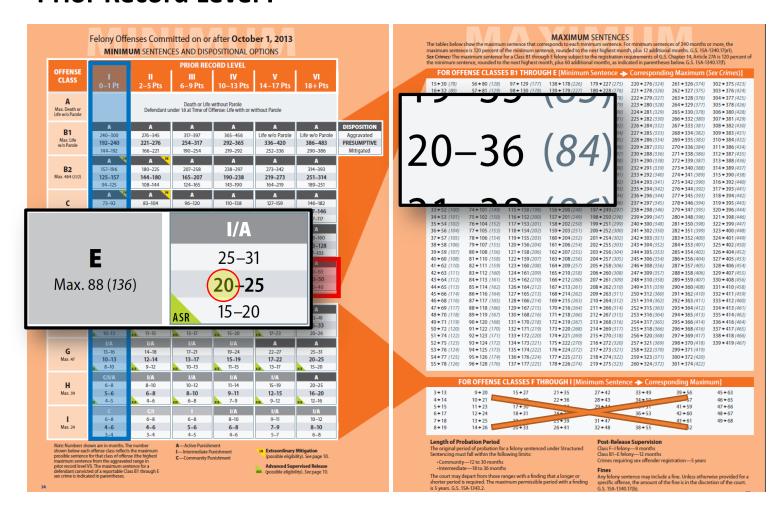
Mandatory Active



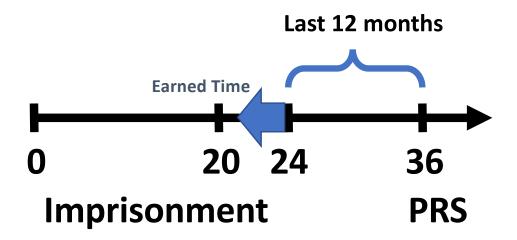
Example

- Discharge Weapon into Occupied Property (Class E)
- Prior Record Level I
- No aggravating or mitigating factors

Discharging a Weapon into Occupied Property Prior Record Level I



Class B1-E Sentence Administration

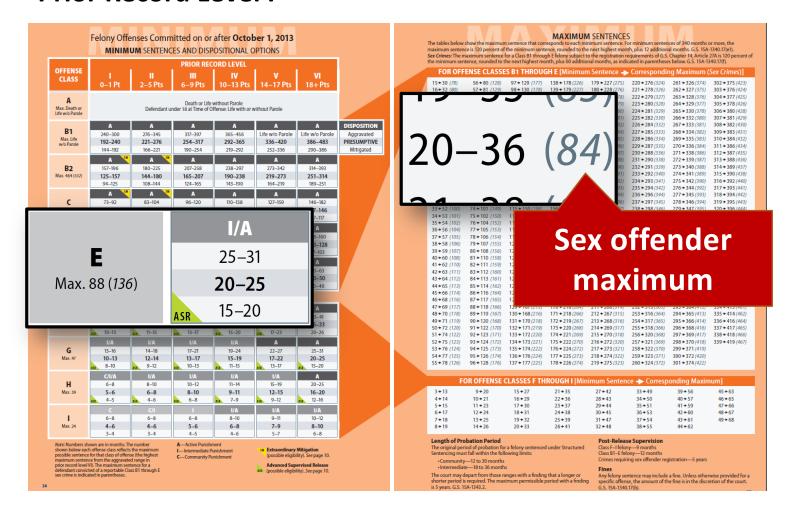


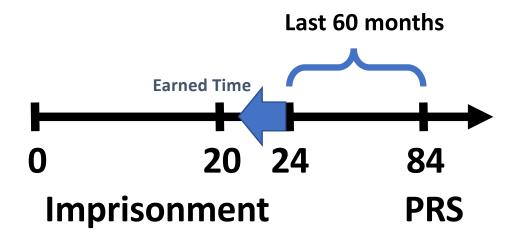
PRS period is 12 months

Example

- Second-degree kidnapping (Class E)
- Victim is 15 years old
- Prior Record Level I
- No aggravating or mitigating factors

Second-Degree Kidnapping Prior Record Level I





PRS period is 5 years

MAXIMUM SENTENCES

The tables below show the maximum sentence that corresponds to each minimum sentence. For minimum sentences of 340 months or m maximum sentence is 120 percent of the minimum sentence, rounded to the next highest month, plus 12 additional months. G.S. 15A-1 Sex Crimes: The maximum sentence for a Class B1 through E felony subject to the registration requirements of G.S. Chapter 14, Article 2 the minimum sentence, rounded to the next highest month, plus 60 additional months, as indicated in parentheses below. G.S. 15A-134

