

In the Courtroom of Judge James Sanchez: A Documented Pattern of Problematic Dispositions, 2020–2026

Problematic Dispositions are those non-merits resolutions where the underlying charges against a defendant remain unresolved, thereby freeing the defendant from physical custody and further criminal prosecution for those charges. In the courtroom of Judge James Sanchez 14 cases were adjudicated at a 43% problematic rate, resulting in 6 problematic cases that included 0 dismissed as incompetent, 1 dismissed for failure to prosecute, 5 State notices of dismissal (nolle prosequi), and 0 deferred dismissals.

2020–2021: Early Signals of Recurring Dismissal

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2020 or 2021.

2022–2023: Peak Volume and Same-Day Clusters

On January 27, 2022, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in two cases against Raymond Padilla on the same day—one for Fraudulent Receipt of a Credit Card and one for Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon)—assigned to Judge James Sanchez at the time, with Padilla having 17 to 20 prior cases. Padilla faced new charges of Breaking and Entering in May 2023.

In May 2022, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in the Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (1st Offense) case against Raymond Padilla, assigned to Judge James Sanchez at the time, who had 25 prior cases. Padilla faced new charges of Breaking and Entering in May 2023.

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2023.

2024–2026: Continued High-Prior Dismissals and Reoffending

In January 2024, Judge James Sanchez dismissed for failure to prosecute the Criminal Sexual Penetration in the First Degree (Great Bodily Harm/Great

Mental Anguish) case against Raymond Padilla, who had 35 prior cases. Padilla faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) in January 2024.

In April 2024, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in the Armed Robbery case against Nathan Vanschaemelhout, assigned to Judge James Sanchez at the time, who had 17 prior cases.

In July 2024, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in the Criminal Sexual Penetration in the First Degree (Great Bodily Harm/Great Mental Anguish) case against Raymond Padilla, assigned to Judge James Sanchez at the time, who had 37 prior cases. Padilla faced new charges of Trespass in July 2024.

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2025 or 2026.

The pattern of problematic dispositions in the courtroom of Judge James Sanchez includes 1 dismissal for failure to prosecute and 5 State notices of dismissal (nolle prosequi). High-prior individuals in these records include Raymond Padilla (priors reaching 37) and Nathan Vanschaemelhout (17 priors). Repeat name across separate dated dispositions is Raymond Padilla.

Summary of Featured Examples

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Sanchez	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2022 (Jan 27)	Raymond Padilla	Fraudulent Receipt of a Credit Card / Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) [same-day]	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	17–20	Breaking and Entering [May 2023]

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Sanchez	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2022	Raymond Padilla	Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (1st Offense)	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	25	Breaking and Entering [May 2023]
2024	Raymond Padilla	Criminal Sexual Penetration in the First Degree (Great Bodily Harm/Great Mental Anguish)	Dismissed by Judge Sanchez for failure to prosecute	35	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) [Jan 2024]
2024	Nathan Vanschaemelhout	Armed Robbery	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	17	[No subsequent listed]
2024	Raymond Padilla	Criminal Sexual Penetration in the First Degree (Great Bodily Harm/Great Mental Anguish)	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	37	Trespass [Jul 2024]