

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

2024–2025 Amendment Cycle Simplification Amendment

Simplification Summary Chart

In April 2025, the U.S. Sentencing Commission approved amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines. Amendments will take effect on November 1, 2025, absent Congressional action to the contrary.

For a more detailed discussion of the policy determinations made by the Commission, please refer to the Reason for Amendment in the “Reader-Friendly” and Official Text.

The summary herein provides an overview of the Simplification Amendment set forth in more detail in the reader-friendly version of the amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Red text represent new additions to the guidelines.

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Part A	Introductory Commentary	<p>Subparts 1 and 2 of this Part provide an introduction to the Guidelines Manual describing the historical development and evolution of the federal sentencing guidelines. Subpart 1 sets forth the original introduction to the Guidelines Manual as it first appeared in 1987, with the inclusion of amendments made occasionally thereto between 1987 and 2000. The original introduction, as so amended, explained a number of policy decisions made by the United States Sentencing Commission (“Commission”) when it promulgated the initial set of guidelines and therefore provides a useful reference for contextual and historical purposes. Subpart 2 further describes the evolution of the federal sentencing guidelines after the initial guidelines were promulgated.</p> <p>Subpart 3 of this Part states the authority of the Commission to promulgate federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and commentary.</p>
Subpart 1	Subpart 1	<p>1. ORIGINAL INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDELINES MANUAL</p> <p>The following provisions of this Subpart set forth the original introduction to this manual, effective November 1, 1987, and as amended through November 1, 2000:</p>
	Provision 1	<p>1. Authority</p> <p>The United States Sentencing Commission (“Commission”) is an independent agency in the judicial branch composed of seven voting and two non-voting, <i>ex officio</i> members. Its principal purpose is Congress directed the Commission to establish sentencing policies and practices for the federal criminal justice system that will assure the ends of justice by promulgating detailed guidelines prescribing the appropriate sentences for offenders convicted of federal crimes and develop guidelines that further the purposes of sentencing. This Part provides the statutory authority and mission of the Commission to promulgate federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and commentary.</p> <p>The guidelines and policy statements promulgated by the Commission are issued pursuant to Section 994(a) of Title 28, United States Code, and are set forth in this Guidelines Manual.</p>

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Subpart 1	Provision 1	<p>The Guidelines Manual is structured to reflect the advisory sentencing scheme established following the Supreme Court’s decision in <i>United States v. Booker</i>, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), recognizing both essential steps of the court’s inquiry in imposing a sentence “sufficient, but not greater than necessary.” See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The guidelines and policy statements set forth throughout the Guidelines Manual represent the first step in the sentencing process and are one of multiple factors judges must consider under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).</p> <p>Originally, consistent with the pre-<i>Booker</i> sentencing system, the Guidelines Manual included an additional step for determining a sentence by providing for a number of “departures,” which were provisions that allowed the court to impose a sentence outside the applicable guideline range or otherwise different from the guideline sentence before the court’s consideration of the additional sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The departure provisions were set forth throughout the Guidelines Manual as part of the commentary to numerous guidelines and in policy statements contained in Chapter Four, Part A, and Chapter Five, Parts H and K.</p> <p>Following <i>Booker</i>, courts are permitted to impose sentences outside the applicable guideline range as “variances,” both for reasons related to the operation of the applicable guideline provisions and in light of individual characteristics unrelated to guideline provisions. In the years after <i>Booker</i>, courts used departures with much less frequency in favor of variances.</p> <p>In 2025, the Commission amended the Guidelines Manual to remove departures and policy statements relating to specific personal characteristics. (See USSG App. C, amendment [---]). The Commission sought to make these changes to better align the requirements placed on the court and acknowledge the growing shift away from the use of departures provided for within the Guidelines Manual in the wake of <i>Booker</i> and subsequent decisions. The Commission envisioned and framed this 2025 amendment to be outcome neutral, intending that judges who would have relied upon facts previously identified as a basis for a departure would continue to have the authority to rely upon such facts to impose a sentence outside of the applicable guideline range as a variance under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The removal of departures from the Guidelines Manual does not limit the information courts may consider in imposing a sentence nor does it reflect a view from the Commission that such facts should no longer inform a court</p>

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Subpart 1	Provision 1	for purposes of determining the appropriate sentence. In this regard, Appendix B of the Guidelines Manual compiles the departure provisions as they were last provided in the 2024 edition of the Manual. Similarly, information describing the historical development and evolution of the federal sentencing guidelines is also set forth in Appendix B of the Guidelines Manual.
	Provisions 2–5	Provisions 2–5 are deleted in their entirety.
Subpart 2	Subpart 2	Subpart 2 is deleted in its entirety.
Subpart 3	Subpart 3	§1. AUTHORITY
§1A3.1	§1A3.1	<p>§1A3.1 1A1.1 Commission’s Authority</p> <p>The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (Title II of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984) provides that a sentencing court “shall impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with” the purposes of sentencing: (1) to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment for the offense; (2) deterrence; (3) protection of the public from further crimes; and (4) rehabilitation. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The Act also provides for the development of guidelines by the Commission that further those purposes.</p> <p>The guidelines, policy statements, and commentary set forth in this Guidelines Manual, including amendments thereto, are promulgated by the United States Sentencing Commission pursuant to: (1) section 994(a) of title 28, United States Code; and (2) with respect to guidelines, policy statements, and commentary promulgated or amended pursuant to specific congressional directive, pursuant to the authority contained in that directive in addition to the authority under section 994(a) of title 28, United States Code.</p>

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	§1A3.1	The Commission has ensured that the guidelines, policy statements, and commentary used to calculate the guideline range are: (1) neutral as to the race, sex, national origin, creed, and socioeconomic status of the defendant; and (2) generally do not reflect consideration of education, vocational skills, employment record, family ties and responsibilities, and community ties of the defendant, in recommending a term of imprisonment or length of imprisonment. See 28 U.S.C. § 994(d), (e).
§1A3.1	Background	<p>The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (Title II of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984) (the “Act”) provides that courts must consider a variety of factors when imposing a sentence “sufficient, but not greater than necessary” to comply with the purposes of sentencing as set forth in the Act—to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, to provide just punishment for the offense, deterrence, protection of the public from further crimes, and rehabilitation. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The Act provides for the development of guidelines that will (1) further these statutory purposes of sentencing; (2) provide certainty and fairness in meeting the purposes of sentencing, avoiding unwarranted sentencing disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar criminal conduct while maintaining sufficient flexibility to permit individualized sentences when warranted by mitigating or aggravating factors not taken into account in the establishment of general sentencing practices; and (3) reflect, to the extent practicable, advancement in knowledge of human behavior as it relates to the criminal justice process. 28 U.S.C. § 994(f).</p> <p>As background, Congress provided specific directives to the Commission when setting a guideline range for “each category of offense involving each category of defendant.” 28 U.S.C. § 994(b)(1).</p> <p>First, the Act directs the Commission to consider, for purposes of establishing categories of offenses, whether the following seven matters, “among others,” have any relevance to the nature, extent, place of service, or other aspects of an appropriate sentence: (1) the grade of the offense; (2) the circumstances under which the offense was committed which mitigate or aggravate the seriousness of the offense; (3) the nature and degree of the harm caused by the</p>

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§1A3.1	Background	<p>offense, including whether it involved property, irreplaceable property, a person, a number of persons, or a breach of public trust; (4) the community view of the gravity of the offense; (5) the public concern generated by the offense; (6) the deterrent effect a particular sentence may have on the commission of the offense by others; and (7) the current incidence of the offense in the community and in the Nation as a whole. <i>See</i> 28 U.S.C. § 994(c).</p> <p>Second, the Act directs the Commission to consider, for purposes of establishing categories of defendants, whether the following eleven matters, “among others,” have any relevance to the nature, extent, place of service, or other aspects of an appropriate sentence, and to take them into account in the guidelines and policy statements only to the extent that they do have relevance: (1) age; (2) education; (3) vocational skills; (4) mental and emotional condition to the extent that such condition mitigates the defendant’s culpability or to the extent that such condition is otherwise plainly relevant; (5) physical condition, including drug dependence; (6) previous employment record; (7) family ties and responsibilities; (8) community ties; (9) role in the offense; (10) criminal history; and (11) degree of dependence upon criminal activity for a livelihood. <i>See</i> 28 U.S.C. § 994(d). The Act also directs the Commission to ensure that the guidelines and policy statements “are entirely neutral” as to five characteristics – race, sex, national origin, creed, and socioeconomic status. <i>See</i> 28 U.S.C. § 994(d).</p> <p>Third, the Act directs the Commission to ensure that the guidelines and policy statements, in recommending a term of imprisonment or length of a term of imprisonment, reflect the “general inappropriateness” of considering five of those characteristics – education; vocational skills; employment record; family ties and responsibilities; and community ties. <i>See</i> 28 U.S.C. § 994(e).</p> <p>In formulating the guidelines used to calculate the guideline range, the Commission remains cognizant of these detailed instructions directing the Commission to consider whether, and to what extent, specific offense-based and offender-based factors are relevant to sentencing. <i>See</i> 28 U.S.C. § 994(c), (d). Similarly, the Commission has ensured that the guidelines, policy statements, and commentary used to calculate the guideline range are: (1) neutral as to the race, sex, national origin, creed, and socioeconomic status of the defendant; and (2) generally</p>

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§1A3.1	Background	<p>do not reflect consideration of education, vocational skills, employment record, family ties and responsibilities, and community ties of the defendant in recommending a term of imprisonment or length of imprisonment. <i>See</i> 28 U.S.C. § 994(d), (e).</p> <p>The requirements and limitations imposed upon the Commission by 28 U.S.C. § 994, however, do not apply to the sentencing court. To the contrary, Congress set forth the factors that a court must consider in imposing a sentence that is “sufficient but not greater than necessary” to comply with the purposes of sentencing in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). These statutory factors permit a sentencing court to consider the “widest possible breadth of information” about a defendant ensuring the court is in “possession of the fullest information possible concerning the defendant’s life and characteristics.” <i>See Pepper v. United States</i>, 562 U.S. 476, 488 (2011); <i>see also Concepcion v. United States</i>, 597 U.S. 481, 493 (2022). Accordingly, the application instructions set forth in the following part are structured to reflect this two-step process whereby the sentencing court must first correctly calculate the applicable guideline range as the “starting point and initial benchmark” and then must determine an appropriate sentence upon consideration of all the factors set forth by Congress in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). <i>See Gall v. United States</i>, 552 U.S. 38, 49–51 (2007).</p>
§1B1.1	§1B1.1(a)	(a) STEP ONE: CALCULATION OF GUIDELINE RANGE AND DETERMINATION OF SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS AND OPTIONS UNDER THE GUIDELINES MANUAL. —The court shall determine the kinds of sentence and the guideline range as set forth in the guidelines (<i>see</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(4)) by applying the provisions of this manual in the following order, except as specifically directed:
	§1B1.1(a)(5)	(5) Apply the adjustment as appropriate for the defendant’s acceptance of responsibility and the reduction pursuant to an early disposition program, as appropriate , from Parts E and F of Chapter Three.
	§1B1.1(a)(9)	(9) Apply, as appropriate, Part K of Chapter Five.

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§1B1.1	§1B1.1(b)	<p>(b) The court shall then consider Parts H and K of Chapter Five, Specific Offender Characteristics and Departures, and any other policy statements or commentary in the guidelines that might warrant consideration in imposing sentence. See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(5). STEP TWO: CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS SET FORTH IN 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).— After determining the kinds of sentence and guidelines range pursuant to subsection (a) of §1B1.1 (Application Instructions) and 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(4) and (5), the court shall consider the other applicable factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to determine a sentence that is sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes of sentencing. Specifically, as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), in determining the particular sentence to be imposed, the court shall also consider—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant; (2) the need for the sentence imposed to meet the purposes of sentencing listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2); (3) the kinds of sentences available; (4) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and (5) the need to provide restitution to any victims of the offense.
	§1B1.1(c)	<p>(c) The court shall then consider the applicable factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) taken as a whole. See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).</p>
	Application Note 1(F)	<p>“Departure” means (i) for purposes other than those specified in clause (ii), imposition of a sentence outside the applicable guideline range or of a sentence that is otherwise different from the guideline sentence; and (ii) for purposes of §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category), assignment of a criminal history category other than the otherwise applicable criminal history category, in order to effect a sentence outside the applicable guideline range. “Depart” means grant a departure.</p>

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§1B1.1	Application Note 1(F)	<p>“Downward departure” means departure that effects a sentence less than a sentence that could be imposed under the applicable guideline range or a sentence that is otherwise less than the guideline sentence. “Depart downward” means grant a downward departure.</p> <p>“Upward departure” means departure that effects a sentence greater than a sentence that could be imposed under the applicable guideline range or a sentence that is otherwise greater than the guideline sentence. “Depart upward” means grant an upward departure.</p>
	Background	<p>The court must impose a sentence “sufficient, but not greater than necessary,” to comply with the purposes of sentencing set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2). <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Subsections (a), (b), and (c) are structured to reflect the three-step process used in determining the particular sentence to be imposed. If, after step (c), the court imposes a sentence that is outside the guidelines framework, such a sentence is considered a “variance”. <i>See Irizarry v. United States</i>, 553 U.S. 708, 709–16 (2008) (describing within-range sentences and departures as “sentences imposed under the framework set out in the Guidelines”). This guideline is structured to reflect the advisory sentencing scheme established following the Supreme Court’s decision in <i>United States v. Booker</i>, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), by setting forth both essential steps of the court’s inquiry in making this determination.</p> <p>Originally, the guidelines were mandatory, with limited exceptions. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b). Later, in <i>United States v. Booker</i>, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), the Supreme Court held that the provision in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b) making the guidelines mandatory was unconstitutional. Following <i>Booker</i>, district courts are first required to properly calculate and consider the guidelines when sentencing. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(4), (a)(5); <i>Booker</i>, 543 U.S. at 264 (“The district courts, while not bound to apply the Guidelines, must . . . take them into account when sentencing.”); <i>Rita v. United States</i>, 551 U.S. 338, 351 (2007) (stating that a district court should begin all sentencing proceedings by correctly calculating the applicable Guidelines range); <i>Gall v. United States</i>, 552 U.S. 38, 49 (2007) (“As a matter of administration and to secure nationwide consistency, the Guidelines should be the starting point and the initial benchmark.”); <i>Peugh v. United States</i>, 569 U.S. 530 (2013) (noting that “the post-<i>Booker</i></p>

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§1B1.1	Background	<p>federal sentencing system adopted procedural measures that make the guidelines the ‘lodestone’ of sentencing”). Step one sets forth the steps for properly calculating the guidelines.</p> <p>District courts are then required to fully and carefully consider the additional factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), which include: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant; (2) the need for the sentence imposed to meet the purposes of sentencing listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2); (3) the kinds of sentence available; (4) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and (5) the need to provide restitution to any victims of the offense. <i>See Rita</i>, 551 U.S. at 351. Step two, as set forth in subsection (b), reflects this step of the sentencing process.</p>
§1B1.2	Application Note 1	<p>This section provides the basic rules for determining the guidelines applicable to the offense conduct under Chapter Two (Offense Conduct). The court is to use the Chapter Two guideline section referenced in the Statutory Index (Appendix A) for the offense of conviction. However, (A) in the case of a plea agreement (written or made orally on the record) containing a stipulation that specifically establishes a more serious offense than the offense of conviction, the Chapter Two offense guideline section applicable to the stipulated offense is to be used; and (B) for statutory provisions not listed in the Statutory Index, the most analogous guideline, determined pursuant to §2X5.1 (Other Offenses), is to be used.</p> <p>In the case of a particular statute that proscribes only a single type of criminal conduct, the offense of conviction and the conduct proscribed by the statute will coincide, and the Statutory Index will specify only one offense guideline for that offense of conviction. In the case of a particular statute that proscribes a variety of conduct that might constitute the subject of different offense guidelines, the Statutory Index may specify more than one offense guideline for that particular statute, and the court will determine which of the referenced guideline sections is most appropriate for the offense conduct charged in the count of which the defendant was convicted. If the offense involved a conspiracy, attempt, or solicitation, refer to §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy) as well as the guideline referenced in the</p>

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§1B1.2	Application Note 1	<p>Statutory Index for the substantive offense. For statutory provisions not listed in the Statutory Index, the most analogous guideline is to be used. <i>See</i> §2X5.1 (Other Offenses).</p> <p>As set forth in the first paragraph of this note, an exception to this general rule is that if a plea agreement (written or made orally on the record) contains a stipulation that establishes a more serious offense than the offense of conviction, the guideline section applicable to the stipulated offense is to be used. A factual statement or a stipulation contained in a plea agreement (written or made orally on the record) is a stipulation for purposes of subsection (a) only if both the defendant and the government explicitly agree that the factual statement or stipulation is a stipulation for such purposes. However, a factual statement or stipulation made after the plea agreement has been entered, or after any modification to the plea agreement has been made, is not a stipulation for purposes of subsection (a). The sentence that shall be imposed is limited, however, to the maximum authorized by the statute under which the defendant is convicted. <i>See</i> Chapter Five, Part G (Implementing the Total Sentence of Imprisonment). For example, if the defendant pleads guilty to theft, but admits the elements of robbery as part of the plea agreement, the robbery guideline is to be applied. The sentence, however, may not exceed the maximum sentence for theft. <i>See</i> H. Rep. 98-1017, 98th Cong., 2d Sess. 99 (1984).</p> <p>The exception to the general rule has a practical basis. In a case in which the elements of an offense more serious than the offense of conviction are established by a plea agreement, it may unduly complicate the sentencing process if the applicable guideline does not reflect the seriousness of the defendant's actual conduct. Without this exception, the court would be forced to use an artificial guideline and then depart from it impose a sentence that is greater than the otherwise applicable guideline range to the degree the court found necessary based upon the more serious conduct established by the plea agreement. The probation officer would first be required to calculate the guideline for the offense of conviction. However, this guideline might even contain characteristics that are difficult to establish or not very important in the context of the actual offense conduct. As a simple example, §2B1.1 (Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud) contains monetary distinctions which are more significant and more detailed than the monetary distinctions in §2B3.1 (Robbery). Then, the probation officer might</p>

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§1B1.2	Application Note 1	<p>need to calculate the robbery guideline to assist the court in determining the^{an} appropriate degree of departure^{sentence} in a case in which the defendant pled guilty to theft but admitted committing robbery. This cumbersome, artificial procedure is avoided by using the exception rule in guilty or <i>nolo contendere</i> plea cases where it is applicable.</p> <p>As with any plea agreement, the court must first determine that the agreement is acceptable, in accordance with the policies stated in Chapter Six, Part B (Plea Agreements). The limited exception provided here applies only after the court has determined that a plea, otherwise fitting the exception, is acceptable.</p>
§1B1.3	§1B1.3(b)	(b) CHAPTERS FOUR (CRIMINAL HISTORY AND CRIMINAL LIVELIHOOD) AND FIVE (DETERMINING THE SENTENCING ^{DETERMINING THE SENTENCING RANGE AND OPTIONS UNDER THE GUIDELINES}).—Factors in Chapters Four and Five that establish the guideline range shall be determined on the basis of the conduct and information specified in the respective guidelines.
	Application Note 3(B)	<p>Scope.—Because a count may be worded broadly and include the conduct of many participants over a period of time, the scope of the “jointly undertaken criminal activity” is not necessarily the same as the scope of the entire conspiracy, and hence relevant conduct is not necessarily the same for every participant. In order to determine the defendant’s accountability for the conduct of others under subsection (a)(1)(B), the court must first determine the scope of the criminal activity the particular defendant agreed to jointly undertake (<i>i.e.</i>, the scope of the specific conduct and objectives embraced by the defendant’s agreement). In doing so, the court may consider any explicit agreement or implicit agreement fairly inferred from the conduct of the defendant and others. Accordingly, the accountability of the defendant for the acts of others is limited by the scope of his or her agreement to jointly undertake the particular criminal activity. Acts of others that were not within the scope of the defendant’s agreement, even if those acts were known or reasonably foreseeable to the defendant, are not relevant conduct under subsection (a)(1)(B).</p> <p>In cases involving contraband (including controlled substances), the scope of the jointly undertaken criminal activity (and thus the accountability of the defendant for the contraband</p>