FOR OFF	ENSE CLASSE	S B1 THROUG	H E [Minimun	n Sentence 🔷	Correspondir	ng Maximu
15+30 (78)	56 → 80 (128)	97 +129 (177)	138 → 178 (226)	179 ÷ 227 (275)	220 + 276 (324)	261
16 → 32 (80)	57 → 81 (129)	98 + 130 (178)	139 → 179 (227)	180 → 228 (276)	221 + 278 (326) 1	Ave
17+33 (81)	58 → 82 (130)	99 + 131 (179)	140 ÷ 180 (228)	181 ÷ 230 (278)	222 ÷ 279 (327)	263 + 328 (370)
18 → 34 (82)	59 + 83 (131)	100 → 132 (180)	141 → 182 (230)	182 ÷ 231 (279)	223 + 280 (328)	264 ÷ 329 (377)
19 → 35 (83)	60 +84 (132)	101 → 134 (182)	142 → 183 (231)	183 ÷ 232 (280)	224 + 281 (329)	265 ÷ 330 (378)
20+36 (84)	61 +86 (134)	102 ÷ 135 (183)	143 ÷ 184 (232)	184 ÷ 233 (281)	225 ÷ 282 (330)	266 ÷ 332 (380)
21 + 38 (86)	62 → 87 (135)	103 ÷ 136 (184)	144 + 185 (233)	185 ÷ 234 (282)	226 + 284 (332)	267 ÷ 333 (381)
22 + 39 (87)	63 → 88 (136)	104 → 137 (185)	145 → 186 (234)	186 ÷ 236 (284)	227 ÷ 285 (333)	268 ÷ 334 (382)
23 + 40 (88)	64 + 89 (137)	105 → 138 (186)	146 ÷ 188 (236)	187 ÷ 237 (285)	228 + 286 (334)	269 ÷ 335 (383)
24 + 41 (89)	65 → 90 (138)	106 → 140 (188)	147 → 189 (237)	188 ÷ 238 (286)	229 + 287 (335)	270 + 336 (384)
25 + 42 (90)	66 + 92 (140)	107 → 141 (189)	148 → 190 (238)	189 ÷ 239 (287)	230 + 288 (336)	271 ÷ 338 (386)
26 + 44 (92)	67 +93 (141)	108 → 142 (190)	149 + 191 (239)	190 ÷ 240 (288)	231 + 290 (338)	272 + 339 (387)
27 + 45 (93)	68 + 94 (142)	109 + 143 (191)	150 + 192 (240)	191 ÷ 242 (290)	232 + 291 (339)	273 ÷ 340 (388)

69+95 (143) 110+144 (192) 151+194 (242) 192+243 (291) 233+292 (340) 274+341 (389) 315+390 (438) 70+96 (144) 111+146 (194) 152+195 (243) 193+244 (292) 234+293 (341) 277+342 (390) 316+392 (440) 71+98 (146) 112+147 (195) 153+196 (244) 194+245 (293) 235+294 (342) 276+344 (392) 317+393 (441) 72+99 (147) 113+148 (196) 154+197 (245) 195+246 (294) 236+296 (344) 277+345 (393) 318+394 (442)

73 + 100 (148) 114 + 149 (197) 155 + 198 (246) 196 + 248 (296) 237 + 297 (345) 278 + 346 (394) 319 + 395 (443) 74 + 101 (149) 115 + 150 (198) 156 + 200 (248) 197 + 249 (297) 238 + 298 (346) 279 + 347 (395) 320 + 396 (444) 75 + 102 (150) 116 + 152 (200) 157 + 201 (249) 198 + 250 (298) 239 + 299 (347) 280 + 348 (396) 321 + 398 (446) 76 + 104 (152) 117 + 153 (201) 158 + 202 (250) 199 + 251 (299) 240 + 300 (348) 281 + 350 (398) 322 + 399 (447)

