New law authorizes courts to reduce a defendant's sentence if the defendant provided substantial assistance in furtherance of the investigation or prosecution of another person.

New law provides that if the court reduces the sentence to a time period which is less than the minimum sentence provided by law, that sentence shall not be imposed without the consent of the district attorney.

New law defines "sentencing" as the oral announcement of the sentence.

New law requires the district attorney and the defendant to enter into a written memorandum of understanding prior to the defendant receiving a reduction of sentence.

New law provides that the memorandum of understanding shall not be considered a grant of immunity from criminal prosecution.

New law specifies the information to be included in the memorandum of understanding and further provides that the memorandum shall include the entirety of the agreement between the state and the defendant.

New law provides that the memorandum of understanding shall describe the following:

(1) The responsibilities of the defendant relative to the substantial assistance provided in furtherance of an investigation or prosecution of another person.

(2) The responsibilities agreed to by the state relating to the reduction of the defendant's sentence.

New law provides that when the defendant meets his obligation as described in the memorandum of understanding, the state shall move for a reduction of sentence in accordance with the memorandum of understanding.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds C.Cr.P. Arts. 881.6 and 881.7)