

Personal Narrative Guideline

Personal narratives need to include the following:

1. Date of occurrence – this can be an approximate if the exact date (month/year) is not known
example -- “sometime around February of 2013” or “in the summer of 2012”
2. What you were charged with, what you were convicted of (oftentimes these are different)
3. When you were convicted (this is often several months after the actual incident)
4. Circumstances leading up to the event
example -- “It was about 7pm and my girlfriend and I were returning from an all-day trip to the beach when . . .”
example -- “I had been working at the gas station for about 6 months when . . .”

example – “I was in the process of getting a divorce and had moved out from my spouse. I decided to retrieve some personal items I had left behind and called to say I was coming over. When I arrived”
5. Fully explain the event in as orderly a fashion as you can –
who was there,
what went on,
why things happened the way they did,
your mental/physical/emotional state (if relevant),
any other pertinent information
6. Court ordered consequences of the conviction –
jail time served - # of days and if completed
fines /fees -- amount owed and amount currently paid
sheriff’s work program – where, # of days, and estimated date of completion
required classes or courses -- type, length and whether or not completed
7. Conclude with the statement (below) and your signature:
“I declare under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.”

EXAMPLE --

In September of 2013, I was driving home about 1am after having a few drinks with some friends from work. I had worked 16 hours that day because someone called in sick. It was real busy that day and we all felt like we needed to unwind a bit so we went to the pub across the street after we closed up. I was quite tired so I only had two beers and left. I guess I was weaving in the lanes somewhat because about 2 miles from home I got pulled over by the CHP. He asked me if I had been drinking and I said just two beers, but that I had worked a long day. He had me step out of the car and gave me one of those drinking tests where you have to stand on one leg and touch your nose, stuff like that. I guess I failed because he arrested me for drunk driving. When I went before the judge I was charged with DUI, VC 23152 and reckless driving, VC 23103.5 I wanted to fight it because I wasn’t drunk (my breath test said I was .07 so I was below the limit), but my lawyer explained that it would be easier to accept the reckless driving and get the DUI dropped. That’s what happened. In December, I pled guilty to reckless driving and had my license suspended for 30 days, had to pay \$356 dollars, and had to take a 12-hour alcohol education class. I have paid off all the fines and finished the class in April of 2014.

I have attached the completion certificate from the class and a receipt showing my balance is \$0.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Signature]

ALL Personal Narratives and explanations requested of you by REMS must be signed and dated.