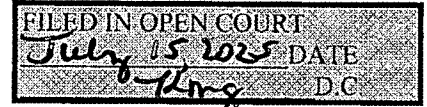


IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA,  
Plaintiff,



vs. Ronesha Nicole Butler  
Defendant.

CASE NO.: 2024 CF 2943-A  
CRIMINAL DIVISION: I

**PETITION TO ENTER PLEA OF GUILTY/NOLO CONTENDERE**  
(The Defendant must initial each paragraph that pertains to him/her  
and indicate not applicable [N/A] to those that do not)

1. RB My full name is Ronesha Nicole Butler and I am also known as 12th grade. I am 32 years of age. I have gone to school up to and including

2. RB I am represented by an attorney, who is Stephen N Bernston. I have told my attorney all the facts and circumstances about the charges against me, motions I believe should be filed, defenses I believe I may have and witnesses I believe I may have (including alibi witnesses). My attorney and I have discussed the allegations and charges against me, the evidence in this case, including depositions, witnesses disclosed by the State, arrest reports and motions that may be filed on my behalf. My attorney and I have discussed the physical evidence in this case and whether any DNA associated with that physical evidence could exonerate me. I am satisfied that my attorney has sufficiently explained the State's case against me, as well as any defenses that I may have against the State's case against me. I understand that by entering this plea, I waive (give up) those issues and defenses. I am fully satisfied with my attorney's representation in these matters and I have no concerns about the adequacy of my attorney's investigation and preparation of my case.

Initial the paragraph that applies.

- a) RB I believe that my attorney is fully informed on all such matters. S/he has properly investigated all witnesses (including alibi witnesses), facts of this case, defenses available to me, and motions appropriate to file on my behalf.
- b) RB Because I wish to accept the State's plea offer, at my request and with my agreement, my attorney has not fully investigated my case nor talked to all of the witnesses.

3. RB I wish to withdraw my prior plea of not guilty, if one has been entered, and plead guilty/nolo contendere to the charge(s) of:

CASE NUMBER	COUNT	CRIME	OFFENSE STATUTE NUMBER(S)*	DEGREE OF CRIME
<u>24 CF 2943-A</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Driving Under Influence Death</u>	<u>316.193(1)(a)(b)(c)</u>	<u>F2</u>

\*Cite entire statute number including applicable subsections



4. RB I understand that I have the right to plead not guilty to any offense charged against me or, if I have entered a plea of not guilty, to persist in that plea and proceed to trial. If I elect to proceed to trial, I understand that I have a right to be tried by a jury and at that trial I have the right to the assistance of counsel, the right to compel the production of evidence and the attendance of witnesses on my behalf, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against me, and the right not to testify if I so choose. I have the right to take the witness stand at my sole option, and if I do not take the witness stand, I understand the jury, at my request, will be told this may not be held against me. **I understand that by pleading ~~guilty~~/nolo contendere to the charge(s) I waive and give up my rights as listed in this paragraph, and that there will be no trial.** I further understand that if I plead ~~guilty~~/nolo contendere, the Judge may ask me questions about the offense(s) to which I have pleaded. I am not required to answer those questions and if I decline to answer those questions, my refusal may not be used against me by the Judge or anyone else. If I answer those questions under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel, the answers may later be used against me in a prosecution for perjury.
5. RB I understand that if I plead ~~guilty~~/nolo contendere, I give up my right to a direct appeal. I further understand, however, that I do not give up my right to appellate review by collateral attack as that term has been explained to me by my attorney.
6. RB I have been advised that the statutory maximum possible sentence for the charge(s) to which I am pleading is 15 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$ 10,000.00.
- a) 7 The mandatory minimum penalty is 7.
- b) 7 The Court cannot withhold adjudication of guilt.
- c) 7 The Court cannot place me on probation.
7. RB If I am presently on probation/early prison release/parole, I understand that by pleading guilty or nolo contendere in this case it may cause revocation of my probation/early prison release/parole and that this could result in a sentence of imprisonment in that case. I further understand that if revoked, any sentence in this case may be consecutive to (in addition to) any sentence in the case in which probation/early prison release/parole is revoked.
8. RB I believe that I am competent to enter this plea. My physical and mental health are presently satisfactory. The exceptions are:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. RB At this time I am taking the following medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am not under the influence of any drugs or intoxicants to the extent that my normal faculties are impaired.**
10. RB My attorney has advised me of considerations bearing on the choice of which plea to enter, and the advantages and disadvantages of such plea, and the likely results thereof, as well as possible alternatives available to me. The PLEA AGREEMENT contained on Page 5 was concluded by me and my attorney with my full and complete consent and agreement. I fully agree with the efforts of my attorney and to the terms of the plea agreement. **I BELIEVE THAT MY ATTORNEY HAS DONE ALL THAT A COMPETENT ATTORNEY COULD DO TO COUNSEL AND ASSIST ME. I AM SATISFIED WITH THE ADVICE AND HELP S/HE HAS GIVEN ME.** Even though I have been assisted and advised by my attorney, the decision to plead ~~guilty~~/nolo contendere is mine alone and is made by me after considering the advice and counsel of my attorney.
11. RB I am entering this plea freely, knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily because I believe it to be in my best interest to do so. (Initial the paragraph that applies.)
- a) RB I admit that I am guilty of the charge(s) I am pleading guilty to.
- b) RB I believe that the plea is in my best interest even though I say that I am innocent of the charges.
- c) RB I believe that the plea is in my best interest even though I neither admit nor deny that I am guilty of the charge(s) I am pleading nolo contendere to.
12. RB I understand that I will be required to pay statutorily mandated costs that will be assessed against me, and in some cases mandatory fines, and that the Court may assess additional discretionary costs, fines and restitution. I have no objection to the costs, fines and restitution, which have been fully disclosed to me by my attorney and are set forth in the Notice of Financial Obligations. A copy of the Notice can be obtained at [www.circuit8.org](http://www.circuit8.org).

