

Table 25A

**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR DOWNWARD
DEPARTURES WITH *BOOKER* /18 U.S.C. § 3553¹
Fiscal Year 2017**

REASONS	N	%
Criminal history issues	312	11.6
The history and characteristics of the defendant pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1)	210	7.8
Reflect seriousness of offense/promotes respect for law/just punishment	158	5.9
Family ties and responsibilities (§5H1.6)	142	5.3
The nature and circumstance of the offense pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1)	130	4.8
Afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct	122	4.5
Age (§5H1.1)	104	3.9
Avoid unwarranted sentencing disparity	101	3.8
Mental and emotional conditions	94	3.5
Insufficient documentation provided on SOR to determine reason	82	3.0
Physical condition (§5H1.4)	73	2.7
General mitigating circumstances (§5K2.0)	66	2.5
Role in the offense	65	2.4
Protect public from further crimes	63	2.3
Acceptance of responsibility	57	2.1
Previous employment record (§5H1.5)	48	1.8
Drug dependence/alcohol abuse (§5H1.4)	47	1.7
Nonviolent offense/offender	46	1.7
Remorse	46	1.7
Lack of youthful guidance/tragic or troubled childhood	41	1.5
Aberrant behavior (§5K2.20)	34	1.3
Provide educational or vocational training	34	1.3
Pre-sentence rehabilitation	32	1.2
Provide correctional treatment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(D)	31	1.2
18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)	29	1.1
Party motion/agreement/consent (reason unspecified)	26	1.0
Provide medical care	25	0.9
Community ties (§5H1.6)	24	0.9
Discharged terms of imprisonment (§5K2.23)	19	0.7
Rehabilitation	19	0.7
Time served/U.S. v. Barrera-Saucedo	18	0.7
Diminished capacity (§5K2.13)	17	0.6
Military record	16	0.6
Other	360	13.4
TOTAL	2,691	100.0

¹ Of the 66,873 cases, 421 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, 2,691 reasons were cited for the 421 cases. In 82 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, 2017 Datafile, USSCFY17.