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§1B1.3	Application Note 3(B)	<p>that was the object of that jointly undertaken activity) may depend upon whether, in the particular circumstances, the nature of the offense is more appropriately viewed as one jointly undertaken criminal activity or as a number of separate criminal activities.</p> <p>A defendant's relevant conduct does not include the conduct of members of a conspiracy prior to the defendant joining the conspiracy, even if the defendant knows of that conduct (<i>e.g.</i>, in the case of a defendant who joins an ongoing drug distribution conspiracy knowing that it had been selling two kilograms of cocaine per week, the cocaine sold prior to the defendant joining the conspiracy is not included as relevant conduct in determining the defendant's offense level). The Commission does not foreclose the possibility that there may be some unusual set of circumstances in which the exclusion of such conduct may not adequately reflect the defendant's culpability; in such a case, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>
	Application Note 6(B)	<p>Risk or Danger of Harm.—If the offense guideline includes creating a risk or danger of harm as a specific offense characteristic, whether that risk or danger was created is to be considered in determining the offense level. <i>See, e.g.</i>, §2K1.4 (Arson; Property Damage by Use of Explosives); §2Q1.2 (Mishandling of Hazardous or Toxic Substances or Pesticides). If, however, the guideline refers only to harm sustained (<i>e.g.</i>, §2A2.2 (Aggravated Assault); §2B3.1 (Robbery)) or to actual, attempted or intended harm (<i>e.g.</i>, §2B1.1 (Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud); §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy)), the risk created enters into the determination of the offense level only insofar as it is incorporated into the base offense level. Unless clearly indicated by the guidelines, harm that is merely risked is not to be treated as the equivalent of harm that occurred. In a case in which creation of risk is not adequately taken into account by the applicable offense guideline, an upward departure may be warranted. See generally §1B1.4 (Information to be Used in Imposing Sentence); §5K2.0 (Grounds for Departure). The extent to which harm that was attempted or intended enters into the determination of the offense level should be determined in accordance with §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy) and the applicable offense guideline.</p>

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		Information to be Used in Imposing Sentence (Selecting a Point Within the Guideline Range or Departing from the Guidelines)
	§1B1.4	In determining the sentence to impose within the guideline range, or whether a departure from the guidelines is warranted , the court may consider, without limitation, any information concerning the background, character and conduct of the defendant, unless otherwise prohibited by law. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3661.
§1B1.4	Background	This section distinguishes between factors that determine the applicable guideline sentencing range (§1B1.3) and information that a court may consider in imposing a sentence within that range . The section is based on 18 U.S.C. § 3661, which recodifies 18 U.S.C. § 3577. The recodification of this 1970 statute in 1984 with an effective date of 1987 (99 Stat. 1728), makes it clear that Congress intended that no limitation would be placed on the information that a court may consider in imposing an appropriate sentence under the future guideline sentencing system. A court is not precluded from considering information that the guidelines do not take into account in determining a sentence within the guideline range or from considering that information in determining whether and to what extent to depart from the guidelines . For example, if the defendant committed two robberies, but as part of a plea negotiation entered a guilty plea to only one, the robbery that was not taken into account by the guidelines would may provide a reason for sentencing at the top of, or above , the guideline range and may provide a reason for an upward departure . Some policy statements do, however, express a Commission policy that certain factors should not be considered for any purpose, or should be considered only for limited purposes. <i>See, e.g., Chapter Five, Part H (Specific Offender Characteristics)</i> .
§1B1.7	§1B1.7	The Commentary that accompanies the guideline sections may serve a number of purposes. First, it It may interpret the guideline or explain how it is to be applied. Failure to follow such commentary could constitute an incorrect application of the guidelines, subjecting the sentence to possible reversal on appeal. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3742. Second, the commentary may suggest circumstances which, in the view of the Commission, may warrant departure from the guidelines. Such commentary is to be treated as the legal equivalent of a policy statement.

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§1B1.7	§1B1.7	Finally, In addition , the commentary may provide background information, including factors considered in promulgating the guideline or reasons underlying promulgation of the guideline. As with a policy statement, such commentary may provide guidance in assessing the reasonableness of any departure from the guidelines.
§1B1.8	§1B1.8(b)(5)	(5) in determining whether, or to what extent, a downward departure from the guideline is warranted to impose a sentence that is below the otherwise applicable guideline range pursuant to a government motion under §5K1.1 (Substantial Assistance to Authorities).
	Application Note 1	This provision does not authorize the government to withhold information from the court but provides that self-incriminating information obtained under a cooperation agreement is not to be used to determine the defendant's guideline range. Under this provision, for example, if a defendant is arrested in possession of a kilogram of cocaine and, pursuant to an agreement to provide information concerning the unlawful activities of co-conspirators, admits that he assisted in the importation of an additional three kilograms of cocaine, a fact not previously known to the government, this admission would not be used to increase his applicable guideline range, except to the extent provided in the agreement. Although the guideline itself affects only the determination of the guideline range, the policy of the Commission, as a corollary, is that information prohibited from being used to determine the applicable guideline range shall not be used to depart upward. In contrast, subsection (b)(5) provides that consideration of such information is appropriate in determining whether, and or to what extent, a downward departure is warranted to impose a sentence that is below the otherwise applicable guideline range pursuant to a government motion under §5K1.1 (Substantial Assistance to Authorities); e.g., For example , a court may refuse to depart downward impose a sentence that is below the otherwise applicable guideline range on the basis of such information.
§1B1.9	Application Note 2	The guidelines for sentencing on multiple counts do not apply to counts that are Class B or C misdemeanors or infractions. Sentences for such offenses may be consecutive to or concurrent with sentences imposed on other counts. In imposing sentence, the court should, however, consider the relationship between the Class B or C misdemeanor or infraction and any other

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§1B1.9	Application Note 2	offenses of which the defendant is convicted. For example, in a case where the defendant wore or displayed an official, or counterfeit official, insignia or uniform received in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 716 while committing an offense covered by the guidelines, it would be appropriate for the court to consider this fact as an aggravating factor in determining the appropriate sentence even though section 716 is a Class B misdemeanor not covered by the guidelines. See Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109–162, § 1191(c).
§1B1.10	Application Note 1(A)	Eligibility. —Eligibility for consideration under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) is triggered only by an amendment listed in subsection (d) that lowers the applicable guideline range (<i>i.e.</i> , the guideline range that corresponds to the offense level and criminal history category determined pursuant to §1B1.1(a)(1)–(7), which is determined before consideration of any departure provision in the Guidelines Manual or any variance Part K of Chapter Five and §1B1.1(b)). Accordingly, a reduction in the defendant’s term of imprisonment is not authorized under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and is not consistent with this policy statement if: (i) none of the amendments listed in subsection (d) is applicable to the defendant; or (ii) an amendment listed in subsection (d) is applicable to the defendant but the amendment does not have the effect of lowering the defendant’s applicable guideline range because of the operation of another guideline or statutory provision (<i>e.g.</i> , a statutory mandatory minimum term of imprisonment).
	Application Note 3	Application of Subsection (b)(2). —Under subsection (b)(2), the amended guideline range determined under subsection (b)(1) and the term of imprisonment already served by the defendant limit the extent to which the court may reduce the defendant’s term of imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and this policy statement. Specifically, as provided in subsection (b)(2)(A), if the term of imprisonment imposed was within the guideline range applicable to the defendant at the time of sentencing, the court may reduce the defendant’s term of imprisonment to a term that is no less than the minimum term of imprisonment provided by the amended guideline range determined under subsection (b)(1). For example, in a case in which: (A) the guideline range applicable to the defendant at the time of sentencing was 70 to 87 months; (B) the term of imprisonment imposed was 70 months; and (C) the amended guideline range determined under subsection (b)(1) is 51 to 63 months, the court may

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§1B1.10	Application Note 3	<p>reduce the defendant's term of imprisonment, but shall not reduce it to a term less than 51 months.</p> <p>If the term of imprisonment imposed was outside the guideline range applicable to the defendant at the time of sentencing, the limitation in subsection (b)(2)(A) also applies. Thus, if the term of imprisonment imposed in the example provided above was not a sentence of 70 months (within the guidelines range) but instead was a sentence of 56 months (constituting a downward departure or variance a sentence that is below the otherwise applicable guideline range), the court likewise may reduce the defendant's term of imprisonment, but shall not reduce it to a term less than 51 months.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(2)(B) provides an exception to this limitation, which applies if the term of imprisonment imposed was less than the term of imprisonment provided by the guideline range applicable to the defendant at the time of sentencing pursuant to a government motion to reflect the defendant's substantial assistance to authorities. In such a case, the court may reduce the defendant's term, but the reduction is not limited by subsection (b)(2)(A) to the minimum of the amended guideline range. Instead, as provided in subsection (b)(2)(B), the court may, if appropriate, provide a reduction comparably less than the amended guideline range. Thus, if the term of imprisonment imposed in the example provided above was 56 months pursuant to a government motion to reflect the defendant's substantial assistance to authorities (representing a downward departure reduction of 20 percent below the minimum term of imprisonment provided by the guideline range applicable to the defendant at the time of sentencing), a reduction to a term of imprisonment of 41 months (representing a reduction of approximately 20 percent below the minimum term of imprisonment provided by the amended guideline range) would amount to a comparable reduction and may be appropriate.</p> <p>The provisions authorizing such a government motion are §5K1.1 (Substantial Assistance to Authorities) (authorizing the court, upon government motion, a downward departure to impose a sentence that is below the otherwise applicable guideline range based on the defendant's substantial assistance); 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e) (authorizing the court, upon government motion, to impose a sentence below a statutory minimum to reflect the defendant's substantial</p>

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§1B1.10	Application Note 3	<p>assistance); and Fed. R. Crim. P. 35(b) (authorizing the court, upon government motion, to reduce a sentence to reflect the defendant’s substantial assistance).</p> <p>In no case, however, shall the term of imprisonment be reduced below time served. See subsection (b)(2)(C). Subject to these limitations, the sentencing court has the discretion to determine whether, and to what extent, to reduce a term of imprisonment under this section.</p>
§1B1.12	§1B1.12	<p>The sentencing guidelines do not apply to a defendant sentenced under the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act (18 U.S.C. §§ 5031–5042). However, the sentence imposed upon a juvenile delinquent may not exceed the maximum of the guideline range applicable to an otherwise similarly situated adult defendant unless the court finds an aggravating factor sufficient to warrant an upward departure from imposing a sentence greater than that guideline range in determining the appropriate sentence to impose pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). See 18 U.S.C. § 5037(c); <i>United States v. R.L.C.</i>, 503 U.S. 291 (1992). Therefore, a necessary step in ascertaining the maximum sentence that may be imposed upon a juvenile delinquent is the determination of the guideline range that would be applicable to a similarly situated adult defendant.</p>

Simplification:

Chapter Two

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Chapter Two	Introductory Commentary	Chapter Two pertains to offense conduct. The chapter is organized by offenses and divided into parts and related sections that may cover one statute or many. Each offense has a corresponding base offense level and may have one or more specific offense characteristics that adjust the offense level upward or downward. Certain factors relevant to the offense that are not covered in specific guidelines in Chapter Two are set forth in Chapter Three, Parts A (Victim-Related Adjustments), B (Role in the Offense), and C (Obstruction and Related Adjustments); and Chapter Four, Parts B (Career Offenders and Criminal Livelihood) and C (Adjustment for Certain Zero-Point Offenders); and Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2A1.1	Application Note 2(A), (B)	<p>Imposition of Life Sentence.—</p> <p>(A) Offenses Involving Premeditated Killing.—In the case of premeditated killing, life imprisonment is the appropriate sentence if a sentence of death is not impose. A downward departure would not be appropriate in such a case. A downward departure from a mandatory statutory term of life imprisonment is permissible only in cases in which the government files a motion for a downward departure for the defendant’s substantial assistance, as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e). If a mandatory statutory term of life imprisonment applies, a lesser term of imprisonment is permissible only in cases in which the government files a motion pertaining to the defendant’s substantial assistance, as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e).</p> <p>(B) Felony Murder.—If the defendant did not cause the death intentionally or knowingly, a downward departure may be warranted. For example, a downward departure may be warranted if in robbing a bank, the defendant merely passed a note to the teller, as a result of which the teller had a heart attack and died. The extent of the departure should be based upon the defendant’s state of mind (e.g., recklessness or negligence), the degree of risk inherent in the conduct, and the nature of the underlying offense conduct. However, departure below the minimum guideline sentence provided for second degree murder in §2A1.2 (Second Degree Murder) is not likely to be appropriate. Also, because death obviously is an aggravating factor, it necessarily would be inappropriate to impose a sentence at a level below that which the guideline for the underlying offense requires in the absence of death.</p>

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§2A1.2	Application Note 1	Upward Departure Provision.— If the defendant’s conduct was exceptionally heinous, cruel, brutal, or degrading to the victim, an upward departure may be warranted. See §5K2.8 (Extreme Conduct).
§2A2.1	Application Note 2	Upward Departure Provision.— If the offense created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to more than one person, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2A2.4	Application Note 3	Upward Departure Provision.— The base offense level does not assume any significant disruption of governmental functions. In situations involving such disruption, an upward departure may be warranted. See §5K2.7 (Disruption of Governmental Function).
§2A3.1	Application Note 6	Upward Departure Provision.— If a victim was sexually abused by more than one participant, an upward departure may be warranted. See §5K2.8 (Extreme Conduct).
§2A3.2	Application Note 6	Upward Departure Consideration.— There may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline substantially understates the seriousness of the offense. In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted if the defendant committed the criminal sexual act in furtherance of a commercial scheme such as pandering, transporting persons for the purpose of prostitution, or the production of pornography.
§2A3.6	Application Note 4	Upward Departure.— In a case in which the guideline sentence is determined under subsection (a), a sentence above the minimum term required by 18 U.S.C. § 2250(d) is an upward departure from the guideline sentence. A departure may be warranted, for example, in a case involving a sex offense committed against a minor or if the offense resulted in serious bodily injury to a minor.
§2A5.3	Application Note 2	If the conduct intentionally or recklessly endangered the safety of the aircraft or passengers, an upward departure may be warranted.

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§2A6.1	Application Note 4(A), (B)	<p>Departure Provisions.—</p> <p>(A) In General.—The Commission recognizes that offenses covered by this guideline may include a particularly wide range of conduct and that it is not possible to include all of the potentially relevant circumstances in the offense level. Factors not incorporated in the guideline may be considered by the court in determining whether a departure from the guidelines is warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).</p> <p>(B) Multiple Threats, False Liens or Encumbrances, or Victims; Pecuniary Harm.—If the offense involved (i) substantially more than two threatening communications to the same victim, (ii) a prolonged period of making harassing communications to the same victim, (iii) substantially more than two false liens or encumbrances against the real or personal property of the same victim, (iv) multiple victims, or (v) substantial pecuniary harm to a victim, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>
§2A6.2	Application Note 5	<p>If the defendant received an enhancement under subsection (b)(1) but that enhancement does not adequately reflect the extent or seriousness of the conduct involved, an upward departure may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted if the defendant stalked the victim on many occasions over a prolonged period of time.</p>
§2B1.1	Application Note 8(A)	<p>(A) In General.—The adjustments in subsection (b)(9) are alternative rather than cumulative. If, in a particular case, however, more than one of the enumerated factors applied, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>
	Application Note 21(A)–(D)	<p>Departure Considerations.—</p> <p>(A) Upward Departure Considerations.—There may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline substantially understates the seriousness of the offense. In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. The following is a non-exhaustive list of</p>

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§2B1.1	Application Note 21(A)–(D)	<p>factors that the court may consider in determining whether an upward departure is warranted:</p> <p>(i) A primary objective of the offense was an aggravating, non-monetary objective. For example, a primary objective of the offense was to inflict emotional harm.</p> <p>(ii) The offense caused or risked substantial non-monetary harm. For example, the offense caused physical harm, psychological harm, or severe emotional trauma, or resulted in a substantial invasion of a privacy interest (through, for example, the theft of personal information such as medical, educational, or financial records). An upward departure would be warranted, for example, in an 18 U.S.C. § 1030 offense involving damage to a protected computer, if, as a result of that offense, death resulted. An upward departure also would be warranted, for example, in a case involving animal enterprise terrorism under 18 U.S.C. § 43, if, in the course of the offense, serious bodily injury or death resulted, or substantial scientific research or information were destroyed. Similarly, an upward departure would be warranted in a case involving conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 670 if the offense resulted in serious bodily injury or death, including serious bodily injury or death resulting from the use of the pre-retail medical product.</p> <p>(iii) The offense involved a substantial amount of interest of any kind, finance charges, late fees, penalties, amounts based on an agreed-upon return or rate of return, or other similar costs, not included in the determination of loss for purposes of subsection (b)(1).</p> <p>(iv) The offense created a risk of substantial loss beyond the loss determined for purposes of subsection (b)(1), such as a risk of a significant disruption of a national financial market.</p> <p>(v) In a case involving stolen information from a “protected computer”, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(c)(2), the defendant sought the stolen information to further a broader criminal purpose.</p> <p>(vi) In a case involving access devices or unlawfully produced or unlawfully obtained means of identification: (I) The offense caused substantial harm to the victim’s reputation, or the victim suffered a substantial inconvenience related to repairing the victim’s reputation. (II) An individual whose means of identification the defendant used to obtain unlawful means of identification is erroneously arrested or denied a job because an arrest record has been made</p>

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§2B1.1	Application Note 21(A)–(D)	<p>in that individual’s name. (III) The defendant produced or obtained numerous means of identification with respect to one individual and essentially assumed that individual’s identity.</p> <p>(B) Upward Departure for Debilitating Impact on a Critical Infrastructure.—An upward departure would be warranted in a case in which subsection (b)(19)(A)(iii) applies and the disruption to the critical infrastructure(s) is so substantial as to have a debilitating impact on national security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.</p> <p>(C) Downward Departure Consideration.—There may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline substantially overstates the seriousness of the offense. In such cases, a downward departure may be warranted. For example, a securities fraud involving a fraudulent statement made publicly to the market may produce an aggregate loss amount that is substantial but diffuse, with relatively small loss amounts suffered by a relatively large number of victims. In such a case, the loss table in subsection (b)(1) and the victims table in subsection (b)(2) may combine to produce an offense level that substantially overstates the seriousness of the offense. If so, a downward departure may be warranted.</p> <p>(D) Downward Departure for Major Disaster or Emergency Victims.—If (i) the minimum offense level of level 12 in subsection (b)(12) applies; (ii) the defendant sustained damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused by a major disaster or an emergency as those terms are defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5122; and (iii) the benefits received illegally were only an extension or overpayment of benefits received legitimately, a downward departure may be warranted.</p>
§2B1.5	Application Note 9	<p>Upward Departure Provision.—There may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline understates the seriousness of the offense. In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted if (A) in addition to cultural heritage resources or paleontological resources, the offense involved theft of, damage to, or destruction of, items that are not cultural heritage resources (such as an offense involving the theft from a national cemetery of lawnmowers and other administrative</p>

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§2B1.5	Application Note 9	property in addition to historic gravemarkers or other cultural heritage resources) or paleontological resources; or (B) the offense involved a cultural heritage resource that has profound significance to cultural identity (e.g., the Statue of Liberty or the Liberty Bell).
§2B2.1	Background	The base offense level for residential burglary is higher than for other forms of burglary because of the increased risk of physical and psychological injury. Weapon possession, but not use, is a specific offense characteristic because use of a weapon (including to threaten) ordinarily would make the offense robbery. Weapon use would be a ground for upward departure.
§2B3.1	Application Note 5	Upward Departure Provision. If the defendant intended to murder the victim, an upward departure may be warranted; see §2A2.1 (Assault with Intent to Commit Murder; Attempted Murder).
§2B3.2	Application Note 7	Upward Departure Based on Threat of Death or Serious Bodily Injury to Numerous Victims. If the offense involved the threat of death or serious bodily injury to numerous victims (e.g., in the case of a plan to derail a passenger train or poison consumer products), an upward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 8	Upward Departure Based on Organized Criminal Activity or Threat to Family Member of Victim. If the offense involved organized criminal activity, or a threat to a family member of the victim, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2B5.3	Application Note 5(A)–(D)	Departure Considerations. If the offense level determined under this guideline substantially understates or overstates the seriousness of the offense, a departure may be warranted. The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors that the court may consider in determining whether a departure may be warranted: (A) The offense involved substantial harm to the reputation of the copyright or trademark owner.

