

# Supreme Court of Florida

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No. SC21-891

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## **IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA RULE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 3.992.**

March 24, 2022

PER CURIAM.

This matter is before the Court for consideration of proposed amendments to Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.992. We have jurisdiction. See art. V, § 2(a), Fla. Const. The Criminal Court Steering Committee (CCSC) filed a report proposing amendments to rule 3.992 (Criminal Punishment Code Scoresheets). The CCSC's report was in response to a referral from the Court to propose amendments to the rule in accordance with the Court's recent decision in *State v. Gabriel*, 314 So. 3d 1243, 1252 (Fla. 2021) (concluding that "under section 921.0024(2), the LPS [lowest permissible sentence] is an individual minimum sentence where there are multiple convictions subject to sentencing on a single scoresheet"). The CCSC and the Court previously published the

proposal for comment. The CCSC submitted an amended report, which was published by the Court and received one comment.

Having considered the amended proposal, the comment, and the Committee's response, the Court hereby amends rule 3.992 with additional modifications to the amended proposal. Specifically, under the sentence computation heading, in the third box, additional language is added to explain that the lowest permissible sentence is imposed if it is higher than the statutory maximum for an individual felony offense pursuant to *Gabriel*, and a detailed calculation is added to explain how to total the maximum sentence for each felony offense before the court for sentencing.

The CCSC's amended proposal does not fully resolve the concerns identified by this Court in *Gabriel*. In *Gabriel*, on the single line titled "maximum sentence in years," the trial judge entered "25 years," the collective statutory maximum for the three offenses before the court for sentencing. 314 So. 3d at 1251 n.6. As noted by this Court in *Gabriel*, this single line suggested one collective maximum sentence when there were multiple convictions subject to sentencing. Further, the language in the third box stating that "[t]he maximum sentence is up to the statutory

maximum for the primary and any additional offenses as provided in s. 775.082, F.S., unless the lowest permissible sentence (LPS) under the Code exceeds the statutory maximum” created ambiguity regarding the trial court’s individual consideration of each offense’s statutory maximum sentence for purposes of determining whether it was exceeded by the LPS. The CCSC’s response suggests that the purpose of the single line titled “maximum sentence in years” in the third box under the sentence computation heading is to assist the trial court in accurately advising a defendant of the maximum prison exposure prior to entering a plea. We believe that the amendments reflected in appendix A to this opinion clarify the calculation for determining a defendant’s total maximum sentence when there are multiple offenses before the court for sentencing. For purposes of illustrating its use, we applied the amendments to rule 3.992 to Gabriel’s case in appendix B to this opinion.

Accordingly, we amend Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.992 as reflected in appendix A to this opinion. New language is indicated by underscoring; deletions are indicated by struck-through type. The amendments to the rule shall become effective immediately. Because the amendments were significantly altered

from the version that was previously published for comment, interested persons shall have seventy-five days from the date of this opinion in which to file comments with the Court.<sup>1</sup>

It is so ordered.

CANADY, C.J., and POLSTON, LABARGA, LAWSON, MUÑIZ, COURIEL, and GROSSHANS, JJ., concur.

THE FILING OF A MOTION FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDMENTS.

Original Proceeding – Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure

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1. All comments must be filed with the Court on or before June 7, 2022, with a certificate of service verifying that a copy has been served on the Committee Chair, Honorable Debra J. Riva, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, P.O. Box 48927, Sarasota, Florida 34230-5927, [driva@jud12.flcourts.org](mailto:driva@jud12.flcourts.org), and on the OSCA Staff Liaison to the Committee, Bart Schneider, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, [schneidb@flcourts.org](mailto:schneidb@flcourts.org), as well as a separate request for oral argument if the person filing the comment wishes to participate in oral argument, which may be scheduled in this case. The Committee Chair has until June 28, 2022, to file a response to any comments filed with the Court. If filed by an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar, the comment must be electronically filed via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal (Portal) in accordance with *In re Electronic Filing in the Supreme Court of Florida via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC13-7 (Feb. 18, 2013). If filed by a nonlawyer or a lawyer not licensed to practice in Florida, the comment may be, but is not required to be, filed via the Portal. Any person unable to submit a comment electronically must mail or hand-deliver the originally signed comment to the Florida Supreme Court, Office of the Clerk, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927; no additional copies are required or will be accepted.