Class B1 – E Sex Crime 120% + 60

Class F – I

Class B1 – E

120% + 12

All felony sex offenders get 5 years of Post-Release Supervision

120% + 9

54 + 77 (125)	95 + 126 (174)	136 ÷ 176 (224)	177 + 225 (273)	218 ÷ 274 (322)	259 ÷ 323 (371)	300 + 372 (420)	
55 → 78 (126)	96 → 128 (176)	137 → 177 (225)	178 → 226 (274)	219 ÷ 275 (323)	260 + 324 (372)	301 ÷ 374 (422)	
F	OR OFFENSE	CLASSES F TH	IROUGH I [Mir	nimum Senten	ce 🔷 Corresp	onding Maxim	
3+13	9+20	15 + 27	21+35	27 → 42	33 → 49	39 → 56	45 + 63
4 + 14	10+21	16 + 29	22+36	28 + 43	34 → 50	40 + 57	46 + 65
5 + 15	11+23	17 +30	23+37	29 → 44	35 + 51	41 + 59	47 + 66
6 → 17	12 → 24	18+31	24 → 38	30 → 45	36 → 53	42 > 60	48 + 67
7 → 18	13 + 25	19 +32	25 + 39	31 + 47	37 → 54	43 + 61	49 + 68
8 + 19	14+26	20+33	26 + 41	32 + 48	38 + 55	44 + 62	

The five years of post-release supervision to which Defendant was subjected, as opposed to the nine months to which he agreed, were a "direct consequence" of his guilty plea, because those additional months had a "definite, immediate and largely automatic effect on the range of the defendant's punishment." . . . Without being aware of the direct consequences of his guilty plea, Defendant cannot be said to have made his plea "voluntarily, intelligently and understandingly." For Defendant's plea to be knowing and voluntary, and thus valid, Defendant must have been made aware of "the actual value of any commitments made to him by the court."

State v. Spry, 2025 WL 395022, at *9 (N.C. Ct. App. Feb. 5, 2025)

Prior Record Level

Prior Record Level

COUNT

- All felonies
- Class 1 and Class A1 non-traffic misdemeanors
- DWI, commercial DWI, and death by vehicle
- Prayer for Judgment (PJC)
- Crimes from other jurisdictions

DON'T COUNT

- Class 2 & 3 misdemeanors
- Traffic misdemeanors (other than DWI, commercial DWI, and death by vehicle)
- Infractions
- Contempt adjudications
- Convictions used to habitualize
- Juvenile adjudications

Count only the most serious conviction from a single calendar week of superior court, or session of district court

Bonus Points

- Under supervision: State must give 30-day written notice of its intent to prove this point (unless the defendant waives notice)
- Same elements: Defendant cannot validly stipulate to this point; question of law

Out-of-State Convictions

- By default:
 - Prior out-of-state felonies: Class I (2 points)
 - Prior out-of-state misdemeanors: Class 3 (0 points)
- With "substantial similarity" determination:
 - Count like the similar North Carolina offense
 - Proponent must prove by preponderance of evidence
- Court must make findings; stipulations ineffective

	LEVEL F	18 + VI			
	The Court has determined the number of prior convictions to be and the level to be as shown above. In making this determination, the Court has relied upon the State's evidence of the defendant's prior convictions from a computer printout of DCI-CCH.	 The Court finds the prior convictions, prior record points and the prior record level of the defendant to be as shown herein. In making this determination, the Court has relied upon the State's evidence of the defendant's prior convictions from a computer printout of DCI-CCH. In finding a prior record level point under G.S. 15A-1340.14(b)(7), the Court has relied on the jury's determination of this issue beyond a reasonable doubt or the defendant's admission to this issue. 			
	The Court finds that all of the elements of the present offense are included	ed in a prior offense.			
	For each out-of-state conviction listed in Section V on the reverse, the Constitute of a North Carolina offense and that the North Carolina classification	burt finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the offense is substantially ion assigned to this offense in Section ${\rm V}$ is correct.			
	The C that the State and the defendant have stipulated in open of	court to the prior convictions, points, and record level.			
	Date Of Presiding Judge (type or print)	Signature Of Presiding Judge			
ŀ					
	AOC-CR-600B, Rev. 2/2	Over)			
I	ACC-CIT-000B, INEV. 2/21				

For each out-of-state conviction...the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the offense is substantially similar to a North Carolina offense and that ...classification assigned to this offense in Section V is correct.