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§2B5.3	Application Note 5(A)–(D)	<p>(B) The offense was committed in connection with, or in furtherance of, the criminal activities of a national, or international, organized criminal enterprise.</p> <p>(C) The method used to calculate the infringement amount is based upon a formula or extrapolation that results in an estimated amount that may substantially exceed the actual pecuniary harm to the copyright or trademark owner.</p> <p>(D) The offense resulted in death or serious bodily injury.</p>
§2C1.1	Application Note 5	<p>Application of Subsection (c).—For the purposes of determining whether to apply the cross references in this section, the “resulting offense level” means the final offense level (<i>i.e.</i>, the offense level determined by taking into account both the Chapter Two offense level and any applicable adjustments from Chapter Three, Parts A–DE). See §1B1.5(d); Application Note 2 of the Commentary to §1B1.5 (Interpretation of References to Other Offense Guidelines).</p>
	Application Note 7	<p>Upward Departure Provisions.—In some cases the monetary value of the unlawful payment may not be known or may not adequately reflect the seriousness of the offense. For example, a small payment may be made in exchange for the falsification of inspection records for a shipment of defective parachutes or the destruction of evidence in a major narcotics case. In part, this issue is addressed by the enhancements in §2C1.1(b)(2) and (c)(1), (2), and (3). However, in cases in which the seriousness of the offense is still not adequately reflected, an upward departure is warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).</p> <p>In a case in which the court finds that the defendant’s conduct was part of a systematic or pervasive corruption of a governmental function, process, or office that may cause loss of public confidence in government, an upward departure may be warranted. See §5K2.7 (Disruption of Governmental Function).</p>
§2C1.8	Application Note 4	<p>Departure Provision.—In a case in which the defendant’s conduct was part of a systematic or pervasive corruption of a governmental function, process, or office that may cause loss of public confidence in government, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>

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§2D1.1	Application Note 3	<p>“Mixture or Substance”.—<i>“Mixture or substance”</i> as used in this guideline has the same meaning as in 21 U.S.C. § 841, except as expressly provided. Mixture or substance does not include materials that must be separated from the controlled substance before the controlled substance can be used. Examples of such materials include the fiberglass in a cocaine/fiberglass bonded suitcase, beeswax in a cocaine/beeswax statue, and waste water from an illicit laboratory used to manufacture a controlled substance. If such material cannot readily be separated from the mixture or substance that appropriately is counted in the Drug Quantity Table, the court may use any reasonable method to approximate the weight of the mixture or substance to be counted.</p> <p>An upward departure nonetheless may be warranted when the mixture or substance counted in the Drug Quantity Table is combined with other, non-countable material in an unusually sophisticated manner in order to avoid detection.</p> <p>Similarly, in the case of marihuana having a moisture content that renders the marihuana unsuitable for consumption without drying (this might occur, for example, with a bale of rain-soaked marihuana or freshly harvested marihuana that had not been dried), an approximation of the weight of the marihuana without such excess moisture content is to be used.</p>
	Application Note 10	<p>Determining Quantity of LSD.—LSD on a blotter paper carrier medium typically is marked so that the number of doses (“hits”) per sheet readily can be determined. When this is not the case, it is to be presumed that each 1/4 inch by 1/4 inch section of the blotter paper is equal to one dose.</p> <p>In the case of liquid LSD (LSD that has not been placed onto a carrier medium), using the weight of the LSD alone to calculate the offense level may not adequately reflect the seriousness of the offense. In such a case, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>
	Application Note 18(A)	<p>(A) Hazardous or Toxic Substances (Subsection (b)(14)(A)).—Subsection (b)(14)(A) applies if the conduct for which the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) involved any discharge, emission, release, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal</p>

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§2D1.1	Application Note 18(A)	violation covered by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(d); the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(c); the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(b); or 49 U.S.C. § 5124 (relating to violations of laws and regulations enforced by the Department of Transportation with respect to the transportation of hazardous material). In some cases, the enhancement under subsection (b)(14)(A) may not account adequately for the seriousness of the environmental harm or other threat to public health or safety (including the health or safety of law enforcement and cleanup personnel). In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. Additionally, In determining the amount of restitution under §5E1.1 (Restitution) and in fashioning appropriate conditions of probation and supervision under §§5B1.3 (Conditions of Probation) and 5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release), respectively, any costs of environmental cleanup and harm to individuals or property shall be considered by the court in cases involving the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine and should be considered by the court in cases involving the manufacture of a controlled substance other than amphetamine or methamphetamine. <i>See</i> 21 U.S.C. § 853(q) (mandatory restitution for cleanup costs relating to the manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine).
	Application Note 22(A), (B)	Application of Subsection (e)(1).— (A) Definition. —For purposes of this guideline, “ <i>sexual offense</i> ” means a “sexual act” or “sexual contact” as those terms are defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2246(2) and (3), respectively. B) Upward Departure Provision. —If the defendant committed a sexual offense against more than one individual, an upward departure would be warranted.
	Application Note 24	Cases Involving Mandatory Minimum Penalties. —Where a mandatory (statutory) minimum sentence applies, this mandatory minimum sentence may be “waived” and a lower sentence imposed (including a downward departure) , as provided in 28 U.S.C. § 994(n), by reason of a defendant’s “substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another person who has committed an offense.” <i>See</i> §5K1.1 (Substantial Assistance to Authorities). In addition, 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f) provides an exception to the applicability of mandatory minimum

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	Application Note 24	sentences in certain cases. <i>See</i> §5C1.2 (Limitation on Applicability of Statutory Minimum Sentences in Certain Cases).
§2D1.1	Application Note 27(A)–(E)	<p>Departure Considerations.—</p> <p>(A) Downward Departure Based on Drug Quantity in Certain Reverse Sting Operations.— If, in a reverse sting (an operation in which a government agent sells or negotiates to sell a controlled substance to a defendant), the court finds that the government agent set a price for the controlled substance that was substantially below the market value of the controlled substance, thereby leading to the defendant’s purchase of a significantly greater quantity of the controlled substance than his available resources would have allowed him to purchase except for the artificially low price set by the government agent, a downward departure may be warranted.</p> <p>(B) Upward Departure Based on Drug Quantity.— In an extraordinary case, an upward departure above offense level 38 on the basis of drug quantity may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted where the quantity is at least ten times the minimum quantity required for level 38. Similarly, in the case of a controlled substance for which the maximum offense level is less than level 38, an upward departure may be warranted if the drug quantity substantially exceeds the quantity for the highest offense level established for that particular controlled substance.</p> <p>(C) Upward Departure Based on Unusually High Purity.— Trafficking in controlled substances, compounds, or mixtures of unusually high purity may warrant an upward departure, except in the case of PCP, amphetamine, methamphetamine, hydrocodone, or oxycodone for which the guideline itself provides for the consideration of purity (<i>see</i> the footnote to the Drug Quantity Table). The purity of the controlled substance, particularly in the case of heroin, may be relevant in the sentencing process because it is probative of the defendant’s role or position in the chain of distribution. Since controlled substances are often diluted and combined with other substances as they pass down the chain of distribution, the fact that a defendant is in possession of unusually pure narcotics may indicate a prominent</p>

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§2D1.1	Application Note 27(A)–(E)	<p>role in the criminal enterprise and proximity to the source of the drugs. As large quantities are normally associated with high purities, this factor is particularly relevant where smaller quantities are involved.</p> <p>(D) Departure Based on Potency of Synthetic Cathinones.— In addition to providing converted drug weights for specific controlled substances and groups of substances, the Drug Conversion Tables provide converted drug weights for certain classes of controlled substances, such as synthetic cathinones. In the case of a synthetic cathinone that is not specifically referenced in this guideline, the converted drug weight for the class should be used to determine the appropriate offense level. However, there may be cases in which a substantially lesser or greater quantity of a synthetic cathinone is needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cathinone in the class, such as methcathinone or alpha PVP. In such a case, a departure may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted in cases involving MDPV, a substance of which a lesser quantity is usually needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cathinone. In contrast, a downward departure may be warranted in cases involving methylene, a substance of which a greater quantity is usually needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cathinone.</p> <p>(E) Departures for Certain Cases Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids.</p> <p>(i) Departure Based on Concentration of Synthetic Cannabinoids.— Synthetic cannabinoids are manufactured as powder or crystalline substances. The concentrated substance is then usually sprayed on or soaked into a plant or other base material, and trafficked as part of a mixture. Nonetheless, there may be cases in which the substance involved in the offense is a synthetic cannabinoid not combined with any other substance. In such a case, an upward departure would be warranted.</p> <p>There also may be cases in which the substance involved in the offense is a mixture containing a synthetic cannabinoid diluted with an unusually high quantity of base material. In such a case, a downward departure may be warranted.</p>

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§2D1.1	Application Note 27(A)–(E)	(ii) Downward Departure Based on Potency of Synthetic Cannabinoids.— In the case of a synthetic cannabinoid that is not specifically referenced in this guideline, the converted drug weight for the class should be used to determine the appropriate offense level. However, there may be cases in which a substantially greater quantity of a synthetic cannabinoid is needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cannabinoid in the class, such as JWH-018 or AM-2201. In such a case, a downward departure may be warranted.
§2D1.5	Application Note 2	Upward Departure Provision.— If as part of the enterprise the defendant sanctioned the use of violence, or if the number of persons managed by the defendant was extremely large, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2D1.7	Application Note 1	The typical case addressed by this guideline involves small-scale trafficking in drug paraphernalia (generally from a retail establishment that also sells items that are not unlawful). In a case involving a large-scale dealer, distributor, or manufacturer, an upward departure may be warranted. Conversely, where the offense was not committed for pecuniary gain (e.g., transportation for the defendant’s personal use), a downward departure may be warranted.
§2D1.11	Application Note 1(C)	Upward Departure.— In a case involving two or more chemicals used to manufacture different controlled substances, or to manufacture one controlled substance by different manufacturing processes, an upward departure may be warranted if the offense level does not adequately address the seriousness of the offense.
	Application Note 4	Application of Subsection (b)(3). —Subsection (b)(3) applies if the conduct for which the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) involved any discharge, emission, release, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal violation covered by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(d), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(c), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(b), and 49 U.S.C. § 5124 (relating to violations of laws and regulations enforced by the Department of Transportation with respect to the transportation of hazardous

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§2D1.11	Application Note 4	material). In some cases, the enhancement under subsection (b)(3) may not adequately account for the seriousness of the environmental harm or other threat to public health or safety (including the health or safety of law enforcement and cleanup personnel). In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. Additionally, Any costs of environmental cleanup and harm to persons or property should be considered by the court in determining the amount of restitution under §5E1.1 (Restitution) and in fashioning appropriate conditions of supervision under §§5B1.3 (Conditions of Probation) and 5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release).
§2D1.12	Application Note 1	If the offense involved the large-scale manufacture, distribution, transportation, exportation, or importation of prohibited flasks, equipment, chemicals, products, or material, an upward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 3	Subsection (b)(2) applies if the conduct for which the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) involved any discharge, emission, release, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal violation covered by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(d), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(c), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(b), and 49 U.S.C. § 5124 (relating to violations of laws and regulations enforced by the Department of Transportation with respect to the transportation of hazardous material). In some cases, the enhancement under subsection (b)(2) may not adequately account for the seriousness of the environmental harm or other threat to public health or safety (including the health or safety of law enforcement and cleanup personnel). In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. Additionally, Any costs of environmental cleanup and harm to persons or property should be considered by the court in determining the amount of restitution under §5E1.1 (Restitution) and in fashioning appropriate conditions of supervision under §§5B1.3 (Conditions of Probation) and 5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release).
§2D2.1	Application Note 1	The typical case addressed by this guideline involves possession of a controlled substance by the defendant for the defendant's own consumption. Where the circumstances establish intended consumption by a person other than the defendant, an upward departure may be warranted.

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§2D2.3	Background	This section implements the direction to the Commission in section 6482 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. Offenses covered by this guideline may vary widely with regard to harm and risk of harm. The offense levels assume that the offense involved the operation of a common carrier carrying a number of passengers, <i>e.g.</i> , a bus. If no or only a few passengers were placed at risk, a downward departure may be warranted. If the offense resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of a large number of persons, such that the resulting offense level under subsection (b) would not adequately reflect the seriousness of the offense, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2E1.1	Application Note 4	Certain conduct may be charged in the count of conviction as part of a “pattern of racketeering activity” even though the defendant has previously been sentenced for that conduct. Where such previously imposed sentence resulted from a conviction prior to the last overt act of the instant offense, treat as a prior sentence under §4A1.2(a)(1) and not as part of the instant offense. This treatment is designed to produce a result consistent with the distinction between the instant offense and criminal history found throughout the guidelines. If this treatment produces an anomalous result in a particular case, a guideline departure may be warranted.
§2E3.1	Application Note 2	Upward Departure Provision. The base offense levels provided for animal fighting ventures in subsection (a)(1) and (a)(3) reflect that an animal fighting venture involves one or more violent fights between animals and that a defeated animal often is severely injured in the fight, dies as a result of the fight, or is killed afterward. Nonetheless, there may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline substantially understates the seriousness of the offense. In such a case, an upward departure may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted if (A) the offense involved extraordinary cruelty to an animal beyond the violence inherent in such a venture (such as by killing an animal in a way that prolongs the suffering of the animal); or (B) the offense involved animal fighting on an exceptional scale (such as an offense involving an unusually large number of animals).

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§2G1.1	Application Note 2	Application of Subsection (b)(1). —Subsection (b)(1) provides an enhancement for fraud or coercion that occurs as part of the offense and anticipates no bodily injury. If bodily injury results, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures). For purposes of subsection (b)(1), “ coercion ” includes any form of conduct that negates the voluntariness of the victim. This enhancement would apply, for example, in a case in which the ability of the victim to appraise or control conduct was substantially impaired by drugs or alcohol. This characteristic generally will not apply if the drug or alcohol was voluntarily taken.
	Application Note 6	Upward Departure Provision.— If the offense involved more than ten victims, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2G1.3	Application Note 7	Upward Departure Provision.— If the offense involved more than ten minors, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2G2.1	Application Note 8	Upward Departure Provision.— An upward departure may be warranted if the offense involved more than 10 minors.
§2G2.2	Application Note 6(B)	<p>(B) Determining the Number of Images.—For purposes of determining the number of images under subsection (b)(7):</p> <p>(i) Each photograph, picture, computer or computer-generated image, or any similar visual depiction shall be considered to be one image. If the number of images substantially underrepresents the number of minors depicted, an upward departure may be warranted.</p> <p>(ii) Each video, video-clip, movie, or similar visual depiction shall be considered to have 75 images. If the length of the visual depiction is substantially more than 5 minutes, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>

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§2G2.2	Application Note 9	Upward Departure Provision. — If the defendant engaged in the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor at any time (whether or not such abuse or exploitation occurred during the course of the offense or resulted in a conviction for such conduct) and subsection (b)(5) does not apply, an upward departure may be warranted. In addition, an upward departure may be warranted if the defendant received an enhancement under subsection (b)(5) but that enhancement does not adequately reflect the seriousness of the sexual abuse or exploitation involved.
§2H2.1	Application Note 1	Upward Departure Provision. — If the offense resulted in bodily injury or significant property damage, or involved corrupting a public official, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2H3.1	Application Note 5(A), (B)	Upward Departure. — There may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline substantially understates the seriousness of the offense. In such a case, an upward departure may be warranted. The following are examples of cases in which an upward departure may be warranted: (A) The offense involved personal information, means of identification, confidential phone records information, or tax return information of a substantial number of individuals. (B) The offense caused or risked substantial non-monetary harm (e.g., physical harm, psychological harm, or severe emotional trauma, or resulted in a substantial invasion of privacy interest) to individuals whose private or protected information was obtained.
§2H4.1	Application Note 3	If the offense involved the holding of more than ten victims in a condition of peonage or involuntary servitude, an upward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 4	In a case in which the defendant was convicted under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1589(b) or 1593A, a downward departure may be warranted if the defendant benefitted from participating in a venture described in those sections without knowing that (i.e., in reckless disregard of the fact that) the venture had engaged in the criminal activity described in those sections.

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§2J1.2	Application Note 4	Upward Departure Considerations. If a weapon was used, or bodily injury or significant property damage resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures). In a case involving an act of extreme violence (for example, retaliating against a government witness by throwing acid in the witness’s face) or a particularly serious sex offense, an upward departure would be warranted.
§2J1.3	Application Note 4	If a weapon was used, or bodily injury or significant property damage resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2J1.6	Application Note 4	If a defendant is convicted of both the underlying offense and the failure to appear count, and the defendant committed additional acts of obstructive behavior (e.g., perjury) during the investigation, prosecution, or sentencing of the instant offense, an upward departure may be warranted. The upward departure will ensure an enhanced sentence for obstructive conduct for which no adjustment under §3C1.1 (Obstructing or Impeding the Administration of Justice) is made because of the operation of the rules set out in Application Note 3.
§2K1.3	Application Note 10	An upward departure may be warranted in any of the following circumstances: (A) the quantity of explosive materials significantly exceeded 1000 pounds; (B) the explosive materials were of a nature more volatile or dangerous than dynamite or conventional powder explosives (e.g., plastic explosives); (C) the defendant knowingly distributed explosive materials to a person under twenty-one years of age; or (D) the offense posed a substantial risk of death or bodily injury to multiple individuals.
	Application Note 11	As used in subsections (b)(3) and (c)(1), “another felony offense” and “another offense” refer to offenses other than explosives or firearms possession or trafficking offenses. However, where the defendant used or possessed a firearm or explosive to facilitate another firearms or explosives offense (e.g., the defendant used or possessed a firearm to protect the delivery of an unlawful shipment of explosives), an upward departure under §5K2.6 (Weapons and Dangerous Instrumentalities) may be warranted.