Judge Debra J. Riva, Chair, Criminal Court Steering Committee,  
Sarasota, Florida, and Bart Schneider, Staff Liaison, Office of the State  
Courts Administrator, Tallahassee, Florida,

for Petitioner

Hon. Carlos J. Martinez and Maria E. Lauredo on behalf of the Florida  
Public Defender Association, Inc., Miami, Florida,

Responding with comments

# APPENDIX A

## Rule 3.992(a) Criminal Punishment Code Scoresheet

The Criminal Punishment Code Scoresheet Preparation Manual is available at: [http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/sen\\_cpcm/index.html](http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/sen_cpcm/index.html)

1. DATE OF SENTENCE	2. PREPARER'S NAME	3. COUNTY	4. SENTENCING JUDGE	
5. NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)	6. DOB	8. RACE <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		10. PRIMARY OFF. DATE
	7. DC #	9. GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		11. PRIMARY DOCKET #
12. PLEA <input type="checkbox"/> TRIAL <input type="checkbox"/>				

I. **PRIMARY OFFENSE:** If Qualifier, please check  A  S  C  R (A=Attempt, S=Solicitation, C=Conspiracy, R=Reclassification)

FELONY DEGREE	F.S.#	DESCRIPTION	OFFENSE LEVEL	POINTS
_____ / _____ / _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(Level - Points: 1=4, 2=10, 3=16, 4=22, 5=28, 6=36, 7=56, 8=74, 9=92, 10=116)				
Prior capital felony triples Primary Offense points <input type="checkbox"/>				I. _____

II. **ADDITIONAL OFFENSE(S):** Supplemental page attached

DOCKET#	FEL/MM DEGREE	F.S.#	OFFENSE LEVEL	QUALIFY A S C R	COUNTS	POINTS	TOTAL
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ x _____	_____ = _____	_____
DESCRIPTION _____							
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ x _____	_____ = _____	_____
DESCRIPTION _____							
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ x _____	_____ = _____	_____
DESCRIPTION _____							
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ x _____	_____ = _____	_____
DESCRIPTION _____							

(Level - Points: M=0.2, 1=0.7, 2=1.2, 3=2.4, 4=3.6, 5=5.4, 6=18, 7=28, 8=37, 9=46, 10=58)

Prior capital felony triples Additional Offense points

Supplemental page points \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. **VICTIM INJURY:**

	Number	Total		Number	Total
2nd Degree Murder	240 x _____	= _____	Slight	4 x _____	= _____
Death	120 x _____	= _____	Sex Penetration	80 x _____	= _____
Severe	40 x _____	= _____	Sex Contact	40 x _____	= _____
Moderate	18 x _____	= _____			

III. \_\_\_\_\_

IV. **PRIOR RECORD:** Supplemental page attached

FEL/MM DEGREE	F.S.#	OFFENSE LEVEL	QUALIFY: A S C R	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	POINTS
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____ x _____	= _____
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____ x _____	= _____
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____ x _____	= _____
_____ / _____	_____ / _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____ x _____	= _____

_____	_____ / _____	□□□□	_____	X _____	=
_____	_____ / _____	□□□□	_____	X _____	=
_____	_____ / _____	□□□□	_____	X _____	=
_____	_____ / _____	□□□□	_____	X _____	=
_____	_____ / _____	□□□□	_____	X _____	=

(Level = Points: M=0.2, 1=0.5, 2=0.8, 3=1.6, 4=2.4, 5=3.6, 6=9, 7=14, 8=19, 9=23, 10=29)

Supplemental page points \_\_\_\_\_

**IV.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Page 1 Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: For offenses committed under the Criminal Punishment Code effective for offenses committed on or after October 1, 1998 and subsequent revisions.