Substantial Similarity

- State v. Fuller, 914 S.E.2d 36 (2025)
 - Virginia identity theft NOT substantially similar to NC offense because can be committed using the identity of a fictitious person
- State v. Davis, 226 N.C. App. 96 (2013)
 - Georgia theft not substantially similar because no intent to permanently deprive

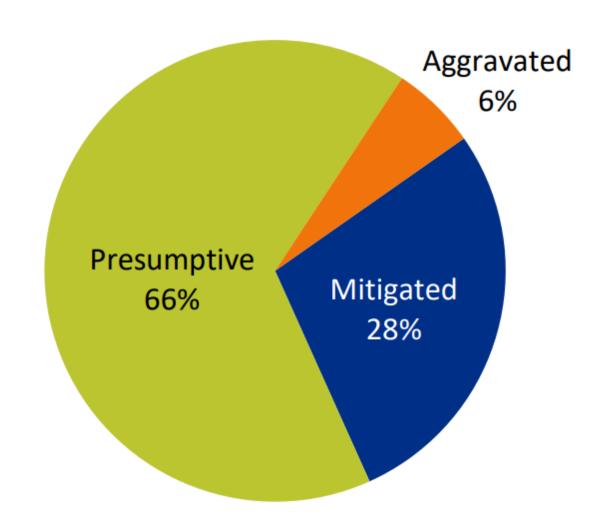
Aggravating Factors



	C/I/A	
	6-8	
	5-6	
ASR	4–5	

D Max. 204 (*252*)

	A	EM
	64-80	
	51-64	
ASR	38-51	



Aggravating Factors: Procedure

- State must give 30-day notice of intent to prove
 - Statutory aggravators need not be pled
 - Non-statutory aggravators must be pled
- Aggravating factors must be proved to jury beyond a reasonable doubt (or pled to)
- Prohibited aggravating factors
 - Evidence necessary to prove an element
 - Same item of evidence may not be used to prove more than one aggravating factor
 - Exercise of right to jury trial cannot be an aggravator

Weighing Factors

- A matter of judicial discretion
- Not a mathematical balance
- Presumptive range always permissible after consideration of offered factors



Extraordinary Mitigation

Extraordinary Mitigation

 Allows an Intermediate sentence in certain "A"-only cells of the sentencing grid based on the presence of extraordinary factor(s)

PRIOR RECORD LEVEL OFFENSE CLASS 0-1 Pt 2-5 Pts 6-9 Pts 10-13 Pts 14-17 Pts 144-192 190-254 252-336 290-386 166-221 219-292 **B2** Max. 484 (532) 207-258 273-342 314-393 238-297 125-157 144-180 190-238 219-273 251-314 Judge's 83-104 96-120 110-138 127-159 146-182 117-146 87-117 discretion 51-64 103-128 44-59 77-103 38-51 58-78 A 20-25 23-29 30-38 35-44 40-50 17-23 20-26 23-30 26-35 25-31 28-36 33-41 Mandatory 10-13 15-20 20-26 **Non-Active G** Max. 47 10-13 12-14 13-17 15-19 20-25 16-20 12-16 4-6 4-6 5-6 6-8 7-9 8-10 3-4 3-4 4-5

Mandatory Active

Extraordinary Mitigation

- Exclusions
 - Cannot use with Class A or Class B1 felony
 - Cannot use for drug trafficking/conspiracy
 - Must have fewer than 5 prior record points

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EM

Grid cells in which EM might be possible are flagged with this symbol.