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§2K1.3	Application Note 11	In addition, for purposes of subsection (c)(1)(A), “ that other offense ” means, with respect to an offense under 18 U.S.C. § 842(p)(2), the underlying Federal crime of violence.
§2K1.4	Application Note 3	Upward Departure Provision.—If bodily injury resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2K2.1	§2K2.1(b)(9)(B)	(B) does not have more than 1 criminal history point, as determined under §4A1.1 (Criminal History Category) and §4A1.2 (Definitions and Instructions for Computing Criminal History), read together, before application of subsection (b) of §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category); and
	Application Note 7	<p>Destructive Devices.—A defendant whose offense involves a destructive device receives both the base offense level from the subsection applicable to a firearm listed in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a) (e.g., subsection (a)(1), (a)(3), (a)(4)(B), or (a)(5)), and the applicable enhancement under subsection (b)(3). Such devices pose a considerably greater risk to the public welfare than other National Firearms Act weapons.</p> <p>Offenses involving such devices cover a wide range of offense conduct and involve different degrees of risk to the public welfare depending on the type of destructive device involved and the location or manner in which that destructive device was possessed or transported. For example, a pipe bomb in a populated train station creates a substantially greater risk to the public welfare, and a substantially greater risk of death or serious bodily injury, than an incendiary device in an isolated area. In a case in which the cumulative result of the increased base offense level and the enhancement under subsection (b)(3) does not adequately capture the seriousness of the offense because of the type of destructive device involved, the risk to the public welfare, or the risk of death or serious bodily injury that the destructive device created, an upward departure may be warranted. See also §§5K2.1 (Death), 5K2.2 (Physical Injury), and 5K2.14 (Public Welfare).</p>

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§2K2.1	Application Note 11	Upward Departure Provisions. — An upward departure may be warranted in any of the following circumstances: (A) the number of firearms substantially exceeded 200; (B) the offense involved multiple National Firearms Act weapons (e.g., machineguns, destructive devices), military type assault rifles, non-detectable (“plastic”) firearms (defined at 18 U.S.C. § 922(p)); (C) the offense involved large quantities of armor-piercing ammunition (defined at 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(17)(B)); or (D) the offense posed a substantial risk of death or bodily injury to multiple individuals (see Application Note 7).
	Application Note 13(B)	Upward Departure Provision. — If the defendant transported, transferred, sold, or otherwise disposed of, or purchased or received with intent to transport, transfer, sell, or otherwise dispose of, substantially more than 25 firearms, an upward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 14(D)	Upward Departure Provision. — In a case in which the defendant used or possessed a firearm or explosive to facilitate another firearms or explosives offense (e.g., the defendant used or possessed a firearm to protect the delivery of an unlawful shipment of explosives), an upward departure under §5K2.6 (Weapons and Dangerous Instrumentalities) may be warranted.
§2K2.4	§2K2.4(a)	(a) If the defendant, whether or not convicted of another crime, was convicted of violating section 844(h) of title 18, United States Code, the guideline sentence is the term of imprisonment required by statute. Chapters Three (Adjustments), Parts A through E , and Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood) shall not apply to that count of conviction.
	§2K2.4(b)	(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), if the defendant, whether or not convicted of another crime, was convicted of violating section 924(c) or section 929(a) of title 18, United States Code, the guideline sentence is the minimum term of imprisonment required by statute. Chapters Three, Parts A through E , and Four shall not apply to that count of conviction.

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§2K2.4	§2K2.4(c)	If the defendant (1) was convicted of violating section 924(c) or section 929(a) of title 18, United States Code; and (2) as a result of that conviction (alone or in addition to another offense of conviction), is determined to be a career offender under §4B1.1 (Career Offender), the guideline sentence shall be determined under §4B1.1(c). Except for §§3E1.1 (Acceptance of Responsibility), 4B1.1, and 4B1.2 (Definitions of Terms Used in Section 4B1.1), Chapters Three, Parts A through E , and Four shall not apply to that count of conviction.
	Application Note 2(A), (B)	<p>Application of Subsection (b).—</p> <p>(A) In General.—Sections 924(c) and 929(a) of title 18, United States Code, provide mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment (<i>e.g.</i>, not less than five years). Except as provided in subsection (c), in a case in which the defendant is convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) or § 929(a), the guideline sentence is the minimum term required by the relevant statute. Each of 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c) and 929(a) also requires that a term of imprisonment imposed under that section shall run consecutively to any other term of imprisonment.</p> <p>(B) Upward Departure Provision.—In a case in which the guideline sentence is determined under subsection (b), a sentence above the minimum term required by 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) or § 929(a) is an upward departure from the guideline sentence. A departure may be warranted, for example, to reflect the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history in a case in which the defendant is convicted of an 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) or § 929(a) offense but is not determined to be a career offender under §4B1.1.</p>
	Application Note 4(C)	Upward Departure Provision.— In a few cases in which the defendant is determined not to be a career offender, the offense level for the underlying offense determined under the preceding paragraphs may result in a guideline range that, when combined with the mandatory consecutive sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(e), or § 929(a), produces a total maximum penalty that is less than the maximum of the guideline range that would have resulted had there not been a count of conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(e), or § 929(a) (<i>i.e.</i> , the guideline range that would have resulted if the enhancements for possession, use, or discharge of a firearm had been applied). In such a case, an upward departure may be

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§2K2.4	Application Note 4(C)	warranted so that the conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(e), or § 929(a) does not result in a decrease in the total punishment. An upward departure under this paragraph shall not exceed the maximum of the guideline range that would have resulted had there not been a count of conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(e), or § 929(a).
	Application Note 5	Chapters Three and Four. —Except for those cases covered by subsection (c), do not apply Chapter Three (Adjustments), Parts A through E , and Chapter Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood) to any offense sentenced under this guideline. Such offenses are excluded from application of those chapters because the guideline sentence for each offense is determined only by the relevant statute. <i>See</i> §§3D1.1 (Procedure for Determining Offense Level on Multiple Counts) and 5G1.2. In determining the guideline sentence for those cases covered by subsection (c): (A) the adjustment in §3E1.1 (Acceptance of Responsibility) may apply, as provided in §4B1.1(c); and (B) no other adjustments in Chapter Three, Parts A through D , and no provisions of Chapter Four, other than §§4B1.1 and 4B1.2, shall apply.
§2K2.5	Application Note 4	Where the firearm was brandished, discharged, or otherwise used, in a federal facility, federal court facility, or school zone, and the cross reference from subsection (c)(1) does not apply, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2L1.1	Application Note 4	Application of Subsection (b)(7) to Conduct Constituting Criminal Sexual Abuse. —Consistent with Application Note 1(ML) of §1B1.1 (Application Instructions), “serious bodily injury” is deemed to have occurred if the offense involved conduct constituting criminal sexual abuse under 18 U.S.C. § 2241 or § 2242 or any similar offense under state law.
	Application Note 7(A)–(C)	Upward Departure Provisions.—An upward departure may be warranted in any of the following cases: (A) The defendant smuggled, transported, or harbored an alien knowing that the alien intended to enter the United States to engage in subversive activity, drug trafficking, or other serious criminal behavior.

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§2L1.1	Application Note 7(A)–(C)	<p>(B) The defendant smuggled, transported, or harbored an alien the defendant knew was inadmissible for reasons of security and related grounds, as set forth under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3).</p> <p>(C) The offense involved substantially more than 100 aliens.</p>
§2L1.2	Application Note 6	<p>Departure Based on Seriousness of a Prior Offense. There may be cases in which the offense level provided by an enhancement in subsection (b)(2) or (b)(3) substantially understates or overstates the seriousness of the conduct underlying the prior offense, because (A) the length of the sentence imposed does not reflect the seriousness of the prior offense; (B) the prior conviction is too remote to receive criminal history points (see §4A1.2(e)); or (C) the time actually served was substantially less than the length of the sentence imposed for the prior offense. In such a case, a departure may be warranted.</p>
	Application Note 7	<p>Departure Based on Time Served in State Custody. In a case in which the defendant is located by immigration authorities while the defendant is serving time in state custody, whether pre- or post-conviction, for a state offense, the time served is not covered by an adjustment under §5G1.3(b) and, accordingly, is not covered by a departure under §5K2.23 (Discharged Terms of Imprisonment). See §5G1.3(a). In such a case, the court may consider whether a departure is appropriate to reflect all or part of the time served in state custody, from the time immigration authorities locate the defendant until the service of the federal sentence commences, that the court determines will not be credited to the federal sentence by the Bureau of Prisons. Any such departure should be fashioned to achieve a reasonable punishment for the instant offense.</p> <p>Such a departure should be considered only in cases where the departure is not likely to increase the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant. In determining whether such a departure is appropriate, the court should consider, among other things, (A) whether the defendant engaged in additional criminal activity after illegally reentering the United States; (B) the seriousness of any such additional criminal activity, including (1) whether the defendant used violence or credible threats of violence or possessed a firearm or other</p>

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§2L1.2	Application Note 7	dangerous weapon (or induced another person to do so) in connection with the criminal activity, (2) whether the criminal activity resulted in death or serious bodily injury to any person, and (3) whether the defendant was an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of others in the criminal activity; and (C) the seriousness of the defendant's other criminal history.
	Application Note 8	<p>Departure Based on Cultural Assimilation. There may be cases in which a downward departure may be appropriate on the basis of cultural assimilation. Such a departure should be considered only in cases where (A) the defendant formed cultural ties primarily with the United States from having resided continuously in the United States from childhood, (B) those cultural ties provided the primary motivation for the defendant's illegal reentry or continued presence in the United States, and (C) such a departure is not likely to increase the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant.</p> <p>In determining whether such a departure is appropriate, the court should consider, among other things, (1) the age in childhood at which the defendant began residing continuously in the United States, (2) whether and for how long the defendant attended school in the United States, (3) the duration of the defendant's continued residence in the United States, (4) the duration of the defendant's presence outside the United States, (5) the nature and extent of the defendant's familial and cultural ties inside the United States, and the nature and extent of such ties outside the United States, (6) the seriousness of the defendant's criminal history, and (7) whether the defendant engaged in additional criminal activity after illegally reentering the United States.</p>
§2L2.1	Application Note 3	Subsection (b)(3) provides an enhancement if the defendant knew, believed, or had reason to believe that a passport or visa was to be used to facilitate the commission of a felony offense, other than an offense involving violation of the immigration laws. If the defendant knew, believed, or had reason to believe that the felony offense to be committed was of an especially serious type, an upward departure may be warranted.

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§2L2.1	Application Note 5	If the offense involved substantially more than 100 documents, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2L2.2	Application Note 6	Upward Departure Provision.— If the defendant fraudulently obtained or used a United States passport for the purpose of entering the United States to engage in terrorist activity, an upward departure may be warranted. See Application Note 4 of the Commentary to §3A1.4 (Terrorism).
§2M3.1	Application Note 2	The Commission has set the base offense level in this subpart on the assumption that the information at issue bears a significant relation to the nation’s security, and that the revelation will significantly and adversely affect security interests. When revelation is likely to cause little or no harm, a downward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
	Application Note 3	The court may depart from the guidelines upon representation by the President or his duly authorized designee that the imposition of a sanction other than authorized by the guideline is necessary to protect national security or further the objectives of the nation’s foreign policy.
§2M4.1	Application Note 1	Subsection (b)(1) does not distinguish between whether the offense was committed in peacetime or during time of war or armed conflict. If the offense was committed when persons were being inducted for compulsory military service during time of war or armed conflict, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2M5.1	Application Note 3(A), (B)	Departure Provisions.— (A) In General.— In determining the sentence within the applicable guideline range, the court may consider the degree to which the violation threatened a security interest of the United States, the volume of commerce involved, the extent of planning or sophistication, and whether there were multiple occurrences. Where such factors are present in an extreme form, a departure from the guidelines may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).

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§2M5.1	Application Note 3(A), (B)	(B) War or Armed Conflict.— In the case of a violation during time of war or armed conflict, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2M5.2	Application Note 1	Under 22 U.S.C. § 2778, the President is authorized, through a licensing system administered by the Department of State, to control exports of defense articles and defense services that he deems critical to a security or foreign policy interest of the United States. The items subject to control constitute the United States Munitions List, which is set out in 22 C.F.R. Part 121.1. Included in this list are such things as military aircraft, helicopters, artillery, shells, missiles, rockets, bombs, vessels of war, explosives, military and space electronics, and certain firearms. The base offense level assumes that the offense conduct was harmful or had the potential to be harmful to a security or foreign policy interest of the United States. In the unusual case where the offense conduct posed no such risk, a downward departure may be warranted. In the case of a violation during time of war or armed conflict, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
	Application Note 2	In determining the sentence within the applicable guideline range, the court may consider the degree to which the violation threatened a security or foreign policy interest of the United States, the volume of commerce involved, the extent of planning or sophistication, and whether there were multiple occurrences. Where such factors are present in an extreme form, a departure from the guidelines may be warranted.
§2M5.3	Application Note 2(A), (B)	Departure Provisions.— (A) In General.— In determining the sentence within the applicable guideline range, the court may consider the degree to which the violation threatened a security interest of the United States, the volume of the funds or other material support or resources involved, the extent of planning or sophistication, and whether there were multiple occurrences. In a case in which such factors are present in an extreme form, a departure from the guidelines may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).

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§2M5.3	Application Note 2(A), (B)	(B) War or Armed Conflict. In the case of a violation during time of war or armed conflict, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2N1.1	Application Note 1	The base offense level reflects that this offense typically poses a risk of death or serious bodily injury to one or more victims; or causes, or is intended to cause, bodily injury. Where the offense posed a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to numerous victims, or caused extreme psychological injury or substantial property damage or monetary loss, an upward departure may be warranted. In the unusual case in which the offense did not cause a risk of death or serious bodily injury, and neither caused nor was intended to cause bodily injury, a downward departure may be warranted.
§2N1.2	Application Note 1	If death or bodily injury, extreme psychological injury, or substantial property damage or monetary loss resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2N1.3	Application Note 1	If death or bodily injury, extreme psychological injury, or substantial property damage or monetary loss resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2N2.1	Application Note 1	This guideline assumes a regulatory offense that involved knowing or reckless conduct. Where only negligence was involved, a downward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
	Application Note 3(A), (B)	<p>Upward Departure Provisions.—The following are circumstances in which an upward departure may be warranted:</p> <p>(A) The offense created a substantial risk of bodily injury or death; or bodily injury, death, extreme psychological injury, property damage, or monetary loss resulted from the offense. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).</p> <p>(B) The defendant was convicted under 7 U.S.C. § 7734.</p>

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§2P1.1	Application Note 4	If death or bodily injury resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2P1.3	Application Note 1	If death or bodily injury resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2Q1.1	Application Note 1	If death or serious bodily injury resulted, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§2Q1.2	Application Note 4	Except when the adjustment in subsection (b)(6) for simple recordkeeping offenses applies, this section assumes knowing conduct. In cases involving negligent conduct, a downward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 5	Subsection (b)(1) assumes a discharge or emission into the environment resulting in actual environmental contamination. A wide range of conduct, involving the handling of different quantities of materials with widely differing propensities, potentially is covered. Depending upon the harm resulting from the emission, release or discharge, the quantity and nature of the substance or pollutant, the duration of the offense and the risk associated with the violation, a departure of up to two levels in either direction from the offense levels prescribed in these specific offense characteristics may be appropriate.
	Application Note 6	Subsection (b)(2) applies to offenses where the public health is seriously endangered. Depending upon the nature of the risk created and the number of people placed at risk, a departure of up to three levels upward or downward may be warranted. If death or serious bodily injury results, a departure would be called for. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
	Application Note 7	Subsection (b)(3) provides an enhancement where a public disruption, evacuation or cleanup at substantial expense has been required. Depending upon the nature of the contamination involved, a departure of up to two levels either upward or downward could be warranted.

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§2Q1.2	Application Note 8	Subsection (b)(4) applies where the offense involved violation of a permit, or where there was a failure to obtain a permit when one was required. Depending upon the nature and quantity of the substance involved and the risk associated with the offense, a departure of up to two levels either upward or downward may be warranted.
	Application Note 9(A)–(C)	<p>Other Upward Departure Provisions.—</p> <p>(A) Civil Adjudications and Failure to Comply with Administrative Order.—In a case in which the defendant has previously engaged in similar misconduct established by a civil adjudication or has failed to comply with an administrative order, an upward departure may be warranted. See §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category).</p> <p>(B) Extreme Psychological Injury.—If the offense caused extreme psychological injury, an upward departure may be warranted. See §5K2.3 (Extreme Psychological Injury).</p> <p>(C) Terrorism.—If the offense was calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct, an upward departure would be warranted. See Application Note 4 of the Commentary to §3A1.4 (Terrorism).</p>
§2Q1.3	Application Note 3	The specific offense characteristics in this section assume knowing conduct. In cases involving negligent conduct, a downward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 4	Subsection (b)(1) assumes a discharge or emission into the environment resulting in actual environmental contamination. A wide range of conduct, involving the handling of different quantities of materials with widely differing propensities, potentially is covered. Depending upon the harm resulting from the emission, release or discharge, the quantity and nature of the substance or pollutant, the duration of the offense and the risk associated with the violation, a departure of up to two levels in either direction from that prescribed in these specific offense characteristics may be appropriate.

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§2Q1.3	Application Note 5	Subsection (b)(2) applies to offenses where the public health is seriously endangered. Depending upon the nature of the risk created and the number of people placed at risk, a departure of up to three levels upward or downward may be warranted. If death or serious bodily injury results, a departure would be called for. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
	Application Note 6	Subsection (b)(3) provides an enhancement where a public disruption, evacuation or cleanup at substantial expense has been required. Depending upon the nature of the contamination involved, a departure of up to two levels in either direction could be warranted.
	Application Note 7	Subsection (b)(4) applies where the offense involved violation of a permit, or where there was a failure to obtain a permit when one was required. Depending upon the nature and quantity of the substance involved and the risk associated with the offense, a departure of up to two levels in either direction may be warranted.
	Application Note 8	Where a defendant has previously engaged in similar misconduct established by a civil adjudication or has failed to comply with an administrative order, an upward departure may be warranted. See §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).
§2Q1.4	Application Note 3(A), (B)	<p>Departure Provisions.—</p> <p>(A) Downward Departure Provision.—The base offense level in subsection (a)(1) reflects that offenses covered by that subsection typically pose a risk of death or serious bodily injury to one or more victims, or cause, or are intended to cause, bodily injury. In the unusual case in which such an offense did not cause a risk of death or serious bodily injury, and neither caused nor was intended to cause bodily injury, a downward departure may be warranted.</p> <p>(B) Upward Departure Provisions.—If the offense caused extreme psychological injury, or caused substantial property damage or monetary loss, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>

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§2Q1.4	Application Note 3(A), (B)	If the offense was calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct, an upward departure would be warranted. See Application Note 4 of §3A1.4 (Terrorism).
§2Q2.1	Application Note 5	If the offense involved the destruction of a substantial quantity of fish, wildlife, or plants, and the seriousness of the offense is not adequately measured by the market value, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2R1.1	Application Note 7	Defendant with Previous Antitrust Convictions. —In the case of a defendant with previous antitrust convictions, a sentence at the maximum of the applicable guideline range, or an upward departure, may be warranted. See §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).
§2T1.8	Application Note 1	If the defendant was attempting to evade, rather than merely delay, payment of taxes, an upward departure may be warranted.
§2T2.1	Application Note 2	Offense conduct directed at more than tax evasion (e.g., theft or fraud) may warrant an upward departure.
Subpart 3	Introductory Comment	This subpart deals with violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 496, 541–545, 547, 548, 550, 551, 1915 and 19 U.S.C. §§ 283, 1436, 1464, 1465, 1586(e), 1708(b), and 3907, and is designed to address violations involving revenue collection or trade regulation. It is intended to deal with some types of contraband, such as certain uncertified diamonds, but is not intended to deal with the importation of other types of contraband, such as drugs, or other items such as obscene material, firearms or pelts of endangered species, the importation of which is prohibited or restricted for non-economic reasons. Other, more specific criminal statutes apply to most of these offenses. Importation of contraband or stolen goods not specifically covered by this subpart would be a reason for referring to another, more specific guideline, if applicable, or for departing upward if there is not another more specific applicable guideline.

