

Table 43

**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR
DOWNWARD DEPARTURES FROM THE GUIDELINE RANGE¹
Fiscal Year 2025**

REASONS	N	%
Substantial assistance with government motion (§5K1.1)	5,423	14.3
Early disposition program (EDP) (§5K3.1)	4,059	10.7
The history and characteristics of the defendant	3,192	8.4
Family ties and responsibilities (§5H1.6)	1,729	4.5
Reflect seriousness of offense/promotes respect for law/just punishment	1,593	4.2
The nature and circumstances of the offense	1,391	3.7
Afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct	1,379	3.6
Criminal history issues	1,342	3.5
Age (§5H1.1)	1,160	3.0
Avoid unwarranted sentencing disparity	1,091	2.9
Remorse	990	2.6
Protect public from further crimes	929	2.4
Drug dependence and alcohol abuse (§5H1.4)	911	2.4
Rehabilitation	890	2.3
General mitigating circumstances (§5K2.0)	839	2.2
Acceptance of responsibility	806	2.1
Previous employment record (§5H1.5)	787	2.1
Mental and emotional conditions	728	1.9
Lack of youthful guidance/tragic or troubled childhood	699	1.8
Role in the offense	560	1.5
Pursuant to plea agreement	555	1.5
Conduct while on release, bond, or supervision	513	1.3
Waiver of appeal	507	1.3
Physical condition (§5H1.4)	469	1.2
Aberrant behavior (§5K2.20)	415	1.1
Nonviolent offense	392	1.0
Provide correctional treatment	280	0.7
Community ties (§5H1.6)	250	0.7
Early plea	235	0.6
Provide educational or vocational training	222	0.6
Waiver of indictment	206	0.5
Other	3,495	9.2
TOTAL	38,037	100.0

¹ Of the 66,662 cases, in 11,231 the sentence was 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, 38,037 reasons were cited for the 11,231 cases. The 'Other' category includes all reasons cited fewer than 175 times among relevant cases and 248 cases where the Statement of Reasons was received, but there was insufficient documentation provided to determine some of the reasons for the sentence. Descriptions of the variables used in this table are provided in Appendix A.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, 2025 Datafile, USSCFY25.