			PRIOR REC	ORD LEVEL		
OFFENSE CLASS	I 0−1 Pt	II 2–5 Pts	III 6–9 Pts	IV 10–13 Pts	V 14–17 Pts	VI 18+Pts
A Max. Death or Life w/o Parole		Defendant u		without Parole Iffense: Life with or w	rithout Parole	
	A	A	A	A	A	A
B1	240-300	276-345	317-397	365-456	Life w/o Parole	Life w/o Parol
Max. Life w/o Parole	192-240	221-276	254-317	292-365	336-420	386-483
Wording	144-192	166-221	190-254	219-292	252-336	290-386
	A EM	A EM	A	A	A	A
B2	157–196	180-225	207–258	238-297	273-342	314-393
Max. 484 (532)	125-157	144-180	165-207	190-238	219-273	251-314
	94-125	108-144	124-165	143-190	164-219	189-251
	A EM	A EM	Α	A	Α	A
С	73–92	83-104	96–120	110-138	127–159	146-182
Max. 231 (279)	58-73	67–83	77–96	88-110	101–127	117-146
	44–58	50-67	58-77	66-88	76–101	87–117
	A EM	A EM	А	A	Α	A
D	64–80	73–92	84–105	97–121	111–139	128-160
Max. 204 (252)	51–64	59-73	67–84	78–97	89-111	103-100
Max. 204 (232)	38-51	39-73	67-64 51-67	58-78	67-89	77-103
	mun.	NA.	AJR.			
-	I/A	I/A	A	A	A	A
E	25-31	29-36	33-41	38-48	44-55	50-63
Max. 88 (136)	20–25 15–20	23–29 17–23	26-33 20-26	30–38 23–30	35-44 26-35	40-50 30-40
	ASR 15-20	ASR 17-23	ASR 20-20	ASR 23-30	20-35	30-40
_	I/A	I/A	I/A	A	Α	A
F Max. 59	16-20	19-23	21–27	25-31	28-36	33-41
Max. 59	13-16 10-13	15–19 11–15	17–21 13–17	20-25 15-20	23–28 17–23	26-33 20-26
	NATE OF THE PARTY	NAME .	- All	NA.	N.M.	
_	I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	A	A
G	13–16	14-18	17-21	19–24	22–27	25-31
Max. 47	10-13 8-10	12-14 9-12	13-17 10-13	15-19 11-15	17-22 13-17	20-25 15-20
	ASK	ASE	A3K	ASE	ASK	ASE
	C/I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	A
H Max. 39	6-8	8–10	10-12	11–14	15–19	20-25
	5–6	6–8	8–10	9–11	12–15	16-20
	ASR 4-5	ASR 4-6	ASR 6-8	ASR 7–9	ASR 9-12	ASR 12-16
	C	C/I	1	I/A	I/A	I/A
- 1	6-8	6-8	6-8	8–10	9–11	10-12
Max. 24	4–6	4–6	5–6	6–8	7–9	8-10
	3-4	3-4	4-5	4-6	5-7	6-8

Extraordinary Mitigation

- Permissible when court finds:
 - Extraordinary mitigating factors of a kind significantly greater than in the normal case;
 - Those factors substantially outweigh any factors in aggravation; and
 - It would be a manifest injustice to impose an active punishment in the case

Extraordinary Mitigation

- Court must find extraordinary mitigating factors "significantly greater than in the normal case"
 - Quality, not quantity, makes mitigation extraordinary
 - Cannot be an ordinary mitigating factor

Example

- 18-year-old defendant has intercourse with a 13-year-old victim
- No prior record



A	EM
73–92	
58-73	
44–58	

Advanced Supervised Release (ASR)

Advanced Supervised Release

- Allows early release from prison to post-release supervision for inmates who complete "risk reduction incentives" in prison
- Used 148 times in 2024

ASR Eligibility

- Only certain grid cells
- Only Active sentences
- Only if court ordered
- Never over prosecutor objection



OFFENSE	PRIOR RECORD LEVEL							
CLASS	1.0	II II	III	IV	V	VI		
	0–1 Pt	2-5 Pts	6-9 Pts	10-13 Pts	14–17 Pts	18+ Pts		
Α	Death or Life without Parole							
Max. Death or Life w/o Parole	Defendant under 18 at Time of Offense: Life with or without Parole							
	A	A	A	A	A	A		
B1	240-300	276-345	317-397	365-456	Life w/o Parole	Life w/o Paro		
Max. Life w/o Parole	192-240	221-276	254-317	292-365	336-420	386-483		
	144-192	166-221	190-254	219-292	252-336	290-386		
	A E	A EM	A	A	A	A		
B2	157-196	180-225	207-258	238-297	273-342	314-393		
Max. 484 (532)	125-157	144-180	165-207	190-238	219-273	251-314		
	94-125	108-144	124-165	143-190	164-219	189-251		
	A	A EW	A	A	A	A		
c	73-92	83-104	96-120	110-138	127-159	146-182		
Max. 231 (279)	58-73	67-83	77-96	88-110	101-127	117-146		
	44-58	50-67	58-77	66-88	76-101	87-117		
	A	A	A	A	Α	A		
D	64-80	73-92	84-105	97-121	111-139	128-160		
Max. 204 (252)	51-64	59-73	67-84	78-97	89-111	103-128		
	38-51	44-59	51-67	58-78	67-89	77-103		
	I/A	I/A	A	A	Α	A		
E	25-31	29-36	33-41	38-48	44-55	50-63		
Max. 88 (136)	20-25	23-29	26-33	30-38	35-44	40-50		
	ASR 15-20	ASR 17-23	ase 20-26	ASR 23-30	26-35	30-40		
	I/A	I/A	I/A	A	Α	A		
F	16-20	19-23	21-27	25-31	28-36	33-41		
Max. 59	13-16	15-19	17-21	20-25	23-28	26-33		
	ASR 10-13	ASR 11-15	asr 13-17	ASR 15-20	ASR 17-23	20-26		
G	I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	A	A		
	13-16	14-18	17-21	19-24	22-27	25-31		
Max. 47	10-13	12-14	13-17	15-19	17-22	20-25		
	ASR 8-10	ASR 9-12	10-13	ASR 11-15	13-17	ASR 15-20		
	C/I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	I/A	A		
н	6-8	8-10	10-12	11-14	15-19	20-25		
Max. 39	5–6	6-8	8-10	9-11	12-15	16-20		
	ASR 4-5	4-6	6-8	ASR 7-9	9-12	ASR 12-16		
Max. 24	С	C/I	ı	I/A	I/A	I/A		
	6-8	6-8	6-8	8-10	9-11	10-12		
	4-6	4-6	5-6	6-8	7-9	8-10		
	3-4	3-4	4-5	4-6	5-7	6-8		