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§2T3.1	Application Note 2	Particular attention should be given to those items for which entry is prohibited, limited, or restricted. Especially when such items are harmful or protective quotas are in effect, the duties evaded on such items may not adequately reflect the harm to society or protected industries resulting from their importation. In such instances, an upward departure may be warranted. A sentence based upon an alternative measure of the “duty” evaded, such as the increase in market value due to importation, or 25 percent of the items’ fair market value in the United States if the increase in market value due to importation is not readily ascertainable, might be considered.
§2X5.1	Application Note 1	In General. —Guidelines and policy statements that can be applied meaningfully in the absence of a Chapter Two offense guideline include: §3F1.1 (Early Disposition Programs (Policy Statement)) ; §5B1.3 (Conditions of Probation); §5D1.1 (Imposition of a Term of Supervised Release); §5D1.2 (Term of Supervised Release); §5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release); §5E1.1 (Restitution); §5E1.3 (Special Assessments); §5E1.4 (Forfeiture); Chapter Five, Part F (Sentencing Options); §5G1.3 (Imposition of a Sentence on a Defendant Subject to an Undischarged Term of Imprisonment or Anticipated State Term of Imprisonment); Chapter Five, Part H (Specific Offender Characteristics) ; Chapter Five, Part J (Relief from Disability); Chapter Five, Part K (Departures Assistance to Authorities); and Chapter Six, Part A (Sentencing Procedures); Chapter Six, Part B (Plea Agreements).
	Application Note 2(A), (B)	Convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 1841(a)(1). — (A) In General. —If the defendant is convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 1841(a)(1), the Chapter Two offense guideline that applies is the guideline that covers the conduct the defendant is convicted of having engaged in, <i>i.e.</i> , the conduct of which the defendant is convicted that violates a specific provision listed in 18 U.S.C. § 1841(b) and that results in the death of, or bodily injury to, a child in utero at the time of the offense of conviction. For example, if the defendant committed aggravated sexual abuse against the unborn child’s mother and it caused the death of the child in utero, the applicable Chapter Two guideline would be §2A3.1 (Criminal Sexual Abuse; Attempt to Commit Criminal Sexual Abuse).

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§2X5.1	Application Note 2(A), (B)	(B) Upward Departure Provision.—For offenses under 18 U.S.C. § 1841(a)(1), an upward departure may be warranted if the offense level under the applicable guideline does not adequately account for the death of, or serious bodily injury to, the child in utero.
§2X7.2	Application Note 1(A), (B)	<p>Upward Departure Provisions.—An upward departure may be warranted in any of the following cases: As identified by Congress in section 103 of Public Law 110–407, the following factors may also warrant consideration in imposing a sentence under this guideline:</p> <p>(A) The defendant engaged in a pattern of activity involving use of a submersible vessel or semi-submersible vessel described in 18 U.S.C. § 2285 to facilitate other felonies.</p> <p>(B) The offense involved use of the vessel as part of an ongoing criminal organization or enterprise.</p>

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§3A1.1	Application Note 4	If an enhancement from subsection (b) applies and the defendant's criminal history includes a prior sentence for an offense that involved the selection of a vulnerable victim, an upward departure may be warranted.
§3A1.2	Application Note 5	Upward Departure Provision.— If the official victim is an exceptionally high level official, such as the President or the Vice President of the United States, an upward departure may be warranted due to the potential disruption of the governmental function.
§3A1.3	Application Note 3	If the restraint was sufficiently egregious, an upward departure may be warranted. See §5K2.4 (Abduction or Unlawful Restraint).
§3A1.4	Application Note 4	Upward Departure Provision.— By the terms of the directive to the Commission in section 730 of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, the adjustment provided by this guideline applies only to federal crimes of terrorism. However, there may be cases in which (A) the offense was calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct but the offense involved, or was intended to promote, an offense other than one of the offenses specifically enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B); or (B) the offense involved, or was intended to promote, one of the offenses specifically enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B), but the terrorist motive was to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, rather than to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct. In such cases an upward departure would be warranted, except that the sentence resulting from such a departure may not exceed the top of the guideline range that would have resulted if the adjustment under this guideline had been applied.
§3B1.1	Application Note 2	Organizer, Leader, Manager, or Supervisor of One or More Participants.—To qualify for an adjustment under this section, the defendant must have been the organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of one or more other participants. An upward departure may be warranted, however, in the case of a defendant who did not organize, lead, manage, or supervise another participant, but who nevertheless exercised management responsibility over the property, assets, or activities of a criminal organization.

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§3B1.4	Application Note 3	If the defendant used or attempted to use more than one person less than eighteen years of age, an upward departure may be warranted.
§3C1.2	Application Note 2	“Reckless” is defined in the Commentary to §2A1.4 (Involuntary Manslaughter). For the purposes of this guideline, “reckless” means that the conduct was at least reckless and includes any higher level of culpability. However, where a higher degree of culpability was involved, an upward departure above the 2 level increase provided in this section may be warranted.
	Application Note 6	If death or bodily injury results or the conduct posed a substantial risk of death or bodily injury to more than one person, an upward departure may be warranted. See Chapter Five, Part K (Departures).
§3D1.1	Background	This section outlines the procedure to be used for determining the combined offense level. After any adjustments from Chapter Three, Parts E (Acceptance of Responsibility) and F (Early Disposition Program), and Chapter Four, Parts B (Career Offenders and Criminal Livelihood) and C (Adjustment for Certain Zero-Point Offenders) are made, this combined offense level is used to determine the guideline sentence range. Chapter Five (Determining the Sentence Determining the Sentencing Range and Options Under the Guidelines) discusses how to determine the sentence from the (combined) offense level; §5G1.2 deals specifically with determining the sentence of imprisonment when convictions on multiple counts are involved. References in Chapter Five (Determining the Sentence Determining the Sentencing Range and Options Under the Guidelines) to the “offense level” should be treated as referring to the combined offense level after all subsequent adjustments have been made.
§3D1.2	Background	Ordinarily, the first step in determining the combined offense level in a case involving multiple counts is to identify those counts that are sufficiently related to be placed in the same Group of Closely Related Counts (“Group”). This section specifies four situations in which counts are to be grouped together. Although it appears last for conceptual reasons, subsection (d) probably will be used most frequently.

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§3D1.2	Background	<p>A primary consideration in this section is whether the offenses involve different victims. For example, a defendant may stab three prison guards in a single escape attempt. Some would argue that all counts arising out of a single transaction or occurrence should be grouped together even when there are distinct victims. Although such a proposal was considered, it was rejected because it probably would require departure in many cases in order to capture adequately, in many cases, it would not adequately capture the scope and impact of the criminal behavior. Cases involving injury to distinct victims are sufficiently comparable, whether or not the injuries are inflicted in distinct transactions, so that each such count should be treated separately rather than grouped together. Counts involving different victims (or societal harms in the case of “victimless” crimes) are grouped together only as provided in subsection (c) or (d).</p> <p>Even if counts involve a single victim, the decision as to whether to group them together may not always be clear cut. For example, how contemporaneous must two assaults on the same victim be in order to warrant grouping together as constituting a single transaction or occurrence? Existing case law may provide some guidance as to what constitutes distinct offenses, but such decisions often turn on the technical language of the statute and cannot be controlling. In interpreting this part and resolving ambiguities, the court should look to the underlying policy of this part as stated in the Introductory Commentary.</p>
§3D1.3	Application Note 4	<p>Sometimes the rule specified in this section may not result in incremental punishment for additional criminal acts because of the grouping rules. For example, if the defendant commits forcible criminal sexual abuse (rape), aggravated assault, and robbery, all against the same victim on a single occasion, all of the counts are grouped together under §3D1.2. The aggravated assault will increase the guideline range for the rape. The robbery, however, will not. This is because the offense guideline for rape (§2A3.1) includes the most common aggravating factors, including injury, that data showed to be significant in actual practice. The additional factor of property loss ordinarily can be taken into account adequately within the guideline range for rape, which is fairly wide. However, an exceptionally large property loss in the course of the rape would provide grounds for an upward departure. See §5K2.5 (Property Damage or Loss).</p>

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§3D1.4	Background	<p>When Groups are of roughly comparable seriousness, each Group will represent one Unit. When the most serious Group carries an offense level substantially higher than that applicable to the other Groups, however, counting the lesser Groups fully for purposes of the table could add excessive punishment, possibly even more than those offenses would carry if prosecuted separately. To avoid this anomalous result and produce declining marginal punishment, Groups 9 or more levels less serious than the most serious Group should not be counted for purposes of the table, and that Groups 5 to 8 levels less serious should be treated as equal to one-half of a Group. Thus, if the most serious Group is at offense level 15 and if two other Groups are at level 10, there would be a total of two Units for purposes of the table (one plus one-half plus one-half) and the combined offense level would be 17. Inasmuch as the maximum increase provided in the guideline is 5 levels, departure would be warranted in the unusual case where the additional offenses resulted in a total of significantly more than 5 Units.</p> <p>In unusual circumstances, the approach adopted in this section could produce adjustments for the additional counts that are inadequate or excessive. If there are several groups and the most serious offense is considerably more serious than all of the others, there will be no increase in the offense level resulting from the additional counts. Ordinarily, the court will have latitude to impose added punishment by sentencing toward the upper end of the range authorized for the most serious offense. Situations in which there will be inadequate scope for ensuring appropriate additional punishment for the additional crimes are likely to be unusual and can be handled by departure from the guidelines. Conversely, it is possible that if there are several minor offenses that are not grouped together, application of the rules in this part could result in an excessive increase in the sentence range. Again, such situations should be infrequent and can be handled through departure. An alternative method for ensuring more precise adjustments would have been to determine the appropriate offense level adjustment through a more complicated mathematical formula; that approach was not adopted because of its complexity.</p>
§3D1.5	Commentary	<p>This section refers the court to Chapter Five (Determining the Sentence Determining the Sentencing Range and Options Under the Guidelines) in order to determine the total punishment to be imposed based upon the combined offense level. The combined offense level</p>

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§3D1.5	Commentary	is subject to adjustments from Chapter Three, Parts E (Acceptance of Responsibility) and F (Early Disposition Program) , and Chapter Four, Parts B (Career Offenders and Criminal Livelihood) and C (Adjustment for Certain Zero-Point Offenders).
Part F	Title	PART F — EARLY DISPOSITION PROGRAM
§3F1.1	§3F1.1	Early Disposition Programs (Policy Statement) Upon motion of the Government, the court may decrease the defendant’s offense level pursuant to an early disposition program authorized by the Attorney General of the United States and the United States Attorney for the district in which the court resides. The level of the decrease shall be consistent with the authorized program within the filing district and the government motion filed, but shall be not more than 4 levels.
§3F1.1	Background	This policy statement implements the directive to the Commission in section 401(m)(2)(B) of the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (the “PROTECT Act”, Public Law 108–21).

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Part A	Introductory Commentary	<p>The Comprehensive Crime Control Act sets forth four purposes of sentencing. (<i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2).) A defendant’s record of past criminal conduct is directly relevant to those purposes. A defendant with a record of prior criminal behavior is more culpable than a first offender and thus deserving of greater punishment. General deterrence of criminal conduct dictates that a clear message be sent to society that repeated criminal behavior will aggravate the need for punishment with each recurrence. To protect the public from further crimes of the particular defendant, the likelihood of recidivism and future criminal behavior must be considered. Repeated criminal behavior is an indicator of a limited likelihood of successful rehabilitation.</p> <p>The specific factors included in §4A1.1 and §4A1.3 are consistent with the extant empirical research assessing correlates of recidivism and patterns of career criminal behavior. While empirical research has shown that other factors are correlated highly with the likelihood of recidivism, <i>e.g.</i>, age and drug abuse, for policy reasons they were not included here at this time. The Commission has made no definitive judgment as to the reliability of the existing data. However, the Commission will review additional data insofar as they become available in the future.</p>
§4A1.1	Background	<p>Prior convictions may represent convictions in the federal system, fifty state systems, the District of Columbia, territories, and foreign, tribal, and military courts. There are jurisdictional variations in offense definitions, sentencing structures, and manner of sentence pronouncement. To minimize problems with imperfect measures of past crime seriousness, criminal history categories are based on the maximum term imposed in previous sentences rather than on other measures, such as whether the conviction was designated a felony or misdemeanor. In recognition of the imperfection of this measure however, §4A1.3 authorizes the court to depart from the otherwise applicable criminal history category in certain circumstances.</p> <p>Subsections (a), (b), and (c) of §4A1.1 distinguish confinement sentences longer than one year and one month, shorter confinement sentences of at least sixty days, and all other sentences,</p>

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§4A1.1	Background	<p>such as confinement sentences of less than sixty days, probation, fines, and residency in a halfway house.</p> <p>Section 4A1.1(e) adds one point if the defendant receives 7 or more points under §4A1.1(a) through (d) and was under a criminal justice sentence during any part of the instant offense.</p>
§4A1.2	§4A1.2(h)	<p>FOREIGN SENTENCES</p> <p>Sentences resulting from foreign convictions are not counted, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).</p>
	§4A1.2(i)	<p>TRIBAL COURT SENTENCES</p> <p>Sentences resulting from tribal court convictions are not counted, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).</p>
	§4A1.2(j)	<p>EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS</p> <p>Sentences for expunged convictions are not counted, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).</p>
	Application Note 3(A), (B)	<p>Application of “Single Sentence” Rule (Subsection (a)(2)).—</p> <p>(A) Predicate Offenses.—In some cases, multiple prior sentences are treated as a single sentence for purposes of calculating the criminal history score under §4A1.1(a), (b), and (c). However, for purposes of determining predicate offenses, a prior sentence included in the single sentence should be treated as if it received criminal history points, if it independently would have received criminal history points. Therefore, an individual prior sentence may serve as a predicate under the career offender guideline (<i>see</i> §4B1.2(c)) or other guidelines with predicate offenses, if it independently would have received criminal history points. However, because predicate offenses may be used only if they are counted “separately” from each other</p>

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§4A1.2	Application Note 3(A), (B)	<p>(see §4B1.2(c)), no more than one prior sentence in a given single sentence may be used as a predicate offense.</p> <p>For example, a defendant’s criminal history includes one robbery conviction and one theft conviction. The sentences for these offenses were imposed on the same day, eight years ago, and are treated as a single sentence under §4A1.2(a)(2). If the defendant received a one-year sentence of imprisonment for the robbery and a two-year sentence of imprisonment for the theft, to be served concurrently, a total of 3 points is added under §4A1.1(a). Because this particular robbery met the definition of a felony crime of violence and independently would have received 2 criminal history points under §4A1.1(b), it may serve as a predicate under the career offender guideline.</p> <p>Note, however, that if the sentences in the example above were imposed thirteen years ago, the robbery independently would have received no criminal history points under §4A1.1(b), because it was not imposed within ten years of the defendant’s commencement of the instant offense. See §4A1.2(e)(2). Accordingly, it may not serve as a predicate under the career offender guideline.</p> <p>(B) Upward Departure Provision.—Treating multiple prior sentences as a single sentence may result in a criminal history score that underrepresents the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history and the danger that the defendant presents to the public. In such a case, an upward departure may be warranted. For example, if a defendant was convicted of a number of serious non-violent offenses committed on different occasions, and the resulting sentences were treated as a single sentence because either the sentences resulted from offenses contained in the same charging instrument or the defendant was sentenced for these offenses on the same day, the assignment of a single set of points may not adequately reflect the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history or the frequency with which the defendant has committed crimes.</p>

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§4A1.2	Application Note 6	<p>Reversed, Vacated, or Invalidated Convictions.—Sentences resulting from convictions that (A) have been reversed or vacated because of errors of law or because of subsequently discovered evidence exonerating the defendant, or (B) have been ruled constitutionally invalid in a prior case are not to be counted. With respect to the current sentencing proceeding, this guideline and commentary do not confer upon the defendant any right to attack collaterally a prior conviction or sentence beyond any such rights otherwise recognized in law (e.g., 21 U.S.C. § 851 expressly provides that a defendant may collaterally attack certain prior convictions).</p> <p>Nonetheless, the criminal conduct underlying any conviction that is not counted in the criminal history score may be considered pursuant to §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).</p>
	Application Note 8	<p>Applicable Time Period.—Section 4A1.2(d)(2) and (e) establishes the time period within which prior sentences are counted. As used in §4A1.2(d)(2) and (e), the term “commencement of the instant offense” includes any relevant conduct. <i>See</i> §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct). If the court finds that a sentence imposed outside this time period is evidence of similar, or serious dissimilar, criminal conduct, the court may consider this information in determining whether an upward departure is warranted under §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).</p>
§4A1.3	§4A1.3(a)–(c)	<p>Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)</p> <p>(a) UPWARD DEPARTURES.—</p> <p>(1) STANDARD FOR UPWARD DEPARTURE.—If reliable information indicates that the defendant’s criminal history category substantially under represents the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes, an upward departure may be warranted.</p> <p>(2) TYPES OF INFORMATION FORMING THE BASIS FOR UPWARD DEPARTURE.—The information described in subsection (a)(1) may include information concerning the following:</p>

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§4A1.3	§4A1.3(a)–(c)	<p>(A) Prior sentence(s) not used in computing the criminal history category (e.g., sentences for foreign and tribal convictions).</p> <p>(B) Prior sentence(s) of substantially more than one year imposed as a result of independent crimes committed on different occasions.</p> <p>(C) Prior similar misconduct established by a civil adjudication or by a failure to comply with an administrative order.</p> <p>(D) Whether the defendant was pending trial or sentencing on another charge at the time of the instant offense.</p> <p>(E) Prior similar adult criminal conduct not resulting in a criminal conviction.</p> <p>(3) PROHIBITION.—A prior arrest record itself shall not be considered for purposes of an upward departure under this policy statement.</p> <p>(4) DETERMINATION OF EXTENT OF UPWARD DEPARTURE.—</p> <p>(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subdivision (B), the court shall determine the extent of a departure under this subsection by using, as a reference, the criminal history category applicable to defendants whose criminal history or likelihood to recidivate most closely resembles that of the defendant's.</p> <p>(B) UPWARD DEPARTURES FROM CATEGORY VI.—In a case in which the court determines that the extent and nature of the defendant's criminal history, taken together, are sufficient to warrant an upward departure from Criminal History Category VI, the court should structure the departure by moving incrementally down the sentencing table to the next higher offense level in Criminal History Category VI until it finds a guideline range appropriate to the case.</p> <p>(b) DOWNWARD DEPARTURES.—</p> <p>(1) STANDARD FOR DOWNWARD DEPARTURE.—If reliable information indicates that the defendant's criminal history category substantially over-represents the seriousness of the</p>

