

**Reframe Studios**

[reframestudios.org](http://reframestudios.org)

# Partnership Overview

## Mitigation Films for Public Defenders



Reframe Studios is a startup nonprofit organization that exists to reduce sentences in the criminal justice system, one mitigation film at a time. We do this by partnering with public defenders to create individual social biography films for their clients, at low or no-cost. Our first film helped a client in Brooklyn, New York at the plea bargain stage. The sentence was reduced from 15 years

down to 3-6 years, allowing the client to plead to a non-violent felony.

Prosecutors specifically cited the video as the reason for the reduction, due to being able to see the client's context and remorse over the situation.

## Proof of Concept

We are seeking partners who can help us solidify our proof of concept and also work with us in the years to come. Committing to working with us on a case would include the following:

### **Phase One: Connecting Our Team to Your Client**

Your team would identify a client we can produce a video for. We need access to the client, if possible, and friends or family that would be willing to be included in the video. For interviewing friends and family, this can be as simple as connecting us via email, and we can handle the rest. If the client is currently incarcerated, we would need assistance getting access to the facility.

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Each interview takes about two hours, including camera setup time. Client privacy and journalistic integrity is a top priority for this project, and we would have legal agreements and consent forms in place before any filming.

### **Phase Two: Shaping the Edit**

We will edit the film with as much or as little input from your legal team as desired. Control of the final signoff on the film always rests with the public defender's office. Our first film went through many rounds of edits, with the public defender very involved, but a film can also be made with only minor revisions and minimal time from the PD's office. Our recommendation is the film is no longer than 5 minutes in total.

Nothing will go online without the explicit permission of the client, in writing, in addition to the public defender's office.

### **Phase Three: Presenting the Video**

The legal team would present the video during the plea bargain arrangements, or at trial. The actual filming and editing can be done in a matter of 1-2 weeks, if schedules allow. If the client and your office agrees, it would be ideal to post the videos online once the case is completely finished, however this is not required.

You can find more information at [reframestudios.org](http://reframestudios.org) or contact Kristi Oloffson at [koloffso@gmail.com](mailto:koloffso@gmail.com)