

the offenses specified in this subheading, the court, if satisfied that the best interests of the person and the welfare of the people of this State would be served thereby may, with the consent of such person stay the entering of the judgment of guilt, defer further proceedings, and place such person on probation subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as may be appropriate.

(2) The terms and conditions may include ordering the person to pay a fine or pecuniary penalty to the State, to be paid through the office of the clerk of the court. Before the court orders a fine or pecuniary penalty, the person is entitled to notice and a hearing to determine the amount of the fine or pecuniary penalty, what payment will be required, and how payment will be made. Any fine or pecuniary penalty imposed as a term or condition of probation shall be within the amount prescribed by law for a violation resulting in conviction. The court may in addition require that such person undergo inpatient or outpatient treatment for drug abuse.

(3) By consenting to and receiving a stay of entering of the judgment of guilt as provided by this subsection, the person waives all rights to appeal from the judgment of guilt by the court at any time. Prior to the person consenting to the stay of entering of the judgment of guilt, the court shall notify the person that by consenting to and receiving the stay of entry of judgment, he waives the right to appeal from the judgment of guilt by the court at any time.

(4) Upon violation of a term or condition, the court may enter a judgment of conviction and proceed as otherwise provided. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions, the court shall discharge such person and dismiss the proceedings against him. Discharge and dismissal under this section shall be without a judgment of conviction and shall not be deemed a conviction for purposes of disqualifications or disabilities imposed by the law upon conviction of a crime including the additional penalties imposed for second or subsequent convictions under § 293 of this subheading. Discharge and dismissal under this section may occur only once with respect to any person.

(5) Any UPON PETITION, ANY public criminal record in any such case shall ~~UPON-PETITION-OF-THE-PERSON,~~ be expunged upon the satisfactory completion of any such period of probation ~~OR-1 YEAR-FROM-THE-STAY-OF-ENTRY-OF-JUDGMENT,-WHICHEVER-IS-LATER.~~ Any expunged arrest and/or conviction shall not thereafter be regarded as an arrest or conviction for purposes of employment, civil rights, or any statute or regulation or license or questionnaire or any other public or private purpose, provided that any such conviction shall continue to constitute an offense for purposes of this subheading or any other criminal statute under which the existence of a prior conviction is relevant.