ASR Eligibility

Inmates Receiving ASR Sentences



ASR Process & Date

- Court imposes regular sentence
- ASR date flows from regular sentence
 - If presumptive or aggravated,
 ASR date is lowest possible
 mitigated minimum sentence in the grid cell
 - If mitigated, ASR date is 80% of imposed minimum

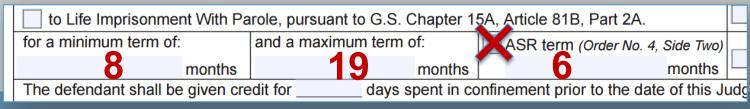
Any presumptive or aggravated sentence:

Mitigated example: 4-14 month sentence ASR date: 3.2 months

Example

- Obtaining property by false pretenses
- Prior Record Level III
- Regular sentence is presumptive, 8-19 months

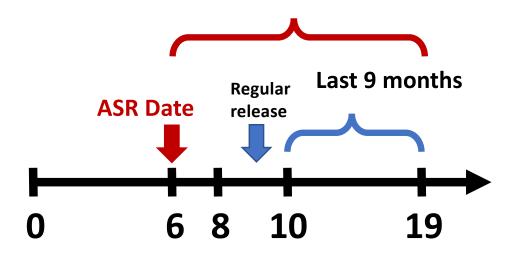




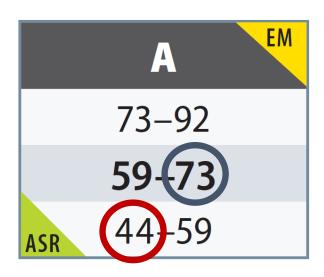
Regular sentence: 8-19 months

ASR date: 6 months

Last 13 months



ASR Date (Class D, Level II)



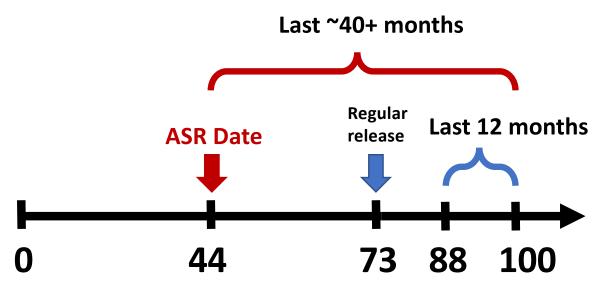
Regular sentence: 73-100 months

Regular release: ~73 months

ASR: 44 months

Regular sentence: 73-100 months

ASR date: 44 months





Institutions / Policies and Procedures / Chapter C - Classification

C.2600 - Advanced Supervised Release

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Division of Institutions Policy and Procedure Chapter: (

Section: .2600

Title: Advanced Supervised Release

Issue Date: May 1, 2023

Supersedes: July 10, 2018

PURPOSE

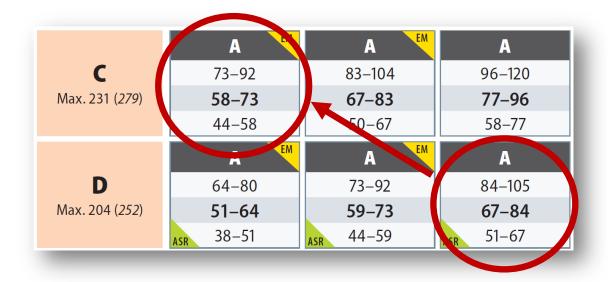
Advanced Supervised Release (hereafter referred to as ASR term) is a program developed and initiated as part of the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2011 and established by NCGS 15A-1340.18. The program allows sentenced offenders in certain felony classes to serve a term lower than their courtimposed sentence required by statute (hereafter referred to as non-ASR term) if agreed upon by appropriate parties prior to the offenders' admission to the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (DAC). To justify the early release the offender will be required, while incarcerated, to participate in certain risk-reduction programs and maintain a defined level of positive behavior in