<b>NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI)</b>	<b>DOCKET #</b>
-------------------------------	-----------------

**Page 1 Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_

V. Legal Status violation = 4 Points

- Escape  Fleeing  Failure to appear  Supersedeas bond  Incarceration  Pretrial intervention or diversion program  
 Court imposed or post prison release community supervision resulting in a conviction

**V.** \_\_\_\_\_

VI. Community Sanction violation before the court for sentencing

- Probation  Community Control  Pretrial Intervention or diversion

**VI.** \_\_\_\_\_

- 6 points for any violation other than new felony conviction x \_\_\_\_\_ each successive violation OR  
 New felony conviction = 12 points x \_\_\_\_\_ each successive violation if new offense results in conviction before or at same time as sentence for violation of probation OR  
 12 points x \_\_\_\_\_ each successive violation for a violent felony offender of special concern when the violation is not based solely on failure to pay costs, fines, or restitution OR  
 New felony conviction = 24 points x \_\_\_\_\_ each successive violation for a violent felony offender of special concern if new offense results in a conviction before or at the same time for violation of probation

VII. Firearm/Semi-Automatic or Machine Gun = 18 or 25 Points

**VII.** \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. Prior Serious Felony - 30 Points

**VIII.** \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal Sentence Points

IX. Enhancements (only if the primary offense qualifies for enhancement)

Law Enf. Protect.	Drug Trafficker	Motor Vehicle Theft	Criminal Gang Offense	Domestic Violence in the Presence of Related Child (offenses committed on or after 3/12/07)	Adult-on-Minor Sex Offense (offenses committed on or after 10/1/14)
____ x 1.5    ____ x 2.0    ____ x 2.5	____ x 1.5	____ x 1.5	____ x 1.5	____ x 1.5	____ x 2.0

Enhanced Subtotal Sentence Points

**IX.** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SENTENCE POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_

**SENTENCE COMPUTATION**

If total sentence points are less than or equal to 44, the lowest permissible sentence is any non-state prison sanction. If the total sentence points are 22 points or less, see Section 775.082(10), Florida Statutes, to determine if the court must sentence the offender to a non-state prison sanction.

If total sentence points are greater than 44:

\_\_\_\_\_ minus 28 = \_\_\_\_\_ x .75 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 total sentence points lowest permissible prison sentence in months

If total sentence points are 60 points or less and court makes findings pursuant to both Florida Statute 948.20 and 397.334(3), the court may place the defendant into a treatment-based drug court program.

The maximum sentence for each individual felony offense is up to the statutory maximum for the primary and any additional offenses as provided in s. 775.082, F.S., unless the lowest permissible sentence under the Code listed above exceeds the statutory maximum for that offense. If the lowest permissible sentence exceeds the statutory maximum for an individual felony offense, the lowest permissible sentence replaces the statutory maximum and must be imposed for that offense. See *State v. Gabriel*, 314 So. 3d 1243 (Fla. 2021). Such sentences for multiple felony offenses may be imposed concurrently or consecutively. If total sentence points are greater than or equal to 363, a life sentence may be imposed.

Primary offense: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description Maximum sentence in years

Additional offense: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description Maximum sentence in years

Additional offense: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description Maximum sentence in years

Additional offense: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description Maximum sentence in years

Total maximum sentence in years for all counts above if consecutive sentences imposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SENTENCE IMPOSED**

	Years	Months	Days
<input type="checkbox"/> State Prison	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> County Jail	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Control	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Probation	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life			
<input type="checkbox"/> Time Served			
<input type="checkbox"/> Modified			

Please check if sentenced as  habitual offender,  habitual violent offender,  violent career criminal,  prison releasee reoffender,

or a  mandatory minimum applies.

Mitigated Departure  Plea Bargain  Prison Diversion Program

Other Reason \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: For offenses committed under the Criminal Punishment Code effective for offenses committed on or after October 1, 1998, and subsequent revisions.

