

## APPENDIX E

# Violent Crimes

**Violent crimes may be the broadest area of criminal law. They cover everything from stalking to assault to murder.**

Beside the defenses unique to your case, any prosecution requires:

01

That guilt be proven beyond a reasonable doubt

02

That all evidence be admissible under the United States and Louisiana Constitution

03

That all of your constitutional rights be protected from your arrest through trial

**There is no one size fits all defense strategy for each case.** Each one requires diligent review and aggressive defense.

Higher grade offenses carry the highest penalties in the law and your case must be handled thoughtfully and thoroughly. Not only will our office review the state's evidence with a fine-tooth comb, but your input will help us find the evidence and witnesses that the state may not have found.

The critical evidence must be challenged, such as sloppy DNA handling and testing, and prejudicial witness statements or line-up identification

proceedings. My office will accept no fact as initially stated, but will dig and search to uncover the truth of what happened.

If your particular case does not involve serious injuries to the victim or the charge is for assault only, then mitigation may be an option to assist your defense. Examples of mitigation include anger management classes, formal counseling and even drug rehabilitation if substance abuse was a contributing factor.

Due to the unique and wide array of circumstances that could lead to a charge that is considered a "violent" crime, it is critical to discuss all

options with our office to decide which ones are in your best interest. Mitigation cannot always help, particularly if the prosecutor is highly motivated to prosecute.

Whether our work helps you reach a favorable outcome before trial or you choose to take your case to trial and beyond, my office will be with you every step of the way—from jury selection to closing argument.

MITIGATION MAY NOT ALWAYS  
HELP WITH VIOLENT CRIMES.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

This appendix is designed to give you ideas and options to consider. Your defense is tied to the specific facts of your case and the unique preferences of whatever jurisdiction is prosecuting you. The information here is general in nature and is simply a starting point—it does not replace or substitute the advice of your retained counsel. It should be considered a resource to help you develop a plan of defense with your attorney and not as an alternative to the defense proposed by him/her.





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