

SPECIAL DIRECTIVE 20-08.2

TO: ALL DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

FROM: GEORGE GASCÓN 
District Attorney

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL DIRECTIVE 20-08

DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2020

This Office is committed to eliminating mass incarceration and fostering rehabilitation for those charged with crimes. As such, this Office will not pursue prior strike enhancements, gang enhancements, special circumstances enhancements, out on bail/O.R. enhancements, or Penal Code section 12022.53 enhancements. After listening to the community, victims, and my deputy district attorneys, I have reevaluated Special Directive 20-08 and hereby amend it to allow enhanced sentences in cases involving the most vulnerable victims and in specified extraordinary circumstances. These exceptions shall be narrowly construed.

Effective immediately, Special Directive 20-08 is amended as follows:

The following sentence enhancements and allegations shall not be pursued in any case and shall be withdrawn in pending matters:

- Any prior-strike enhancements (Penal Code section 667(d), 667(e), 1170.12(a) and 1170.12(c)) will not be used for sentencing and shall be dismissed or withdrawn from the charging document. This includes second strikes and any strikes arising from a juvenile adjudication;
- Any Prop 8 or “5-year prior” enhancements (Penal Code section 667(a)(1)) and “three-year prior” enhancements (Penal Code section 667.5(a)) will not be used for sentencing and shall be dismissed or withdrawn from the charging document;
- STEP Act enhancements (“gang enhancements”) (Penal Code section 186.22 et. seq.) will not be used for sentencing and shall be dismissed or withdrawn from the charging document;
- Special circumstances allegations resulting in an LWOP sentence shall not be filed, will not be used for sentencing, and shall be dismissed or withdrawn from the charging document;
- Violations of bail or O.R. release (Penal Code section 12022.1) shall not be filed as part of any new offense;
- Firearm allegations pursuant to Penal Code section 12022.53 shall not be filed, will not be used for sentencing, and will be dismissed or withdrawn from the charging document.

However, where appropriate, the following allegations, enhancements and alternative sentencing schemes may be pursued:

- Hate Crime allegations, enhancements or alternative sentencing schemes pursuant to Penal Code sections 422.7 and 422.75;
- Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse allegations, enhancements, or alternative sentencing schemes pursuant to Penal Code sections 667.9, 368(b)(2)/12022.7(c);
- Child Physical Abuse allegations, enhancements or alternative sentencing schemes pursuant to Penal Code sections 12022.7(d), 12022.9, and 12022.95;
- Child and Adult Sexual Abuse allegations, enhancements or alternative sentencing schemes pursuant to Penal Code sections 667.61, 667.8(b), 667.9, 667.10 ,667.15, 674, 675, 12022.7(d), 12022.8(b), and 12022.85(b)(2);
- Human Sex Trafficking allegations, enhancements or alternative sentencing schemes pursuant to Penal Code sections 236.4(b) and 236.4(c);
- Financial crime allegations, enhancements or alternative sentencing schemes where the amount of financial loss or impact to the victim is significant, the conduct impacts a vulnerable victim population or to effectuate Penal Code section 186.11;
- Other than the enhancement or allegation prohibitions previously listed, enhancements or allegations may be filed in cases involving the following extraordinary circumstances with written Bureau Director approval upon written recommendation by the Head Deputy:
 - Where the physical injury personally inflicted upon the victim is extensive; or
 - Where the type of weapon or manner in which a deadly or dangerous weapon including firearms is used exhibited an extreme and immediate threat to human life;

Facts or circumstances that are sufficient to meet the legal definition of great bodily injury or use of a deadly or dangerous weapon alone are insufficient to warrant extraordinary circumstances. The written request and approval must be placed in the case file.

CASE SETTLEMENT

The following directives cover case settlement.

1. If the charged offense(s) is probation-eligible, probation shall be the presumptive offer.
 - a. Appropriate deviations from this presumption are as follows:
 - i. If the charged offense(s) is probation-eligible, and extraordinary circumstances exist, the Deputy District Attorney may file the basis and recommendation for a deviation in writing to their Head Deputy and the appropriate Bureau Director. Upon written approval from the Bureau Director, the Deputy District Attorney may offer a state prison sentence in accordance with this policy. The written basis for the deviation, recommendation, and approval shall be kept in the case file.
 - ii. If, but for the terms of this directive, the People could have reasonably alleged an enhancement, and defendant's conduct would have therefore been ineligible for probation, Deputy District Attorneys may file a

recommendation for a deviation in writing to their Head Deputy. Upon written approval from the Head Deputy, the Deputy District Attorney may offer a state prison sentence pursuant to the sentencing triad of the substantive offense(s). The written basis for the deviation, recommendation, and approval shall be kept in the case file.

2. If the charged offense(s) is not probation eligible, the presumptive sentence shall be the low term.
 - a. When deviating from the low term the deputy shall document the supporting reasons in the case file.

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