**Sentencing Guidelines Key Terms**

**Types of Sentencing**

1. Concurrent – runs the same duration as another sentence
2. Consecutive – sentences run one after another
3. Deferred – sentence is postponed until a later date
4. Determinate – a specific amount of time is given for an offender to serve
5. Indeterminate – a period of time to serve “not less than” and “not to exceed” a range of punishment
6. Life – the convict spends the remainder of his or her natural life in prison
7. Mandatory – a sentence is imposed from a statute that gives no room for discretion. A judge may not suspend it or give probation
8. Maximum – the longest amount of time that can be given for an offense
9. Straight or flat – a fixed sentence without a maximum or minimum
10. Suspended – withholding or postponing of the pronouncement or execution of a sentence

**Sentencing Rules of Texas**

1. Misdemeanors
   * Class C – fine not to exceed $500
   * Class B – fine not to exceed $2,000 and up to 180 days in jail, or both
   * Class A – fine not to exceed $4,000 and up to 1 year in jail, or both
2. Felonies
   * State Jail felony – not less than 180 days or more than 2 years, and a $10,000 fine
   * 3rd Degree felony – not less than 2 years or more than 10 years, and a $10,000 fine
   * 2nd Degree felony – not less than 2 years or more than 20 years, and a $10,000 fine
   * 1st Degree felony – not less than 5 years, up to 99 years, and a $10,000 fine
   * Capital – life without parole, or death

**Alternative Sentencing**

1. Shock probation – a short amount of incarceration in addition to a period of probation
2. Work release – offenders report to jail during non-work hours
3. Weekend sentencing – offenders report to jail only for a weekend or other designated time
4. House arrest – the offender is monitored by electronic means and may not leave his or her house except for certain reasons
5. Community service – required work for a government or nonprofit agency without pay
6. Probation – offenders serve sentences in the community; offenders must abide by the special guidelines
7. Boot camps – highly regimented programs styled after the military to instill discipline and hold youths accountable
8. Fines – monetary amounts paid to the court in lieu of confinement
9. Restitution – money paid to the victim for damages and suffering
10. “Scarlet letter” punishments – punishment by shaming (example: a judge requires a child molester to put a sign in his front yard stating that he is a sex offender).
11. Asset forfeiture – seizure of personal assets, used in or obtained from illegal activity, by government
12. Incarceration – a period of confinement to either jail or prison
13. Diversion – the charges are dropped after the person completes a condition such as a treatment program