Table 25

REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR DOWNWARD
DEPARTURES FROM THE GUIDELINE RANGE[1]
Fiscal Year 2014

REASONS	N	%
Criminal history issues	1,153	32.6
General mitigating circumstances (§5K2.0)	541	15.3
Family ties and responsibilities (§5H1.6)	269	7.6
Criminal history issues in application of §2L1.2	176	5.0
Mental and emotional conditions (§5H1.3)	128	3.6
Age (§5H1.1)	124	3.5
Physical condition (§5H1.4)	121	3.4
Cultural assimilation	97	2.7
Aberrant behavior (§5K2.20)	86	2.4
Previous employment record (§5H1.5)	51	1.4
Party motion/agreement/consent (reason unspecified)	51	1.4
Rehabilitation	48	1.4
Time served/U.S. v. Barrera-Saucedo	35	1.0
Coercion and duress (§5K2.12)	34	1.0
Role in the offense	34	1.0
Military record/charitable works/good deeds (§5H1.11)	34	1.0
Not representative of the heartland	32	0.9
Low likelihood of recidivism/not a risk to community	30	0.8
Diminished capacity (§5K2.13)	28	0.8
Educational and vocational skills (§5H1.2)	27	0.8
Drug dependence/alcohol abuse (§5H1.4)	27	0.8
Discharged terms of imprisonment (§5K2.23)	27	0.8
Cooperation without motion (not §5K1.1)	23	0.6
First immigration offense	21	0.6
General guideline adequacy issues	21	0.6
Lack of youthful guidance/tragic or troubled childhood	18	0.5
Totality of circumstances/combination of factors	15	0.4
Mitigating factors regarding illegal entry	15	0.4
Insufficient documentation provided on SOR to determine reason	15	0.4
Convictions on related counts (§5G1.3)	15	0.4
Offense level overstates offense seriousness (§2B1.1)	14	0.4
Other	229	6.5
TOTAL	**3,539**	**100.0**

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[1] Of the 75,836 cases, 1,757 received a downward departure from the guideline range. Courts may cite multiple reasons for sentencing outside the guideline range; consequently, the total number of reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 3,539 reasons were cited for the 1,757 cases. In 15 cases where the SOR was received, there was insufficient documentation provided to determine some of the reasons for the sentence. The "Other" category includes all reasons cited fewer than 14 times among relevant cases. Descriptions of the variables used in this table are provided in Appendix A.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, 2014 Datafile, USSCFY14.