

Table 44

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

REASONS	N	%
The history and characteristics of the defendant	11,973	12.0
Reflect seriousness of offense/promotes respect for law/just punishment	8,176	8.2
Afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct	7,088	7.1
The nature and circumstances of the offense	6,539	6.6
Protect public from further crimes	4,995	5.0
Avoid unwarranted sentencing disparity	4,436	4.4
Family ties and responsibilities (§5H1.6)	4,414	4.4
Criminal history issues	4,035	4.0
Age (§5H1.1)	3,298	3.3
Acceptance of responsibility	3,142	3.2
Drug dependence and alcohol abuse (§5H1.4)	2,963	3.0
Remorse	2,743	2.8
Mental and emotional conditions	2,696	2.7
Lack of youthful guidance/tragic or troubled childhood	2,587	2.6
Rehabilitation	2,242	2.2
Previous employment record (§5H1.5)	2,201	2.2
Role in the offense	2,049	2.1
Provide correctional treatment	1,548	1.6
Conduct while on release, bond, or supervision	1,437	1.4
Nonviolent offense	1,391	1.4
Provide educational or vocational training	1,278	1.3
General mitigating circumstances (§5K2.0)	1,248	1.3
Physical condition (§5H1.4)	1,168	1.2
Community ties (§5H1.6)	971	1.0
Waiver of appeal	946	0.9
Pursuant to plea agreement	896	0.9
Early plea	883	0.9
Provide medical care	817	0.8
Provide restitution to any victims	761	0.8
Cooperation without motion (not §5K1.1)	708	0.7
Aberrant behavior (§5K2.20)	695	0.7
Charitable service/good works	501	0.5
Time served/ <i>U.S. v. Barrera-Saucedo</i>	481	0.5
Other	8,418	8.4
TOTAL	99,724	100.0

¹ Of the 66,662 cases, in 17,687 the sentence was a variance below 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, 99,724 reasons were cited for the 17,687 cases. The 'Other' category includes all reasons cited fewer than 480 times among relevant cases and 1,014 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.