**3.992(b) Supplemental Criminal Punishment Code Scoresheet**

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI.)	DOCKET #	DATE OF SENTENCE
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II. **ADDITIONAL OFFENSES(S):**

DOCKET#	FEL/MM	F.S#	OFFENSE	QUALIFY	COUNTS	POINTS	TOTAL
	DEGREE		LEVEL	A S C R			
_____/	_____/	_____/	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ x	_____ =	_____
DESCRIPTION _____							
_____/	_____/	_____/	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ x	_____ =	_____
DESCRIPTION _____							



\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ □ □ □ □ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ □ □ □ □ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ □ □ □ □ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

(Level - Points: M=0.2, 1=0.7, 2=1.2, 3=2.4, 4=3.6, 5=5.4, 6=18, 7=28, 8=37, 9=46, 10=58)

II. \_\_\_\_\_

IV. **PRIOR RECORD**

FEL/MM TOTAL	F.S.#	OFFENSE	QUALIFY:	OFFENSE/DATE/STATE	NUMBER	POINTS
DEGREE	LEVEL	A	S	C	R	
_____ _____	_____/_____	_____	□ □ □ □	_____/_____/_____	_____ X _____	= _
_____ _____	_____/_____	_____	□ □ □ □	_____/_____/_____	_____ X _____	= _
_____ _____	_____/_____	_____	□ □ □ □	_____/_____/_____	_____ X _____	= _
_____ _____	_____/_____	_____	□ □ □ □	_____/_____/_____	_____ X _____	= _
_____ _____	_____/_____	_____	□ □ □ □	_____/_____/_____	_____ X _____	= _
_____ _____	_____/_____	_____	□ □ □ □	_____/_____/_____	_____ X _____	= _

(Level = Points: M=0.2, 1=0.5, 2=0.8, 3=1.6, 4=2.4, 5=3.6, 6=9, 7=14, 8=19, 9=23, 10=29)

IV. \_\_\_\_\_

**REASONS FOR DEPARTURE - MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES**  
 (reasons may be checked here or written on the scoresheet)

- Legitimate, uncoerced plea bargain.
- The defendant was an accomplice to the offense and was a relatively minor participant in the criminal conduct.
- The capacity of the defendant to appreciate the criminal nature of the conduct or to conform that conduct to the requirements of law was substantially impaired.
- The defendant requires specialized treatment for a mental disorder that is unrelated to substance abuse or addiction, or for a physical disability, and the defendant is amenable to treatment.
- The need for payment of restitution to the victim outweighs the need for a prison sentence.
- The victim was an initiator, willing participant, aggressor, or provoker of the incident.
- The defendant acted under extreme duress or under the domination of another person.
- Before the identity of the defendant was determined, the victim was substantially compensated.
- The defendant cooperated with the State to resolve the current offense or any other offense.
- The offense was committed in an unsophisticated manner and was an isolated incident for which the defendant has shown remorse.
- At the time of the offense the defendant was too young to appreciate the consequences of the offense.
- The defendant is to be sentenced as a youthful offender.
- The defendant is amenable to the services of a postadjudicatory treatment-based drug court program and is otherwise qualified to participate in the program.
- The defendant was making a good faith effort to obtain or provide medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose.

Pursuant to 921.0026(3) the defendant's substance abuse or addiction does not justify a downward departure from the lowest permissible sentence, except for the provisions of s. 921.0026(2)(m).

Effective Date: For offenses committed under the Criminal Punishment Code effective for offenses committed on or after October 1, 1998 and subsequent revisions.

## APPENDIX B

The maximum sentence for each individual felony offense is the statutory maximum as provided in s. 775.082, F.S., unless the lowest permissible sentence listed above exceeds the statutory maximum for that offense. If the lowest permissible sentence exceeds the statutory maximum for an individual felony offense, the lowest permissible sentence replaces the statutory maximum and must be imposed for that offense. See *State v. Gabriel*, 314 So. 3d 1243 (Fla. 2021). Sentences for multiple felony offenses may be imposed concurrently or consecutively. If total sentence points are greater than or equal to 363, a life sentence may be imposed.

Primary offense: <u>Attempted robbery with a firearm</u> Description	<u>15 years</u> Maximum sentence in years
Additional offense: <u>Resisting officer with violence</u> Description	<u>8.93 years</u> Maximum sentence in years
Additional offense: <u>Aggravated assault with a firearm</u> Description	<u>8.93 years</u> Maximum sentence in years
Additional offense: _____ Description	_____ Maximum sentence in years
Total maximum sentence in years for all counts above if consecutive sentences imposed:	<u>32.86 years</u>