

GRINER & COMPANY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2827 Lincoln Way East
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Telephone (574) 255-1776
Facsimile (574) 255-2341
www.GrinerLaw.com

AUGUST 2014

INDIANA CRIMINAL LAW UPDATES

Many Indiana statutes especially pertaining to criminal law, changed as of July 1, 2014. The criminal code revisions are much more thorough and complicated that we can provide in this short summary. But some of the basics are below.

Previously there were five classes of felonies:

<u>Felony classification</u>	<u>Sentence range</u>
Murder	45-65 years
Class A	20-50 years
Class B	6-20 years
Class C	2-8 years
Class D	0.5-3 years

Now, those classifications are gone. Instead there are seven levels of felonies:

<u>Felony level</u>	<u>Sentence range</u>
Murder	45-65 years
Level 1	20-40 years
Level 2	10-30 years
Level 3	3-16 years
Level 4	2-12 years
Level 5	1-6 years
Level 6	0.5-2.5 years

Another significant change concerns “good time credit.” Under the previous law, most prisoners earned good time credit such that only about half of the sentence was actually served. Under the new law, Level 6 felonies will qualify for up to fifty percent (50%) reduction (so a prisoner serves about half of the sentence) but all others will only qualify for up to twenty five percent (25%) reduction (so a prisoner serves about 75% of the sentence).

The ideas behind these changes were to reduce the prison population by giving non-violent offenders shorter sentences and to make sentences more proportionate to the crimes (i.e., the punishment should fit the crime). The most significant change that we see concerns drug dealing crimes. Some cases that qualified as Class A felonies under the old law (20-50 years) will now be Level 4 felonies (2-12 years).

BMV REINSTATEMENT FEE RELIEF

Many people who suffer driver license suspensions owe large reinstatement fees to the BMV. Sometimes the fees are several hundred or even thousands of dollars.

Recently, the BMV announced a new relief program. From now until December 31, 2014, most reinstatement fees there were incurred before July 1, 2013, will be discounted in half. However, in order to qualify for the reduction, you must pay the fees no later than December 31, 2014.

So, for example if you owe \$900 in reinstatement fees that were charged to you prior to July 1, 2013, any time between now and the end of this year, you can pay \$450 to the BMV and that will be considered payment in full. Payments must be made online at www.mybmv.com, through the automated telephone line (866-203-2975) or by mail.

You should see the BMV website at www.mybmv.com and link to reinstatement relief.

Please keep us in mind for all of your legal service needs. Some of the cases we handle include:

Bankruptcy

Criminal defense – misdemeanor and felony

Traffic violations and license suspensions

Personal injury – auto accidents, slip and fall, dog bites

Real estate transactions – purchase agreements, deeds, leases, evictions

Estate planning – Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney, Living Wills

You receive this letter because you are a valued client or someone we believe has interest in general legal information. If you do not wish to receive these letters, please notify us by email at garygriner@grinerlaw.com.