



Rhode Island Safety Valves

IMPORTANT NOTE: Laws change frequently, and this may not be an up-to-date description of safety valves available. Talk with a lawyer in your state if you have questions about safety valves.

Code Section	Safety Valve Provision for Discharge of a Firearm from a Motor Vehicle
§ 11-47-51.1(b)	<p>Courts are not required to impose the mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years for a violation of § 11.47-51.1(a) if they find that substantial and compelling circumstances exist which justify imposition of an alternative sentence.</p> <p>The finding may be based upon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the character and background of the defendant,- the cooperation of the defendant with law enforcement authorities,- the nature and circumstances of the offense, and/or- the nature and quality of the evidence presented at trial. <p>If judges use the safety valve, they must set forth on the record the circumstances which they found as justification for imposing a lower sentence.</p>