

**APPENDIX E: THE DIFFERENT PLEAS**

The definitions of the pleas and terms in this chart are taken from the Maryland Courts “Glossary of Court Terms” website, available at <https://mdcourts.gov/reference/glossary>.

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RESULT</b>
<b>ALFORD PLEA</b>	A special type of guilty plea by which the defendant does not admit guilt but concedes that the State has sufficient evidence to convict; normally made to avoid the threat of greater punishment.	Accepting or agreeing to this plea is treated as conviction.
<b>GUILTY</b>	The word used by an accused in pleading to the charges when he confesses to committing the crime of which he is charged. It is also used by the judge if he finds that the accused committed a criminal offense or a traffic infraction.	Accepting or agreeing to this plea is treated as conviction.
<b>INSANITY PLEA</b>	A claim that the defendant lacks the soundness of mind required by law to accept responsibility for a criminal act.	Accepting or agreeing to this plea is treated as a conviction.
<b>NOLO CONTENDERE</b>	Latin term meaning “I will not contest it.” The name of a plea in a criminal action having the same legal effect as a plea of guilty so far as regards all proceedings in the case and on which the defendant may be sentenced.	Accepting or agreeing to this plea is treated as a conviction.
<b>NOT GUILTY</b>	A plea refusing responsibility for or innocence of a charge.	Accepting or agreeing to this plea is equivalent to acquittal; however, this is typically only offered in exchange for conviction on a different charge.
<b>NOTABLE TERMS: THESE ARE NOT “PLEAS” THAT A PERSON CAN MAKE IN RESPONSE TO A CRIMINAL CHARGE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND.</b>		
<b>PROBATION BEFORE JUDGMENT (PBJ)</b>	A conditional avoidance of imposition of sentence after conviction; failure to satisfy the terms and conditions may cause imposition of sentence after a finding of violation of probation.	While this may change a sentence, a PBJ is still treated as a conviction.
<b>EXPUNGEMENT</b>	The effective removal of police and/or court record from public inspection.	After a conviction, some lesser offenses may be eligible for the purge of court and police records, which removes the history of the conviction.
<b>ACQUITTAL</b>	The finding of a judge that the evidence is insufficient to support a conviction, or a verdict that the accused is not guilty.	This is the court result equivalent to “innocence” of a charge, but the charge may remain publicly visible.
<b>NOLLE PROSEQUI (“NOL PROS”)</b>	Latin phrase meaning “to be unwilling to proceed.” A formal motion in a case by the prosecutor,	This result is <b>not</b> treated as conviction.

## APPENDIX E: THE DIFFERENT PLEAS

<b>STET</b>	indicating that the charges will not be prosecuted. Latin meaning “to stand.” A conditional stay of all further proceedings in a case. On motion of the prosecutor, the court may indefinitely postpone trial of a charge by marking the charge “stet” on the docket.	This result is <b>not</b> treated as conviction, but prosecutors may reactive the charges within a certain time period.
-------------	--	---