

Patterson Limits Deals

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson Thursday announced that he will no longer allow those charged with breaking and entering and those charged with using guns to commit crimes to plead guilty to a lesser offense.

The practice, called plea bargaining, permits a criminal defendant to admit his guilt to a crime involving less punishment than the original charge and thereby avoid trial.

Patterson initiated the no-plea bargaining policy for narcotics offenses when he took office in 1973.

He extended the policy in 1975 to armed robberies and concealed weapons cases.

"Plea bargaining denies a victim his day in court, demoralizes the law enforcement community and unnecessarily rewards the defendant," Patterson said.