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§4A1.3	§4A1.3(a)–(c)	<p>defendant’s criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes, a downward departure may be warranted.</p> <p>(2) PROHIBITIONS.—</p> <p>(A) CRIMINAL HISTORY CATEGORY I.— Unless otherwise specified, a departure below the lower limit of the applicable guideline range for Criminal History Category I is prohibited.</p> <p>(B) ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL AND REPEAT AND DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDER.— A downward departure under this subsection is prohibited for (i) an armed career criminal within the meaning of §4B1.4 (Armed Career Criminal); and (ii) a repeat and dangerous sex offender against minors within the meaning of §4B1.5 (Repeat and Dangerous Sex Offender Against Minors).</p> <p>(3) LIMITATIONS.—</p> <p>(A) LIMITATION ON EXTENT OF DOWNWARD DEPARTURE FOR CAREER OFFENDER.— The extent of a downward departure under this subsection for a career offender within the meaning of §4B1.1 (Career Offender) may not exceed one criminal history category.</p> <p>(B) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY OF §5C1.2 IN EVENT OF DOWNWARD DEPARTURE.— A defendant who receives a downward departure under this subsection does not meet the criminal history requirement of subsection (a)(1) of §5C1.2 (Limitation on Applicability of Statutory Maximum Sentences in Certain Cases) if the defendant did not otherwise meet such requirement before receipt of the downward departure.</p> <p>(c) WRITTEN SPECIFICATION OF BASIS FOR DEPARTURE.— In departing from the otherwise applicable criminal history category under this policy statement, the court shall specify in writing the following:</p>

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§4A1.3	§4A1.3(a)–(c)	<p>(1) In the case of an upward departure, the specific reasons why the applicable criminal history category substantially under represents the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes.</p> <p>(2) In the case of a downward departure, the specific reasons why the applicable criminal history category substantially over represents the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes.</p>
	Application Note 1	Definitions. — For purposes of this policy statement, the terms “ <i>depart</i> ”, “ <i>departure</i> ”, “ <i>downward departure</i> ”, and “ <i>upward departure</i> ” have the meaning given those terms in Application Note 1 of the Commentary to §1B1.1 (Application Instructions).
	Application Note 2(A)–(C)	<p>Upward Departures.—</p> <p>(A) Examples.— An upward departure from the defendant’s criminal history category may be warranted based on any of the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A previous foreign sentence for a serious offense. (ii) Receipt of a prior consolidated sentence of ten years for a series of serious assaults. (iii) A similar instance of large scale fraudulent misconduct established by an adjudication in a Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement proceeding. (iv) Commission of the instant offense while on bail or pretrial release for another serious offense. <p>(B) Upward Departures from Criminal History Category VI.— In the case of an egregious, serious criminal record in which even the guideline range for Criminal History Category VI is not adequate to reflect the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history, a departure above the guideline range for a defendant with Criminal History Category VI may be warranted. In determining whether an upward departure from Criminal History Category VI is warranted, the court should consider that the nature of the prior offenses rather than simply their number is often more indicative of the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal</p>

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§4A1.3	Application Note 2(A)–(C)	<p>record. For example, a defendant with five prior sentences for very large scale fraud offenses may have 15 criminal history points, within the range of points typical for Criminal History Category VI, yet have a substantially more serious criminal history overall because of the nature of the prior offenses.</p> <p>(C) Upward Departures Based on Tribal Court Convictions.— In determining whether, or to what extent, an upward departure based on a tribal court conviction is appropriate, the court shall consider the factors set forth in §4A1.3(a) above and, in addition, may consider relevant factors such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The defendant was represented by a lawyer, had the right to a trial by jury, and received other due process protections consistent with those provided to criminal defendants under the United States Constitution. (ii) The defendant received the due process protections required for criminal defendants under the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, Public Law 90–284, as amended. (iii) The tribe was exercising expanded jurisdiction under the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, Public Law 111–211. (iv) The tribe was exercising expanded jurisdiction under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, Public Law 113–4. (v) The tribal court conviction is not based on the same conduct that formed the basis for a conviction from another jurisdiction that receives criminal history points pursuant to this chapter. (vi) The tribal court conviction is for an offense that otherwise would be counted under §4A1.2 (Definitions and Instructions for Computing Criminal History).
	Application Note 3(A), (B)	<p>Downward Departures.—</p> <p>(A) Examples.— A downward departure from the defendant’s criminal history category may be warranted based on any of the following circumstances:</p>

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§4A1.3	Application Note 3(A), (B)	<p>(i) The defendant had two minor misdemeanor convictions close to ten years prior to the instant offense and no other evidence of prior criminal behavior in the intervening period.</p> <p>(ii) The defendant received criminal history points from a sentence for possession of marihuana for personal use, without an intent to sell or distribute it to another person.</p> <p>(B) Downward Departures from Criminal History Category I.—A departure below the lower limit of the applicable guideline range for Criminal History Category I is prohibited under subsection (b)(2)(A), unless otherwise specified.</p>
	Background	<p>This policy statement recognizes that the criminal history score is unlikely to take into account all the variations in the seriousness of criminal history that may occur. For example, a defendant with an extensive record of serious, assaultive conduct who had received what might now be considered extremely lenient treatment in the past might have the same criminal history category as a defendant who had a record of less serious conduct. Yet, the first defendant's criminal history clearly may be more serious. This may be particularly true in the case of younger defendants (e.g., defendants in their early twenties or younger) who are more likely to have received repeated lenient treatment, yet who may actually pose a greater risk of serious recidivism than older defendants. This policy statement authorizes the consideration of a departure from the guidelines in the limited circumstances where reliable information indicates that the criminal history category does not adequately reflect the seriousness of the defendant's criminal history or likelihood of recidivism, and provides guidance for the consideration of such departures.</p>
§4B1.1	Application Note 4	<p>Departure Provision for State Misdemeanors.—In a case in which one or both of the defendant's "two prior felony convictions" is based on an offense that was classified as a misdemeanor at the time of sentencing for the instant federal offense, application of the career offender guideline may result in a guideline range that substantially overrepresents the seriousness of the defendant's criminal history or substantially overstates the seriousness of the instant offense. In such a case, a downward departure may be warranted without regard to the limitation in §4A1.3(b)(3)(A).</p>

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§4B1.2	Application Note 4	Upward Departure for Burglary Involving Violence. There may be cases in which a burglary involves violence, but does not qualify as a “crime of violence” as defined in §4B1.2(a) and, as a result, the defendant does not receive a higher offense level or higher Criminal History Category that would have applied if the burglary qualified as a “crime of violence.” In such a case, an upward departure may be appropriate.
§4B1.4	Application Note 2	<p>Application of §4B1.4 in Cases Involving Convictions Under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a).—If a sentence under this guideline is imposed in conjunction with a sentence for a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a), do not apply either subsection (b)(3)(A) or (c)(2). A sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a) accounts for the conduct covered by subsections (b)(3)(A) and (c)(2) because of the relatedness of the conduct covered by these subsections to the conduct that forms the basis for the conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a).</p> <p>In a few cases, the rule provided in the preceding paragraph may result in a guideline range that, when combined with the mandatory consecutive sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a), produces a total maximum penalty that is less than the maximum of the guideline range that would have resulted had there not been a count of conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a) (i.e., the guideline range that would have resulted if subsections (b)(3)(A) and (c)(2) had been applied). In such a case, an upward departure may be warranted so that the conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a) does not result in a decrease in the total punishment. An upward departure under this paragraph shall not exceed the maximum of the guideline range that would have resulted had there not been a count of conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 844(h), § 924(c), or § 929(a).</p>
	Background	This section implements 18 U.S.C. § 924(e), which requires a minimum sentence of imprisonment of fifteen years for a defendant who violates 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) and has three previous convictions for a violent felony or a serious drug offense. If the offense level determined under this section is greater than the offense level otherwise applicable, the offense level determined under this section shall be applied. A minimum criminal history category (Category IV) is provided, reflecting that each defendant to whom this section applies

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§4B1.4	Background	will have at least three prior convictions for serious offenses. In some cases, the criminal history category may not adequately reflect the defendant's criminal history; see §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).
§4C1.1	Application Note 2	Upward Departure. An upward departure may be warranted if an adjustment under this guideline substantially underrepresents the seriousness of the defendant's criminal history. For example, an upward departure may be warranted if the defendant has a prior conviction or other comparable judicial disposition for an offense that involved violence or credible threats of violence.

Simplification:

Chapter Five

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
Chapter Five	Title	DETERMINING THE SENTENCE DETERMINING THE SENTENCING RANGE AND OPTIONS UNDER THE GUIDELINES
	Introductory Commentary	For certain categories of offenses and offenders, the guidelines permit the court to impose either imprisonment or some other sanction or combination of sanctions. In determining the type of sentence to impose, the sentencing judge should consider the nature and seriousness of the conduct, the statutory purposes of sentencing, and the pertinent offender characteristics. A sentence is within the guidelines if it complies with each applicable section of this chapter. The court should impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the statutory purposes of sentencing. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Chapter Five sets forth the steps used to determine the applicable sentencing range based upon the guideline calculations made in Chapters Two through Four. Additionally, the provisions in this chapter set forth the sentencing requirements and options under the guidelines related to probation, imprisonment, supervision conditions, fines, and restitution for the particular guideline range. For example, for certain categories of offenses and offenders, the guidelines permit the court to impose either imprisonment or some other sanction or combination of sanctions. After applying the provisions of this chapter to determine the sentencing options recommended under the guidelines pursuant to subsection (a) of §1B1.1 (Application Instructions), the court shall consider the other applicable factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to determine the length and type of sentence that is sufficient but not greater than necessary. A sentence is within the guidelines if it complies with each applicable section of this chapter.
§5B1.1	Application Note 3(A)–(F)	Factors to Be Considered.— (A) Statutory Factors.— The court, in determining whether to impose a term of probation, and, if a term of probation is to be imposed, in determining the length of the term and the conditions of probation, is required by statute to consider the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to the extent that they are applicable. <i>See</i> 18 USC 3562(a). (B) Substance Abuse.— In a case in which a defendant sentenced to probation is an abuser of controlled substances or alcohol, it is recommended that the court consider imposing a

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§5B1.1	Application Note 3(A)–(F)	<p>condition requiring the defendant to participate in a program approved by the United States Probation Office for substance abuse may be appropriate. <i>See</i> §5B1.3(d)(4).</p> <p>(C) Domestic Violence.—If the defendant is convicted for the first time of a domestic violence crime as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3561(b), a term of probation is required by statute if the defendant is not sentenced to a term of imprisonment. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3561(b). Such a defendant is also required by statute to attend an approved rehabilitation program, if available within a 50-mile radius of the legal residence of the defendant. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3563(a); §5B1.3(a)(4).</p> <p>(D) Mental and Emotional Conditions.—In a case in which a defendant sentenced to probation is in need of psychological or psychiatric treatment, it is recommended that the court consider imposing a condition requiring that the defendant participate in a mental health program approved by the United States Probation Office. <i>See</i> 5B1.3(d)(5).</p> <p>(E) Education and Vocational Skills.—Education and vocational skills may be relevant in determining the conditions of probation for rehabilitative purposes, for public protection by restricting activities that allow for the utilization of a certain skill, or in determining the appropriate type of community service.</p> <p>(F) Employment Record.—A defendant’s employment record may be relevant in determining the conditions of probation (<i>e.g.</i>, the appropriate hours of home detention).</p>
§5C1.1	Application Note 6	<p>Departures Based on Specific Treatment Purpose.—There may be cases in which a departure from the sentencing options authorized for Zone C of the Sentencing Table (under which at least half the minimum term must be satisfied by imprisonment) to the sentencing options authorized for Zone B of the Sentencing Table (under which all or most of the minimum term may be satisfied by intermittent confinement, community confinement, or home detention instead of imprisonment) is appropriate to accomplish a specific treatment purpose. Such a departure should be considered only in cases where the court finds that (A) the defendant is an abuser of narcotics, other controlled substances, or alcohol, or suffers from</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5C1.1	Application Note 6	<p>a significant mental illness, and (B) the defendant's criminality is related to the treatment problem to be addressed.</p> <p>In determining whether such a departure is appropriate, the court should consider, among other things, (1) the likelihood that completion of the treatment program will successfully address the treatment problem, thereby reducing the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant, and (2) whether imposition of less imprisonment than required by Zone C will increase the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant.</p> <p>Examples: The following examples both assume the applicable guideline range is 12–18 months and the court departs in accordance with this application note. Under Zone C rules, the defendant must be sentenced to at least six months imprisonment. (1) The defendant is a nonviolent drug offender in Criminal History Category I and probation is not prohibited by statute. The court departs downward to impose a sentence of probation, with twelve months of intermittent confinement, community confinement, or home detention and participation in a substance abuse treatment program as conditions of probation. (2) The defendant is convicted of a Class A or B felony, so probation is prohibited by statute (see §5B1.1(b)). The court departs downward to impose a sentence of one month imprisonment, with eleven months in community confinement or home detention and participation in a substance abuse treatment program as conditions of supervised release.</p>
	Application Note 10(A), (B)	<p>Zero-Point Offenders.—</p> <p>(A) Zero-Point Offenders in Zones A and B of the Sentencing Table.—If the defendant received an adjustment under §4C1.1 (Adjustment for Certain Zero-Point Offenders) and the defendant's applicable guideline range is in Zone A or B of the Sentencing Table, a sentence other than a sentence of imprisonment, in accordance with subsection (b) or (c)(3), is generally appropriate. <i>See</i> 28 U.S.C. § 994(j).</p> <p>(B) Departure for Cases Where the Applicable Guideline Range Overstates the Gravity of the Offense.—A departure, including a departure to a sentence other than a</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5C1.1	Application Note 10(A), (B)	sentence of imprisonment, may be appropriate if the defendant received an adjustment under §4C1.1 (Adjustment for Certain Zero Point Offenders) and the defendant's applicable guideline range overstates the gravity of the offense because the offense of conviction is not a crime of violence or an otherwise serious offense. See 28 U.S.C. § 994(j).
§5D1.1	Application Note 1	Application of Subsection (a). —Under subsection (a), the court is required to impose a term of supervised release to follow imprisonment when supervised release is required by statute or, except as provided in subsection (c), when a sentence of imprisonment of more than one year is imposed. The court may depart from this guideline and need not impose a term of supervised release if supervised release is not required by statute and the court determines, after considering the factors set forth in Note 3, that supervised release is not necessary.
	Application Note 3(C)	Substance Abuse. —In a case in which a defendant sentenced to imprisonment is an abuser of controlled substances or alcohol, it is highly recommended that a term of supervised release also be imposed. See §5H1.4 (Physical Condition, Including Drug or Alcohol Dependence or Abuse; Gambling Addiction). §5D1.3(d)(4).
	Application Note 3(E)–(G)	<p>(E) Mental and Emotional Conditions.—In a case in which a defendant sentenced to imprisonment is in need of psychological or psychiatric treatment, it is recommended that the court consider imposing a condition requiring that the defendant participate in a mental health program approved by the United States Probation Office. <i>See</i> 5D1.3(d)(5).</p> <p>(F) Education and Vocational Skills.—Education and vocational skills may be relevant in determining the conditions of supervised release for rehabilitative purposes, for public protection by restricting activities that allow for the utilization of a certain skill, or in determining the appropriate type of community service.</p> <p>(G) Employment Record.—A defendant's employment record may be relevant in determining the conditions of supervised release (<i>e.g.</i>, the appropriate hours of home detention).</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5D1.3	§5D1.3(d)(4)(B)	<p>SUBSTANCE ABUSE</p> <p>If the court has reason to believe that the defendant is an abuser of narcotics, other controlled substances or alcohol — (A) a condition requiring the defendant to participate in a program approved by the United States Probation Office for substance abuse, which program may include testing to determine whether the defendant has reverted to the use of drugs or alcohol; and (B) a condition specifying that the defendant shall not use or possess alcohol. If participation in a substance abuse program is required, the length of the term of supervised release should take into account the length of time necessary for the probation office to judge the success of the program.</p>
§5E1.2	Application Note 4	<p>The Commission envisions that for most defendants, the maximum of the guideline fine range from subsection (c) will be at least twice the amount of gain or loss resulting from the offense. Where, however, two times either the amount of gain to the defendant or the amount of loss caused by the offense exceeds the maximum of the fine guideline, an upward departure from the fine guideline may be warranted.</p> <p>Moreover, where a sentence within the applicable fine guideline range would not be sufficient to ensure both the disgorgement of any gain from the offense that otherwise would not be disgorged (e.g., by restitution or forfeiture) and an adequate punitive fine, an upward departure from the fine guideline range may be warranted.</p>
§5G1.1	Commentary	<p>This section describes how the statutorily authorized maximum sentence, or a statutorily required minimum sentence, may affect the determination of a sentence under the guidelines. For example, if the applicable guideline range is 51–63 months and the maximum sentence authorized by statute for the offense of conviction is 48 months, the sentence required by the guidelines under subsection (a) is 48 months; a sentence of less than 48 months would be a guideline departure. If the applicable guideline range is 41–51 months and there is a statutorily required minimum sentence of 60 months, the sentence required by the guidelines under subsection (b) is 60 months; a sentence of more than 60 months would be a guideline departure. If the applicable guideline range is 51–63 months and the maximum sentence</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5G1.1	Commentary	authorized by statute for the offense of conviction is 60 months, the guideline range is restricted to 51–60 months under subsection (c).
§5G1.3	Application Note 2(C)	Imposition of Sentence. —If subsection (b) applies, and the court adjusts the sentence for a period of time already served, the court should note on the Judgment in a Criminal Case Order (i) the applicable subsection (e.g., §5G1.3(b)); (ii) the amount of time by which the sentence is being adjusted; (iii) the undischarged term of imprisonment for which the adjustment is being given and the relevant case information (including docket number) ; and (iv) that the sentence imposed is a sentence reduction pursuant to §5G1.3(b) for a period of imprisonment that will not be credited by the Bureau of Prisons.
§5G1.3	Application Note 4(E)	Downward Departure.—Unlike subsection (b), subsection (d) does not authorize an adjustment of the sentence for the instant offense for a period of imprisonment already served on the undischarged term of imprisonment. However, in an extraordinary case involving an undischarged term of imprisonment under subsection (d), it may be appropriate for the court to downwardly depart. This may occur, for example, in a case in which the defendant has served a very substantial period of imprisonment on an undischarged term of imprisonment that resulted from conduct only partially within the relevant conduct for the instant offense. In such a case, a downward departure may be warranted to ensure that the combined punishment is not increased unduly by the fortuity and timing of separate prosecutions and sentencings. Nevertheless, it is intended that a departure pursuant to this application note result in a sentence that ensures a reasonable incremental punishment for the instant offense of conviction. To avoid confusion with the Bureau of Prisons’ exclusive authority provided under 18 U.S.C. § 3585(b) to grant credit for time served under certain circumstances, the Commission recommends that any downward departure under this application note be clearly stated on the Judgment in a Criminal Case Order as a downward departure pursuant to §5G1.3(d), rather than as a credit for time served. Imposition of Sentence. —Unlike subsection (b), subsection (d) does not address an adjustment of the sentence for the instant offense for a period of imprisonment already served on the undischarged term of imprisonment. If the court does

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§5G1.3	Application Note 4(E)	<p>account for an undischarged term of imprisonment under subsection (d) in imposing the sentence, the Commission recommends that the court clearly state that the sentence was imposed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), rather than as a credit for time served, to avoid confusion with the Bureau of Prisons' exclusive authority provided under 18 U.S.C. § 3585(b) to grant credit for time served under certain circumstances.</p> <p>The court should note on the Judgment in a Criminal Case Order (i) that the sentence was imposed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a); (ii) the amount of time by which the sentence is being adjusted; (iii) the undischarged term of imprisonment for which the adjustment is being given and the relevant case information (including docket number); and (iv) that the sentence imposed is to account for a period of imprisonment that will not be credited by the Bureau of Prisons.</p>
	Application Note 5	<p>Downward Departure Provision.—In the case of a discharged term of imprisonment, a downward departure is not prohibited if the defendant (A) has completed serving a term of imprisonment; and (B) subsection (b) would have provided an adjustment had that completed term of imprisonment been undischarged at the time of sentencing for the instant offense. See §5K2.23 (Discharged Terms of Imprisonment). Discharged Term of Imprisonment.—This guideline does not address an adjustment of the sentence for the instant offense for a period of imprisonment already served on a discharged term of imprisonment. Nonetheless, nothing in the Guidelines Manual abrogates a court's authority under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to consider a previously completed term of imprisonment in determining an appropriate sentence where subsection (b) above would have provided an adjustment had that completed term of imprisonment been undischarged at the time of sentencing for the instant offense.</p>
Part H	Title	SPECIFIC OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS
	Introductory Commentary	Introductory Commentary is deleted in its entirety.

