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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF SONOMA

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

vs.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

DECLARATION, FINDING  
AND ORDER RE: SELF-  
REPRESENTATION IN  
CRIMINAL CASE

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**FOR DEFENDANTS WHO WANT TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**  
(Answer all the questions on this form and initial each answer)

A. Do you understand that you have a right to a lawyer of your choice, and that if you cannot afford to pay for a lawyer the Court will appoint a lawyer to represent you at no cost to you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

B. Do you understand that certain harm could come to you if you act as your own lawyer? For example, do you know that:

1. It is well known that it is almost always not wise to act as your own lawyer?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

2. You may do more harm than good for yourself?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

3. You will get no special treatment from the Judge, and you will have to follow the same rules that a lawyer would have to follow?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

4. The prosecuting lawyer against you will be an experienced lawyer, and it is this lawyer's duty to give you no special treatment or consideration?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

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5. If you had a lawyer of your own, that lawyer might file pretrial motions and conduct investigations before advising you what to do?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

6. In acting as your own lawyer, you will not be able to receive the good advice of an experienced criminal lawyer?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

7. No one will be appointed to assist you in your self representation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

C. Can you read and write English?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

D. How much education have you completed? (Circle one)

Elementary School    Junior High School    High School  
College 2 year    More than 2 years

E. Do you know what things would have to be proved in court before you could be found guilty of the charges against you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

F. Do you know the possible defenses to the charge?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

G. Do you wish to talk to a lawyer so that the lawyer could explain the defenses and elements of the charge to you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

H. Do you understand that if the Judge allows you to represent yourself you cannot later change the result by saying: "I did not represent myself well," or "I should have had a lawyer"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

I. Do you understand that you have a right to a speedy trial and that charges could be dismissed against you? Trial must commence 30 or 45 days after arraignment unless you waive time for trial.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

J. Do you understand everything that you read above?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

1 K. After reading all of the above, do you still want to  
2 represent yourself and act as your own lawyer?

\_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_ Initials

3 L. Do you now give up your right to have a lawyer  
4 represent you, either one of your choice or one  
5 appointed by the Court?

\_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

\_\_\_\_\_ Initials

6  
7 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Defendant's Signature)

8  
9  
10 **FINDINGS AND ORDER**

11 On the basis of the above declaration and of my observation of and discussion with the defendant, I find  
12 that the defendant \_\_\_\_\_ voluntarily, intelligently, and with full understanding as to the  
13 (has/has not)  
14 disadvantages of self-representation, has chosen to represent himself/herself and to give up his/her right  
15 to counsel, including court-appointed counsel without charge to him/her.

16 It is ordered that this document be filed and, in any felony case, that it be made part of any transcript  
17 proceedings that took place in this court.

18 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Judge of the Superior Court of the  
21 State of California, County of Sonoma

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