

**Table 25A**

**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR DOWNWARD  
DEPARTURES WITH *BOOKER* /18 U.S.C. § 3553<sup>1</sup>  
Fiscal Year 2015**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Nature and circumstance of offense/history of defendant	404	13.3
Criminal history issues	383	12.6
Reflect seriousness of offense/promotes respect for law/just punishment	259	8.5
Afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct	195	6.4
Avoid unwarranted sentencing disparity among defendants	140	4.6
Family ties and responsibilities (§5H1.6)	135	4.4
Protect public from further crimes	103	3.4
General mitigating circumstances (§5K2.0)	90	3.0
Provide defendant with educational or vocational training/medical care	82	2.7
Age (§5H1.1)	78	2.6
18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)	77	2.5
Insufficient documentation provided on SOR to determine reason	70	2.3
Mental and emotional conditions (§5H1.3)	68	2.2
Physical condition (§5H1.4)	68	2.2
Previous employment record (§5H1.5)	59	1.9
Rehabilitation	40	1.3
Role in the offense	38	1.3
Party motion/agreement/consent (reason unspecified)	38	1.3
Reduce disparity	33	1.1
Drug dependence/alcohol abuse (§5H1.4)	30	1.0
Aberrant behavior (§5K2.20)	30	1.0
Low likelihood of recidivism/not a risk to community	30	1.0
Lack of youthful guidance/tragic or troubled childhood	28	0.9
Cooperation without motion (not §5K1.1)	27	0.9
Provide restitution to any victims	25	0.8
Time served/U.S. v. Barrera-Saucedo	25	0.8
Discharged terms of imprisonment (§5K2.23)	23	0.8
Conduct on release/bond/supervision	21	0.7
Military record/charitable works/good deeds (§5H1.11)	21	0.7
Acceptance of responsibility	20	0.7
Remorse	18	0.6
Early implementation of Amendment 782 to drug guidelines	18	0.6
Cultural assimilation	17	0.6
Other	347	11.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Of the 71,003 cases, 583 received a downward departure from the guideline range with *Booker*/18 U.S.C. § 3553. 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, 3,040 reasons were cited for the 583 cases. In 70 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 16 times among relevant cases. Descriptions of the variables used in this table are provided in Appendix A.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, 2015 Datafile, USSCFY15.