

TCDLA Lingo in the Criminal Defense World

<i>Terms of Plea or Probation Related</i>	
<i>PSI/PSR</i>	Pre-sentence Investigation or Report. This is a report compiled by the probation department based on information provided both by you client and the court. The content of the report varies by county, but often consists of a risk assessment, substance abuse assessment, and the terms of probation recommended by the department.
<i>PTI/PTD</i>	Pre-trial Intervention Program or Pre-trial Diversion. Most counties have some version of this program in place for qualifying accused. It is a program that allows an accused to enter into a contract with the County or District Attorney's office to resolve the case outside of court through a program similar to probation. The details of what is required of the program is set by the county, but successful completion results in a dismissal that, when not waived, would allow an expunction.
<i>Terms for dismissal</i>	An offer from the prosecutor that requires certain conditions to be completed by the accused in exchange for a dismissal of the charge(s).
<i>IID/IIL</i>	Ignition interlock device. Device installed on an accused's vehicle to monitor their BAC.
<i>Shock time</i>	Also known as shock probation. When a Judge sentences an accused to prison or jail, then returns the accused before the court within 180 days and places them on probation.
<i>SAFP</i>	Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility. An in-patient rehabilitation program run by TDCJ. Defendants will be held in custody while waiting an empty bed when sentenced to SAFP.
<i>ISF</i>	Intermediate Sanctions Facility. An in-custody treatment rehabilitation facility.
<i>BIPP</i>	Batterers intervention and Prevention Program. A class provided by TDCJ that is often a requirement of probation for DV cases. The course is approximately 40 hours of training and requires that the defendant admit guilt as part of the program.
<i>DOEP</i>	Drug offender education program.
<i>Hearing Types</i>	
<i>Announcement</i>	Whether emailed or in person, this is a status update from the attorney to the court on a case or particular matter in the case. Often times cases that are in the early stages are set for announcements to allow a designated time for the attorney to update the court on the status of negotiations and request another setting in the future.
<i>Bond Writ Hearing</i>	A hearing required to be held after the attorney has filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus to request a bond reduction. Filing a writ for the bond reduction hearing is not the same as filing a motion to reduce the bond and has requirements regarding how soon the hearing must take place.
<i>PT</i>	Pre-trial. This is a setting of the case that is not a plea hearing or trial setting. The exact nature of this setting can vary greatly court by court from an attorney only announcement setting to a setting reserved

	primarily to resolve contested pre-trial motions. It is important to contact the court to determine what the setting will actually entail.
<i>PBR</i>	Plea bargain on the record. This is a hearing that occurs on the record when an accused has elected to go to trial. A prosecutor will read the offer out to you and the accused outside of the presence of the Judge to confirm that your client has a full understanding of the offer.
<i>Open Plea</i>	When the accused enters a plea to the Judge with no agreed sentencing and the Judge assesses any sentence that falls within the offense penalty range
<i>Capped Plea</i>	When the accused enters a plea without a full agreed sentence in place, but with a maximum that the Judge will not go over that is less than the penalty range maximum
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
<i>Bail</i>	Amount of money that must be paid to be released from jail.
<i>Bond</i>	Amount of money posted on behalf of the accused
<i>PR Bond</i>	Personal recognizance bond. When an accused is released from custody without having to pay a monetary bond. Often times there is a pre-trial services office for the county to which the accused must report to while on a PR bond for a pending case. A nominal fee may be charged for processing.
<i>Deferred Probation</i>	A type of probation which results in the case being dismissed upon successful completion of probation.
<i>Straight Probation</i>	What most people consider to be standard probation. Successful completion of this probation will result in a conviction.
<i>LOR</i>	Letter of representation. The document you file to notify the court and prosecutor that you have been hired to represent the accused.
<i>MTA/MTP</i>	Motion to adjudicate or proceed. The motion filed when a the State alleges that a defendant has been unsuccessful on deferred adjudication probation.
<i>MTR</i>	Motion to revoke. The motion filed when the state alleges that a defendant has been unsuccessful on straight probation and the wish to revoke that probation.
<i>MTW</i>	Motion to withdraw. The motion to file when withdrawing from a client's representation.
<i>CW</i>	The complaining witness in the case. The state often refers to this person as the victim.
<i>Court Coordinator</i>	The brain and organizer behind the court. This person is the person behind scheduling, organizing the docket, keeping the Judge on track, ensuring paperwork gets handled properly, and all of the other tasks that help a court run.
<i>Clerk</i>	The County or District Clerks are elected positions. This person and their office are the record keepers of the county. They manage e-filing in most counties. Some counties have different clerks for criminal and civil cases, while some do not.