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5H1.1	§5H1.1	<p>Age (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Age may be relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted.</p> <p>Age may be a reason to depart downward in a case in which the defendant is elderly and infirm and where a form of punishment such as home confinement might be equally efficient as and less costly than incarceration.</p> <p>A downward departure also may be warranted due to the defendant's youthfulness at the time of the offense or prior offenses. Certain risk factors may affect a youthful individual's development into the mid-20's and contribute to involvement in criminal justice systems, including environment, adverse childhood experiences, substance use, lack of educational opportunities, and familial relationships. In addition, youthful individuals generally are more impulsive, risk-seeking, and susceptible to outside influence as their brains continue to develop into young adulthood. Youthful individuals also are more amenable to rehabilitation.</p> <p>The age-crime curve, one of the most consistent findings in criminology, demonstrates that criminal behavior tends to decrease with age. Age-appropriate interventions and other protective factors may promote desistance from crime. Accordingly, in an appropriate case, the court may consider whether a form of punishment other than imprisonment might be sufficient to meet the purposes of sentencing.</p> <p>Physical condition, which may be related to age, is addressed at §5H1.4 (Physical Condition, Including Drug or Alcohol Dependence or Abuse; Gambling Addiction).</p>
§5H1.2	§5H1.2	<p>Education and Vocational Skills (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Education and vocational skills are not ordinarily relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted, but the extent to which a defendant may have misused special training or education to facilitate criminal activity is an express guideline factor. See §3B1.3 (Abuse of Position of Trust or Use of Special Skill).</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5H1.2	§5H1.2	Education and vocational skills may be relevant in determining the conditions of probation or supervised release for rehabilitative purposes, for public protection by restricting activities that allow for the utilization of a certain skill, or in determining the appropriate type of community service.
§5H1.3	§5H1.3	<p>Mental and Emotional Conditions (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Mental and emotional conditions may be relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted, if such conditions, individually or in combination with other offender characteristics, are present to an unusual degree and distinguish the case from the typical cases covered by the guidelines. See also Chapter Five, Part K, Subpart 2 (Other Grounds for Departure).</p> <p>In certain cases a downward departure may be appropriate to accomplish a specific treatment purpose. See §5C1.1, Application Note 7.</p> <p>Mental and emotional conditions may be relevant in determining the conditions of probation or supervised release; e.g., participation in a mental health program (see §§5B1.3(d)(5) and 5D1.3(d)(5)).</p>
§5H1.4	§5H1.4	<p>Physical Condition, Including Drug or Alcohol Dependence or Abuse; Gambling Addiction (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Physical condition or appearance, including physique, may be relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted, if the condition or appearance, individually or in combination with other offender characteristics, is present to an unusual degree and distinguishes the case from the typical cases covered by the guidelines. An extraordinary physical impairment may be a reason to depart downward; e.g., in the case of a seriously infirm defendant, home detention may be as efficient as, and less costly than, imprisonment.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5H1.4	§5H1.4	<p>Drug or alcohol dependence or abuse ordinarily is not a reason for a downward departure. Substance abuse is highly correlated to an increased propensity to commit crime. Due to this increased risk, it is highly recommended that a defendant who is incarcerated also be sentenced to supervised release with a requirement that the defendant participate in an appropriate substance abuse program (see §5D1.3(d)(4)). If participation in a substance abuse program is required, the length of supervised release should take into account the length of time necessary for the probation office to judge the success of the program.</p> <p>In certain cases a downward departure may be appropriate to accomplish a specific treatment purpose. See §5C1.1, Application Note 7.</p> <p>In a case in which a defendant who is a substance abuser is sentenced to probation, it is strongly recommended that the conditions of probation contain a requirement that the defendant participate in an appropriate substance abuse program (see §5B1.3(d)(4)).</p> <p>Addiction to gambling is not a reason for a downward departure.</p>
§5H1.5	§5H1.5	<p>Employment Record (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Employment record is not ordinarily relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted.</p> <p>Employment record may be relevant in determining the conditions of probation or supervised release (e.g., the appropriate hours of home detention).</p>
§5H1.6	§5H1.6	<p>Family Ties and Responsibilities (Policy Statement)</p> <p>In sentencing a defendant convicted of an offense other than an offense described in the following paragraph, family ties and responsibilities are not ordinarily relevant in determining whether a departure may be warranted.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
	§5H1.6	<p>In sentencing a defendant convicted of an offense involving a minor victim under section 1201, an offense under section 1591, or an offense under chapter 71, 109A, 110, or 117, of title 18, United States Code, family ties and responsibilities and community ties are not relevant in determining whether a sentence should be below the applicable guideline range.</p> <p>Family responsibilities that are complied with may be relevant to the determination of the amount of restitution or fine.</p>
§5H1.6	Application Note 1(A), (B)	<p>Circumstances to Consider.—</p> <p>(A) In General.—In determining whether a departure is warranted under this policy statement, the court shall consider the following non-exhaustive list of circumstances:</p> <p>(i) The seriousness of the offense. (ii) The involvement in the offense, if any, of members of the defendant’s family. (iii) The danger, if any, to members of the defendant’s family as a result of the offense.</p> <p>(B) Departures Based on Loss of Caretaking or Financial Support.—A departure under this policy statement based on the loss of caretaking or financial support of the defendant’s family requires, in addition to the court’s consideration of the non-exhaustive list of circumstances in subdivision (A), the presence of the following circumstances:</p> <p>(i) The defendant’s service of a sentence within the applicable guideline range will cause a substantial, direct, and specific loss of essential caretaking, or essential financial support, to the defendant’s family. (ii) The loss of caretaking or financial support substantially exceeds the harm ordinarily incident to incarceration for a similarly situated defendant. For example, the fact that the defendant’s family might incur some degree of financial hardship or suffer to some extent from the absence of a parent through incarceration is not in itself sufficient as a basis for departure because such hardship or suffering is of a sort ordinarily incident to incarceration.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5H1.6	Application Note 1(A), (B)	(iii) The loss of caretaking or financial support is one for which no effective remedial or ameliorative programs reasonably are available, making the defendant's caretaking or financial support irreplaceable to the defendant's family. (iv) The departure effectively will address the loss of caretaking or financial support.
	Background	Section 401(b)(4) of Public Law 108–21 directly amended this policy statement to add the second paragraph, effective April 30, 2003.
§5H1.7	§5H1.7	Role in the Offense (Policy Statement) A defendant's role in the offense is relevant in determining the applicable guideline range (see Chapter Three, Part B (Role in the Offense)) but is not a basis for departing from that range (see subsection (d) of §5K2.0 (Grounds for Departures)).
§5H1.8	§5H1.8	Criminal History (Policy Statement) A defendant's criminal history is relevant in determining the applicable criminal history category. See Chapter Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood). For grounds of departure based on the defendant's criminal history, see §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category).
§5H1.9	§5H1.9	Dependence upon Criminal Activity for a Livelihood (Policy Statement) The degree to which a defendant depends upon criminal activity for a livelihood is relevant in determining the appropriate sentence. See Chapter Four, Part B (Career Offenders and Criminal Livelihood).
§5H1.10	§5H1.10	Race, Sex, National Origin, Creed, Religion, and Socio-Economic Status (Policy Statement) These factors are not relevant in the determination of a sentence.

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5H1.11	§5H1.11	<p>Military, Civic, Charitable, or Public Service; Employment Related Contributions; Record of Prior Good Works (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Military service may be relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted, if the military service, individually or in combination with other offender characteristics, is present to an unusual degree and distinguishes the case from the typical cases covered by the guidelines.</p> <p>Civic, charitable, or public service; employment related contributions; and similar prior good works are not ordinarily relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted.</p>
§5H1.12	§5H1.12	<p>Lack of Guidance as a Youth and Similar Circumstances (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Lack of guidance as a youth and similar circumstances indicating a disadvantaged upbringing are not relevant grounds in determining whether a departure is warranted.</p>
Part K	Title	DEPARTURES ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORITIES
	Subpart 1	1. SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORITIES
§5K1.1	§5K1.1	<p>Upon motion of the government stating that the defendant has provided substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another person who has committed an offense, the court may depart from the guidelines a sentence that is below the otherwise applicable guideline range may be appropriate.</p> <p>(a) The appropriate reduction shall be determined by the court for reasons stated that may include, but are not limited to, consideration of the following:</p> <p>(1) the court’s evaluation of the significance and usefulness of the defendant’s assistance, taking into consideration the government’s evaluation of the assistance rendered;</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K1.1	§5K1.1	<p>(2) the truthfulness, completeness, and reliability of any information or testimony provided by the defendant;</p> <p>(3) the nature and extent of the defendant’s assistance;</p> <p>(4) any injury suffered, or any danger or risk of injury to the defendant or his family resulting from his assistance;</p> <p>(5) the timeliness of the defendant’s assistance.</p>
Part K	Subpart 2	2. OTHER GROUNDS FOR DEPARTURE
§5K2.0	§5K2.0 (a)–(e)	<p>Grounds for Departure (Policy Statement)</p> <p>(a) UPWARD DEPARTURES IN GENERAL AND DOWNWARD DEPARTURES IN CRIMINAL CASES OTHER THAN CHILD CRIMES AND SEXUAL OFFENSES.—</p> <p>(1) IN GENERAL.—The sentencing court may depart from the applicable guideline range if—</p> <p>(A) in the case of offenses other than child crimes and sexual offenses, the court finds, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(1), that there exists an aggravating or mitigating circumstance; or</p> <p>(B) in the case of child crimes and sexual offenses, the court finds, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(2)(A)(i), that there exists an aggravating circumstance, of a kind, or to a degree, not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission in formulating the guidelines that, in order to advance the objectives set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2), should result in a sentence different from that described.</p> <p>(2) DEPARTURES BASED ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF A KIND NOT ADEQUATELY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.—</p> <p>(A) IDENTIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES.—This subpart (Chapter Five, Part K, Subpart 2 (Other Grounds for Departure)) identifies some of the circumstances that the Commission may have</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.0	§5K2.0 (a)–(e)	<p>not adequately taken into consideration in determining the applicable guideline range (e.g., as a specific offense characteristic or other adjustment). If any such circumstance is present in the case and has not adequately been taken into consideration in determining the applicable guideline range, a departure consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b) and the provisions of this subpart may be warranted.</p> <p>(B) UNIDENTIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES.— A departure may be warranted in the exceptional case in which there is present a circumstance that the Commission has not identified in the guidelines but that nevertheless is relevant to determining the appropriate sentence.</p> <p>(3) DEPARTURES BASED ON CIRCUMSTANCES PRESENT TO A DEGREE NOT ADEQUATELY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.— A departure may be warranted in an exceptional case, even though the circumstance that forms the basis for the departure is taken into consideration in determining the guideline range, if the court determines that such circumstance is present in the offense to a degree substantially in excess of, or substantially below, that which ordinarily is involved in that kind of offense.</p> <p>(4) DEPARTURES BASED ON NOT ORDINARILY RELEVANT OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.— An offender characteristic or other circumstance identified in Chapter Five, Part H (Offender Characteristics) or elsewhere in the guidelines as not ordinarily relevant in determining whether a departure is warranted may be relevant to this determination only if such offender characteristic or other circumstance is present to an exceptional degree.</p> <p>(b) DOWNWARD DEPARTURES IN CHILD CRIMES AND SEXUAL OFFENSES.— Under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(2)(A)(ii), the sentencing court may impose a sentence below the range established by the applicable guidelines only if the court finds that there exists a mitigating circumstance of a kind, or to a degree, that —</p> <p>(1) has been affirmatively and specifically identified as a permissible ground of downward departure in the sentencing guidelines or policy statements issued under section 994(a) of</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.0	§5K2.0 (a)–(e)	<p>title 28, United States Code, taking account of any amendments to such sentencing guidelines or policy statements by act of Congress;</p> <p>(2) has not adequately been taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission in formulating the guidelines; and</p> <p>(3) should result in a sentence different from that described.</p> <p>The grounds enumerated in this Part K of Chapter Five are the sole grounds that have been affirmatively and specifically identified as a permissible ground of downward departure in these sentencing guidelines and policy statements. Thus, notwithstanding any other reference to authority to depart downward elsewhere in this Sentencing Manual, a ground of downward departure has not been affirmatively and specifically identified as a permissible ground of downward departure within the meaning of section 3553(b)(2) unless it is expressly enumerated in this Part K as a ground upon which a downward departure may be granted.</p> <p>(e) LIMITATION ON DEPARTURES BASED ON MULTIPLE CIRCUMSTANCES. The court may depart from the applicable guideline range based on a combination of two or more offender characteristics or other circumstances, none of which independently is sufficient to provide a basis for departure, only if—</p> <p>(1) such offender characteristics or other circumstances, taken together, make the case an exceptional one; and</p> <p>(2) each such offender characteristic or other circumstance is—</p> <p>(A) present to a substantial degree; and</p> <p>(B) identified in the guidelines as a permissible ground for departure, even if such offender characteristic or other circumstance is not ordinarily relevant to a determination of whether a departure is warranted.</p>

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§5K2.0	§5K2.0 (a)–(e)	<p>(d) PROHIBITED DEPARTURES. — Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this policy statement, or any other provision in the guidelines, the court may not depart from the applicable guideline range based on any of the following circumstances:</p> <p>(1) Any circumstance specifically prohibited as a ground for departure in §§5H1.10 (Race, Sex, National Origin, Creed, Religion, and Socio-Economic Status), 5H1.12 (Lack of Guidance as a Youth and Similar Circumstances), the last sentence of 5H1.4 (Physical Condition, Including Drug or Alcohol Dependence or Abuse; Gambling Addiction), and the last sentence of 5K2.12 (Coercion and Duress).</p> <p>(2) The defendant’s acceptance of responsibility for the offense, which may be taken into account only under §3E1.1 (Acceptance of Responsibility).</p> <p>(3) The defendant’s aggravating or mitigating role in the offense, which may be taken into account only under §3B1.1 (Aggravating Role) or §3B1.2 (Mitigating Role), respectively.</p> <p>(4) The defendant’s decision, in and of itself, to plead guilty to the offense or to enter a plea agreement with respect to the offense (i.e., a departure may not be based merely on the fact that the defendant decided to plead guilty or to enter into a plea agreement, but a departure may be based on justifiable, non-prohibited reasons as part of a sentence that is recommended, or agreed to, in the plea agreement and accepted by the court. See §6B1.2 (Standards for Acceptance of Plea Agreement)).</p> <p>(5) The defendant’s fulfillment of restitution obligations only to the extent required by law including the guidelines (i.e., a departure may not be based on unexceptional efforts to remedy the harm caused by the offense).</p> <p>(6) Any other circumstance specifically prohibited as a ground for departure in the guidelines.</p> <p>(e) REQUIREMENT OF SPECIFIC WRITTEN REASONS FOR DEPARTURE. — If the court departs from the applicable guideline range, it shall state, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(c), its specific</p>

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§5K2.0	§5K2.0 (a)–(e)	reasons for departure in open court at the time of sentencing and, with limited exception in the case of statements received in camera, shall state those reasons with specificity in the statement of reasons form.
	Application Note 1	<p>Definitions.—For purposes of this policy statement:</p> <p>“<i>Circumstance</i>” includes, as appropriate, an offender characteristic or any other offense factor.</p> <p>“<i>Depart</i>”, “<i>departure</i>”, “<i>downward departure</i>”, and “<i>upward departure</i>” have the meaning given those terms in Application Note 1 of the Commentary to §1B1.1 (Application Instructions).</p>
	Application Note 2(A), (B)	<p>Scope of this Policy Statement.—</p> <p>(A) Departures Covered by this Policy Statement.—This policy statement covers departures from the applicable guideline range based on offense characteristics or offender characteristics of a kind, or to a degree, not adequately taken into consideration in determining that range. See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b).</p> <p>Subsection (a) of this policy statement applies to upward departures in all cases covered by the guidelines and to downward departures in all such cases except for downward departures in child crimes and sexual offenses.</p> <p>Subsection (b) of this policy statement applies only to downward departures in child crimes and sexual offenses.</p> <p>(B) Departures Covered by Other Guidelines.—This policy statement does not cover the following departures, which are addressed elsewhere in the guidelines: (i) departures based on the defendant’s criminal history (see Chapter Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood), particularly §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History</p>

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§5K2.0	Application Note 2(A), (B)	Category)); (ii) departures based on the defendant's substantial assistance to the authorities (see §5K1.1 (Substantial Assistance to Authorities)); and (iii) departures based on early disposition programs (see §5K3.1 (Early Disposition Programs)).
	Application Note 3(A)–(C)	<p>Kinds and Expected Frequency of Departures under Subsection (a).—As set forth in subsection (a), there generally are two kinds of departures from the guidelines based on offense characteristics and/or offender characteristics: (A) departures based on circumstances of a kind not adequately taken into consideration in the guidelines; and (B) departures based on circumstances that are present to a degree not adequately taken into consideration in the guidelines.</p> <p>(A) Departures Based on Circumstances of a Kind Not Adequately Taken into Account in Guidelines.—Subsection (a)(2) authorizes the court to depart if there exists an aggravating or a mitigating circumstance in a case under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(1), or an aggravating circumstance in a case under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(2)(A)(i), of a kind not adequately taken into consideration in the guidelines.</p> <p>(i) Identified Circumstances.—This subpart (Chapter Five, Part K, Subpart 2) identifies several circumstances that the Commission may have not adequately taken into consideration in setting the offense level for certain cases. Offense guidelines in Chapter Two (Offense Conduct) and adjustments in Chapter Three (Adjustments) sometimes identify circumstances the Commission may have not adequately taken into consideration in setting the offense level for offenses covered by those guidelines. If the offense guideline in Chapter Two or an adjustment in Chapter Three does not adequately take that circumstance into consideration in setting the offense level for the offense, and only to the extent not adequately taken into consideration, a departure based on that circumstance may be warranted.</p> <p>(ii) Unidentified Circumstances.—A case may involve circumstances, in addition to those identified by the guidelines, that have not adequately been taken into consideration by the Commission, and the presence of any such circumstance may warrant departure from the guidelines in that case. However, inasmuch as the Commission has continued to monitor and refine the guidelines since their inception to take into consideration relevant circumstances in</p>