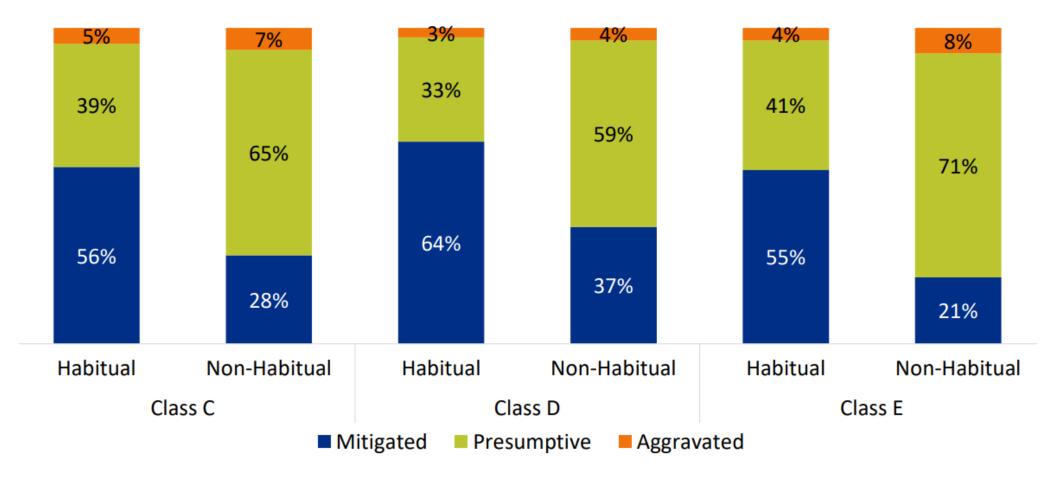
B. Offenders admitted to Institutions to serve ASR terms may or may not have received specific court recommendations for certain programs as a part of their ASR program participation. If the sentencing court has made specific recommendations for program participation, these recommendations will be evaluated by Diagnostic Center staff to determine if it will be necessary, appropriate, and possible for the offender to participate in said programs. From this information and in conjunction with the Case for score of the offender, the initial custody classification action will be generated, and appriate recommendations for custody, assigned unit and program participation will be made by the assigned Diagnostic Case Analyst. In addition to this initial custody classification action, the Diagnostic Case Analyst will document that the offender has an ASR sentence using OPUS Online/OPUS Sig Issue/Case Mgt. Notes screen using code "71" for "ASR Notes".

Habitual Felon

Habitual Felon

- Prior convictions used to habitualize do not count toward prior record level
 - State may choose which convictions to allege





Drug Trafficking

Drug Trafficking Sentencing (G.S. 90-95(h))

Drug trafficking is not sentenced using the regular Structured Sentencing grid. Instead, a person convicted of drug trafficking must be sentenced as set out below, including the mandatory fine, regardless of his or her prior criminal record.

Offense Class and Minimum Fines for Drug Trafficking						
Drug	Amount	Class	Fine (not less than)			
	In excess of 10 lbs.–49 lbs.	Н	\$ 5,000			
Marijuana	50-1,999 lbs.	G	\$ 25,000			
Marijuaria	2,000-9,999	F	\$ 50,000			
	10,000 or more	D	\$200,000			
	1,000-4,999 dosage units	G	\$ 25,000			
Methaqualone	5,000-9,999	F	\$ 50,000			
	10,000 or more	D	\$200,000			
	28-199 grams	G	\$ 50,000			
Cocaine	200-399	F	\$100,000			
	400 or more	D	\$250,000			
	28-199 grams	F	\$ 50,000			
Methamphetamine	200–399	E	\$100,000			
	400 or more	С	\$250,000			
	28-199 grams	Н	\$ 5,000			
Amphetamine	200–399	G	\$ 25,000			
-	400 or more	E	\$100,000			
	4-13 grams	F	\$ 50,000			
Opium, Opiate, Opioid, or Heroin*	14–27	Е	\$100,000			
or neroin"	28 or more	С	\$500,000			
	100-499 units	G	\$ 25,000			
LSD	500–999	F	\$ 50,000			
	1,000 or more	D	\$200,000			
	100–499 units/28–199 grams	G	\$ 25,000			
MDA/MDMA	500–999 units/200–399 grams	F	\$ 50,000			
	1,000 units/400 grams or more	D	\$250,000			
	28–199 grams	F	\$ 50,000			
Substituted Cathinones*		F	\$100,000			
	400 or more	C	\$250,000			
	In excess of 50–249 dosage units**	Н	\$ 5,000			
	250–1,249	G	\$ 25,000			
Synthetic Cannabinoids	1,250–3,749	F	\$ 50,000			
	3,750 or more	D	\$200,000			
	3,750 of filote		Q200,000			