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subjected me to any force, threat, duress, intimidation or pressure to influence me in any way to enter this plea.

PLEA AGREEMENT

22. RB The Defendant and the State, pursuant to the provisions of Fla.R.Crim.P. 3.171, agree as follows (NO ABBREVIATIONS):

The Defendant pleads not guilty to Charge of 1st Degree Murder and parties agree to a sentence of 7 yrs DOC (mandatory) followed by 3 years of probation, be evaluated for drug and/or alcohol treatment and complete treatment program as condition of probation.

- Lifetime DL suspension

UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, I SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT. THE INFORMATION IN EACH PARAGRAPH INITIALED BY ME IS TRUE. THE INFORMATION IN THE PARAGRAPHS NOT INITIALED BY ME DOES NOT APPLY TO ME OR MY CASE.

Signed and dated this 14 day of July, 2025.

Phonema Butler  
Defendant

Signed by me this 14 day of July, 2025.

[Signature]  
Defense Attorney

Signed by me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025

[Signature]  
Prosecuting Attorney

**CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL**

The undersigned attorney for the Defendant certifies as follows:

23. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements, representations and declarations made by the Defendant in this petition are voluntary and in all respects accurate and true. S/he fully understands them.
24. I have read and explained to the Defendant the allegations contained in the Information(s), as well as the maximum penalty for each count. I have discussed with the Defendant the facts and circumstances about the charges and any lesser included offenses. I have explained to the Defendant the possible penalties to which s/he may be subjected as a result of this plea. (Initial the paragraph that applies.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ ☒ a. I believe the Defendant and I are fully informed on all such matters. I have fully investigated this case and all witnesses for and against the Defendant (including alibi witnesses if any were revealed to me). I have discussed with the Defendant the defenses available to him/her and motions that might be filed on the Defendant's behalf.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Because the Defendant wishes to accept the State's plea offer, with the Defendant's agreement, I have not fully investigated his/her case or talked to all of the witnesses.
25. The plea of ~~guilty~~ nolo contendere being entered by the Defendant is in accord with my understanding of the facts, the law and possible defenses. If the Defendant is to receive a sentence of incarceration, I have not promised the Defendant that s/he will serve a specific length of time incarcerated. I have made no promises to the Defendant that are not set forth in this agreement to induce him/her to enter this plea, nor have I threatened, coerced or intimidated the Defendant in any way to induce him/her to enter this plea.
26. Having discussed this matter fully with the Defendant, it is my opinion that s/he is mentally and physically competent, and there is no mental or physical condition which would affect his/her understanding of these proceedings. I have no reason to believe that s/he is under the influence of drugs or alcohol at this time. The exceptions to this are listed in Paragraph 8.
27. I have explained to the defendant that if s/he is not a citizen of the United States, this plea may result in his/her detention and deportation/removal from the United States and/or stop him/her from being able to legally enter or re-enter the United States. I have further advised the defendant that s/he has the right to seek individualized advice from me about the effect this plea will have on his/her immigration status prior to entering the plea. Initial the applicable paragraph:
- \_\_\_\_\_ ☒ a. I have provided the defendant with **individualized** advice regarding his/her immigration status.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. I have **not** provided the defendant with individualized advice regarding his/her immigration status.
28. I have explained to the Defendant the difference between a direct appeal and a collateral attack upon his/her conviction. I have advised the Defendant that if s/he is now pleading to a sexually violent offense or if s/he has previously been convicted of a sexually violent offense as that term is defined in Section 394.912(9), Florida Statutes, s/he may be subject to the provisions of the Jimmy Ryce Civil Commitment Act, Section 394.910, et. seq., Florida Statutes, which allows the State to commit to a secure treatment facility a person who has been convicted of a sex offense and who is determined to be likely to commit a violent sexual offense in the future.

29. Signed by me this 14 day of July, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Attorney

**ORDER ACCEPTING PLEA**

Based upon the sworn testimony of the Defendant in open court, based upon my review of the court file(s), and based upon the dialogue between the Defendant, the Defendant's attorney, the Prosecuting Attorney, and the Judge, I find that the above plea was freely, knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily entered by the Defendant; I find that there is a factual basis to support the plea; and, I find that the Defendant was represented by a competent attorney with whom the Defendant says s/he is satisfied.

In addition to documents in the court file(s), I have relied upon the following information for a factual basis:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Defendant's plea be

☒ accepted

☐ rejected

☐ accepted conditionally: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DONE AND ORDERED in open Court this 15 day of July, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Circuit Judge

DAVID P. KREIDER