

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

**v.**

**Case No(s). 2023-CF-0562**

**WILLIAM ARSAND CLIFTON**  
\_\_\_\_\_ /

**MOTION FOR DOWNWARD DEPARTURE SENTENCING**

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 921.0026 and 921.00265, Defendant, William A. Clifton, moves to this Court to decrease Mr. Clifton below the lowest permissible sentence in the above-styled case, and states:

1. On October 16, 2025, Mr. Clifton has been found guilty of one count of Aggravated Assault (3F) and three counts of Improper Exhibition of a Dangerous Weapon or Firearm (1M).
2. According to a sentencing scoresheet prepared by the State, Mr. Clifton scores 19.65 months in State Prison. (Pending updated score sheet to reflect jury verdict.)
3. Mr. Clifton submits that a departure from the lowest permissible sentence is reasonably justified because the following mitigating circumstances exist in the above styled case(s):
  - The departure results from a 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 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's offense is a nonviolent felony, the defendant's Criminal Punishment Code scoresheet total sentence points under § 921.0024 are 60 points or fewer, and the court determines that the defendant is amenable to the services of a post adjudicatory treatment-based drug court program and is otherwise qualified to participate in the program as part of the sentence. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “nonviolent felony” has the same meaning as provided in § 948.08(6).
- The defendant was making a good faith effort to obtain or provide medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose.

**WHEREFORE**, Defendant, William A. Clifton, requests the following relief:

- a. that the motion be GRANTED.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the forgoing Motion for Downward Departure Sentencing has been furnished on this \_\_\_ day of November, 2025 to the State Attorney's Office, West Pasco, 7530 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34654 via Florida e-filing portal.

By: /s/ Rachel Stevens

Rachel D. Stevens  
Attorney for Defendant

STEVENS LAW P.A.  
38008 LIVE OAK AVENUE  
SUITE 8  
Dade City, FL 33523  
Florida Bar No. 100402  
(352) 437-4900  
[rachel@law-stevens.com](mailto:rachel@law-stevens.com)  
[www.stevenslawpa.com](http://www.stevenslawpa.com)

UNOFFICIAL  
DOCUMENT