Minimum-Maximum Sentences for Drug Trafficking Crimes, by Offense Class								
	Offense Committed	On/After 12/1/2012	Offense Committed Before 12/1/2012					
Class	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum				
Class C	225 mos.	282	225 mos.	279				
Class D	175	222	175	219				
Class E	90	120	90	117				
Class F	70	93	70	84				
Class G	35	51	35	42				
Class H	25	39	25	30				

Drug Trafficking

- Substantial assistance
- Attempted trafficking
- First Step Act

Substantial Assistance

- Drug trafficking only
- "Substantial assistance in the identification, arrest, or conviction of any accomplices, accessories, co-conspirators, or principals."
 - Not limited to accomplices, etc., in this case
- Judge has discretion to give reduced sentence, reduced fine, or probation

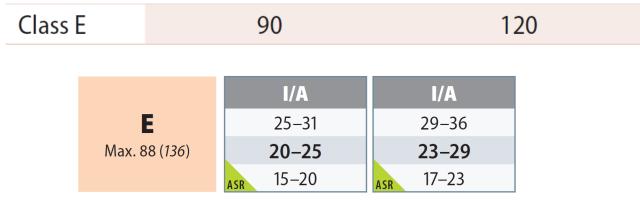
Substantial Assistance

2024

638 trafficking convictions
64 probationary sentences
Many reduced active
sentences

Attempted Trafficking

Reverts to regular sentencing grid for that class of offense



No mandatory fine

First Step Act

- Applicable only to Trafficking by Possession of Lowest Drug Amount
- Allows departure from mandatory sentence if defendant meets 11 conditions, including:
 - No prior felony drug convictions
 - No violence or weapons used in the commission of offense
 - Admission to substance abuse disorder
 - Reasonable assistance in identifying accomplices
- Sentenced according to regular sentencing grid

Consecutive Sentences

- "Sentences imposed under this section shall run consecutively with and shall commence at the expiration of any sentence being served by the person sentenced under this section."
 - Habitual felon
 - Habitual DWI
 - Habitual B/E
 - Drug trafficking
 - Malicious conduct by prisoner
- Always interpreted to allow consolidated or concurrent sentences for convictions sentenced together

Consecutive Sentences

REMOVE CONCURRENT SENTENCING DEFAULT

SECTION 19.(a) G.S. 15A-1354(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Authority of Court. – When multiple sentences of imprisonment are imposed on a person at the same time or when a term of imprisonment is imposed on a person who is already subject to an undischarged term of imprisonment, including a term of imprisonment in another jurisdiction, the sentences may run either concurrently or consecutively, as determined by the court. If not specified or not required by statute to run consecutively, sentences shall run concurrently. The court shall make a finding on the record stating the reasoning for the determination of the court."

SECTION 19.(b) This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Consecutive Sentences

- G.S. 15A-1340.15(a): "Unless otherwise specified by the court, all sentences of imprisonment run concurrently with any other sentences of imprisonment."
- G.S. 15A-1346: "If a period of probation is being imposed at the same time a
 period of imprisonment is being imposed or if it is being imposed on a person
 already subject to an undischarged term of imprisonment, the period of
 probation may run either concurrently or consecutively with the term of
 imprisonment, as determined by the court. If not specified, it runs
 concurrently."
- G.S. 15A-1344(d): "A sentence activated upon revocation of probation commences on the day probation is revoked and runs concurrently with any other period of probation, parole, or imprisonment . . . unless the revoking judge specifies that it is to run consecutively with the other period."