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§5K2.0	Application Note 3(A)–(C)	<p>sentencing, it is expected that departures based on such unidentified circumstances will occur rarely and only in exceptional cases.</p> <p>(B) Departures Based on Circumstances Present to a Degree Not Adequately Taken into Consideration in Guidelines.—</p> <p>(i) In General.—Subsection (a)(3) authorizes the court to depart if there exists an aggravating or a mitigating circumstance in a case under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(1), or an aggravating circumstance in a case under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(2)(A)(i), to a degree not adequately taken into consideration in the guidelines. However, inasmuch as the Commission has continued to monitor and refine the guidelines since their inception to determine the most appropriate weight to be accorded the mitigating and aggravating circumstances specified in the guidelines, it is expected that departures based on the weight accorded to any such circumstance will occur rarely and only in exceptional cases.</p> <p>(ii) Examples.—As set forth in subsection (a)(3), if the applicable offense guideline and adjustments take into consideration a circumstance identified in this subpart, departure is warranted only if the circumstance is present to a degree substantially in excess of that which ordinarily is involved in the offense. Accordingly, a departure pursuant to §5K2.7 for the disruption of a governmental function would have to be substantial to warrant departure from the guidelines when the applicable offense guideline is bribery or obstruction of justice. When the guideline covering the mailing of injurious articles is applicable, however, and the offense caused disruption of a governmental function, departure from the applicable guideline range more readily would be appropriate. Similarly, physical injury would not warrant departure from the guidelines when the robbery offense guideline is applicable because the robbery guideline includes a specific adjustment based on the extent of any injury. However, because the robbery guideline does not deal with injury to more than one victim, departure may be warranted if several persons were injured.</p> <p>(C) Departures Based on Circumstances Identified as Not Ordinarily Relevant.—Because certain circumstances are specified in the guidelines as not ordinarily relevant to sentencing (<i>see, e.g.</i>, Chapter Five, Part H (Specific Offender Characteristics)), a departure</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.0	Application Note 3(A)–(C)	<p>based on any one of such circumstances should occur only in exceptional cases, and only if the circumstance is present in the case to an exceptional degree. If two or more of such circumstances each is present in the case to a substantial degree, however, and taken together make the case an exceptional one, the court may consider whether a departure would be warranted pursuant to subsection (c). Departures based on a combination of not ordinarily relevant circumstances that are present to a substantial degree should occur extremely rarely and only in exceptional cases.</p> <p>In addition, as required by subsection (c), each circumstance forming the basis for a departure described in this subparagraph shall be stated with specificity in the statement of reasons form.</p>
	Application Note 4(A), (B)	<p>Downward Departures in Child Crimes and Sexual Offenses.—</p> <p>(A) Definition.—For purposes of this policy statement, the term “<i>child crimes and sexual offenses</i>” means offenses under any of the following: 18 U.S.C. § 1201 (involving a minor victim), 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or chapter 71, 109A, 110, or 117 of title 18, United States Code.</p> <p>(B) Standard for Departure.—</p> <p>(i) Requirement of Affirmative and Specific Identification of Departure Ground.—The standard for a downward departure in child crimes and sexual offenses differs from the standard for other departures under this policy statement in that it includes a requirement, set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) and subsection (b)(1) of this guideline, that any mitigating circumstance that forms the basis for such a downward departure be affirmatively and specifically identified as a ground for downward departure in this part (<i>i.e.</i>, Chapter Five, Part K).</p> <p>(ii) Application of Subsection (b)(2).—The commentary in Application Note 3 of this policy statement, except for the commentary in Application Note 3(A)(ii) relating to unidentified circumstances, shall apply to the court’s determination of whether a case meets the requirement, set forth in subsection 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(2)(A)(ii)(II) and subsection (b)(2) of</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.0	Application Note 4(A), (B)	this policy statement, that the mitigating circumstance forming the basis for a downward departure in child crimes and sexual offenses be of kind, or to a degree, not adequately taken into consideration by the Commission.
	Application Note 5	Departures Based on Plea Agreements.—Subsection (d)(4) prohibits a downward departure based only on the defendant’s decision, in and of itself, to plead guilty to the offense or to enter a plea agreement with respect to the offense. Even though a departure may not be based merely on the fact that the defendant agreed to plead guilty or enter a plea agreement, a departure may be based on justifiable, non-prohibited reasons for departure as part of a sentence that is recommended, or agreed to, in the plea agreement and accepted by the court. See §6B1.2 (Standards for Acceptance of Plea Agreements). In cases in which the court departs based on such reasons as set forth in the plea agreement, the court must state the reasons for departure with specificity in the statement of reasons form, as required by subsection (e).
	Background	<p>This policy statement sets forth the standards for departing from the applicable guideline range based on offense and offender characteristics of a kind, or to a degree, not adequately considered by the Commission. Circumstances the Commission has determined are not ordinarily relevant to determining whether a departure is warranted or are prohibited as bases for departure are addressed in Chapter Five, Part H (Offender Characteristics) and in this policy statement. Other departures, such as those based on the defendant’s criminal history, the defendant’s substantial assistance to authorities, and early disposition programs, are addressed elsewhere in the guidelines.</p> <p>As acknowledged by Congress in the Sentencing Reform Act and by the Commission when the first set of guidelines was promulgated, “it is difficult to prescribe a single set of guidelines that encompasses the vast range of human conduct potentially relevant to a sentencing decision.” (See Chapter One, Part A). Departures, therefore, perform an integral function in the sentencing guideline system. Departures permit courts to impose an appropriate sentence in the exceptional case in which mechanical application of the guidelines would fail to achieve the statutory purposes and goals of sentencing. Departures also help maintain “sufficient flexibility to permit individualized sentences when warranted by mitigating or aggravating</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.0	Background	<p>factors not taken into account in the establishment of general sentencing practices.” 28 U.S.C. § 991(b)(1)(B). By monitoring when courts depart from the guidelines and by analyzing their stated reasons for doing so, along with appellate cases reviewing these departures, the Commission can further refine the guidelines to specify more precisely when departures should and should not be permitted.</p> <p>As reaffirmed in the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (the “PROTECT Act”, Public Law 108–21), circumstances warranting departure should be rare. Departures were never intended to permit sentencing courts to substitute their policy judgments for those of Congress and the Sentencing Commission. Departure in such circumstances would produce unwarranted sentencing disparity, which the Sentencing Reform Act was designed to avoid.</p> <p>In order for appellate courts to fulfill their statutory duties under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 and for the Commission to fulfill its ongoing responsibility to refine the guidelines in light of information it receives on departures, it is essential that sentencing courts state with specificity the reasons for departure, as required by the PROTECT Act.</p> <p>This policy statement, including its commentary, was substantially revised, effective October 27, 2003, in response to directives contained in the PROTECT Act, particularly the directive in section 401(m) of that Act to —</p> <p>“(1) review the grounds of downward departure that are authorized by the sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary of the Sentencing Commission; and</p> <p>(2) promulgate, pursuant to section 994 of title 28, United States Code—</p> <p>(A) appropriate amendments to the sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary to ensure that the incidence of downward departures is substantially reduced;</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.0	Background	<p>(B) a policy statement authorizing a departure pursuant to an early disposition program; and</p> <p>(C) any other conforming amendments to the sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary of the Sentencing Commission necessitated by the Act, including a revision of . . . section 5K2.0”.</p> <p>The substantial revision of this policy statement in response to the PROTECT Act was intended to refine the standards applicable to departures while giving due regard for concepts, such as the “heartland”, that have evolved in departure jurisprudence over time.</p> <p>Section 401(b)(1) of the PROTECT Act directly amended this policy statement to add subsection (b), effective April 30, 2003.</p>
§5K2.1	§5K2.1	<p>Death (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If death resulted, the court may increase the sentence above the authorized guideline range.</p> <p>Loss of life does not automatically suggest a sentence at or near the statutory maximum. The sentencing judge must give consideration to matters that would normally distinguish among levels of homicide, such as the defendant’s state of mind and the degree of planning or preparation. Other appropriate factors are whether multiple deaths resulted, and the means by which life was taken. The extent of the increase should depend on the dangerousness of the defendant’s conduct, the extent to which death or serious injury was intended or knowingly risked, and the extent to which the offense level for the offense of conviction, as determined by the other Chapter Two guidelines, already reflects the risk of personal injury. For example, a substantial increase may be appropriate if the death was intended or knowingly risked or if the underlying offense was one for which base offense levels do not reflect an allowance for the risk of personal injury, such as fraud.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.2	§5K2.2	<p>Physical Injury (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If significant physical injury resulted, the court may increase the sentence above the authorized guideline range. The extent of the increase ordinarily should depend on the extent of the injury, the degree to which it may prove permanent, and the extent to which the injury was intended or knowingly risked. When the victim suffers a major, permanent disability and when such injury was intentionally inflicted, a substantial departure may be appropriate. If the injury is less serious or if the defendant (though criminally negligent) did not knowingly create the risk of harm, a less substantial departure would be indicated. In general, the same considerations apply as in §5K2.1.</p>
§5K2.3	§5K2.3	<p>Extreme Psychological Injury (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If a victim or victims suffered psychological injury much more serious than that normally resulting from commission of the offense, the court may increase the sentence above the authorized guideline range. The extent of the increase ordinarily should depend on the severity of the psychological injury and the extent to which the injury was intended or knowingly risked.</p> <p>Normally, psychological injury would be sufficiently severe to warrant application of this adjustment only when there is a substantial impairment of the intellectual, psychological, emotional, or behavioral functioning of a victim, when the impairment is likely to be of an extended or continuous duration, and when the impairment manifests itself by physical or psychological symptoms or by changes in behavior patterns. The court should consider the extent to which such harm was likely, given the nature of the defendant's conduct.</p>
§5K2.4	§5K2.4	<p>Abduction or Unlawful Restraint (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If a person was abducted, taken hostage, or unlawfully restrained to facilitate commission of the offense or to facilitate the escape from the scene of the crime, the court may increase the sentence above the authorized guideline range.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.5	§5K2.5	<p>Property Damage or Loss (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the offense caused property damage or loss not taken into account within the guidelines, the court may increase the sentence above the authorized guideline range. The extent of the increase ordinarily should depend on the extent to which the harm was intended or knowingly risked and on the extent to which the harm to property is more serious than other harm caused or risked by the conduct relevant to the offense of conviction.</p>
§5K2.6	§5K2.6	<p>Weapons and Dangerous Instrumentalities (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If a weapon or dangerous instrumentality was used or possessed in the commission of the offense the court may increase the sentence above the authorized guideline range. The extent of the increase ordinarily should depend on the dangerousness of the weapon, the manner in which it was used, and the extent to which its use endangered others. The discharge of a firearm might warrant a substantial sentence increase.</p>
§5K2.7	§5K2.7	<p>Disruption of Governmental Function (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the defendant's conduct resulted in a significant disruption of a governmental function, the court may increase the sentence above the authorized guideline range to reflect the nature and extent of the disruption and the importance of the governmental function affected. Departure from the guidelines ordinarily would not be justified when the offense of conviction is an offense such as bribery or obstruction of justice; in such cases interference with a governmental function is inherent in the offense, and unless the circumstances are unusual the guidelines will reflect the appropriate punishment for such interference.</p>
§5K2.8	§5K2.8	<p>Extreme Conduct (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the defendant's conduct was unusually heinous, cruel, brutal, or degrading to the victim, the court may increase the sentence above the guideline range to reflect the nature of the conduct.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.8	§5K2.8	Examples of extreme conduct include torture of a victim, gratuitous infliction of injury, or prolonging of pain or humiliation.
§5K2.9	§5K2.9	<p>Criminal Purpose (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the defendant committed the offense in order to facilitate or conceal the commission of another offense, the court may increase the sentence above the guideline range to reflect the actual seriousness of the defendant's conduct.</p>
§5K2.10	§5K2.10	<p>Victim's Conduct (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the victim's wrongful conduct contributed significantly to provoking the offense behavior, the court may reduce the sentence below the guideline range to reflect the nature and circumstances of the offense. In deciding whether a sentence reduction is warranted, and the extent of such reduction, the court should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The size and strength of the victim, or other relevant physical characteristics, in comparison with those of the defendant. (2) The persistence of the victim's conduct and any efforts by the defendant to prevent confrontation. (3) The danger reasonably perceived by the defendant, including the victim's reputation for violence. (4) The danger actually presented to the defendant by the victim. (5) Any other relevant conduct by the victim that substantially contributed to the danger presented. (6) The proportionality and reasonableness of the defendant's response to the victim's provocation. <p>Victim misconduct ordinarily would not be sufficient to warrant application of this provision in the context of offenses under Chapter Two, Part A, Subpart 3 (Criminal Sexual Abuse). In addition, this provision usually would not be relevant in the context of non-violent offenses.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.10	§5K2.10	There may, however, be unusual circumstances in which substantial victim misconduct would warrant a reduced penalty in the case of a non-violent offense. For example, an extended course of provocation and harassment might lead a defendant to steal or destroy property in retaliation.
§5K2.11	§5K2.11	<p>Lesser Harms (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Sometimes, a defendant may commit a crime in order to avoid a perceived greater harm. In such instances, a reduced sentence may be appropriate, provided that the circumstances significantly diminish society's interest in punishing the conduct, for example, in the case of a mercy killing. Where the interest in punishment or deterrence is not reduced, a reduction in sentence is not warranted. For example, providing defense secrets to a hostile power should receive no lesser punishment simply because the defendant believed that the government's policies were misdirected.</p> <p>In other instances, conduct may not cause or threaten the harm or evil sought to be prevented by the law proscribing the offense at issue. For example, where a war veteran possessed a machine gun or grenade as a trophy, or a school teacher possessed controlled substances for display in a drug education program, a reduced sentence might be warranted.</p>
§5K2.12	§5K2.12	<p>Coercion and Duress (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the defendant committed the offense because of serious coercion, blackmail or duress, under circumstances not amounting to a complete defense, the court may depart downward. The extent of the decrease ordinarily should depend on the reasonableness of the defendant's actions, on the proportionality of the defendant's actions to the seriousness of coercion, blackmail, or duress involved, and on the extent to which the conduct would have been less harmful under the circumstances as the defendant believed them to be. Ordinarily coercion will be sufficiently serious to warrant departure only when it involves a threat of physical injury, substantial damage to property or similar injury resulting from the unlawful action of a third party or from a natural emergency. Notwithstanding this policy statement, personal</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.12	§5K2.12	financial difficulties and economic pressures upon a trade or business do not warrant a downward departure.
§5K2.13	§5K2.13	<p>Diminished Capacity (Policy Statement)</p> <p>A downward departure may be warranted if (1) the defendant committed the offense while suffering from a significantly reduced mental capacity; and (2) the significantly reduced mental capacity contributed substantially to the commission of the offense. Similarly, if a departure is warranted under this policy statement, the extent of the departure should reflect the extent to which the reduced mental capacity contributed to the commission of the offense.</p> <p>However, the court may not depart below the applicable guideline range if (1) the significantly reduced mental capacity was caused by the voluntary use of drugs or other intoxicants; (2) the facts and circumstances of the defendant’s offense indicate a need to protect the public because the offense involved actual violence or a serious threat of violence; (3) the defendant’s criminal history indicates a need to incarcerate the defendant to protect the public; or (4) the defendant has been convicted of an offense under chapter 71, 109A, 110, or 117, of title 18, United States Code.</p>
	Application Note 1	<p>For purposes of this policy statement—</p> <p>“Significantly reduced mental capacity” means the defendant, although convicted, has a significantly impaired ability to (A) understand the wrongfulness of the behavior comprising the offense or to exercise the power of reason; or (B) control behavior that the defendant knows is wrongful.</p>
	Background	Section 401(b)(5) of Public Law 108–21 directly amended this policy statement to add subdivision (4), effective April 30, 2003.

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.14	§5K2.14	<p>Public Welfare (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If national security, public health, or safety was significantly endangered, the court may depart upward to reflect the nature and circumstances of the offense.</p>
§5K2.16	§5K2.16	<p>Voluntary Disclosure of Offense (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the defendant voluntarily discloses to authorities the existence of, and accepts responsibility for, the offense prior to the discovery of such offense, and if such offense was unlikely to have been discovered otherwise, a downward departure may be warranted. For example, a downward departure under this section might be considered where a defendant, motivated by remorse, discloses an offense that otherwise would have remained undiscovered. This provision does not apply where the motivating factor is the defendant's knowledge that discovery of the offense is likely or imminent, or where the defendant's disclosure occurs in connection with the investigation or prosecution of the defendant for related conduct.</p>
§5K2.17	§5K2.17	<p>Semiautomatic Firearms Capable of Accepting Large Capacity Magazine (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the defendant possessed a semiautomatic firearm capable of accepting a large capacity magazine in connection with a crime of violence or controlled substance offense, an upward departure may be warranted. A "semiautomatic firearm capable of accepting a large capacity magazine" means a semiautomatic firearm that has the ability to fire many rounds without reloading because at the time of the offense (1) the firearm had attached to it a magazine or similar device that could accept more than 15 rounds of ammunition; or (2) a magazine or similar device that could accept more than 15 rounds of ammunition was in close proximity to the firearm. The extent of any increase should depend upon the degree to which the nature of the weapon increased the likelihood of death or injury in the circumstances of the particular case.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.17	Application Note 1	“Crime of violence” and “controlled substance offense” are defined in §4B1.2 (Definitions of Terms Used in Section 4B1.1).
§5K2.18	§5K2.18	<p>Violent Street Gangs (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the defendant is subject to an enhanced sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 521 (pertaining to criminal street gangs), an upward departure may be warranted. The purpose of this departure provision is to enhance the sentences of defendants who participate in groups, clubs, organizations, or associations that use violence to further their ends. It is to be noted that there may be cases in which 18 U.S.C. § 521 applies, but no violence is established. In such cases, it is expected that the guidelines will account adequately for the conduct and, consequently, this departure provision would not apply.</p>
§5K2.20	§5K2.20 (a)–(c)	<p>Aberrant Behavior (Policy Statement)</p> <p>(a) IN GENERAL. Except where a defendant is convicted of an offense involving a minor victim under section 1201, an offense under section 1591, or an offense under chapter 71, 109A, 110, or 117, of title 18, United States Code, a downward departure may be warranted in an exceptional case if (1) the defendant’s criminal conduct meets the requirements of subsection (b); and (2) the departure is not prohibited under subsection (c).</p> <p>(b) REQUIREMENTS. The court may depart downward under this policy statement only if the defendant committed a single criminal occurrence or single criminal transaction that (1) was committed without significant planning; (2) was of limited duration; and (3) represents a marked deviation by the defendant from an otherwise law-abiding life.</p> <p>(c) PROHIBITIONS BASED ON THE PRESENCE OF CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. The court may not depart downward pursuant to this policy statement if any of the following circumstances are present:</p> <p>(1) The offense involved serious bodily injury or death.</p>

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Guideline	2023 Guideline Location	2024-2025 Revisions
§5K2.20	§5K2.20 (a)–(c)	<p>(2) The defendant discharged a firearm or otherwise used a firearm or a dangerous weapon.</p> <p>(3) The instant offense of conviction is a serious drug trafficking offense.</p> <p>(4) The defendant has either of the following: (A) more than one criminal history point, as determined under Chapter Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood) before application of subsection (b) of §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category); or (B) a prior federal or state felony conviction, or any other significant prior criminal behavior, regardless of whether the conviction or significant prior criminal behavior is countable under Chapter Four.</p>
	Application Note 1	<p>Definitions. For purposes of this policy statement:</p> <p>“Dangerous weapon,” “firearm,” “otherwise used,” and “serious bodily injury” have the meaning given those terms in the Commentary to §1B1.1 (Application Instructions).</p> <p>“Serious drug trafficking offense” means any controlled substance offense under title 21, United States Code, other than simple possession under 21 U.S.C. § 844, that provides for a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years or greater, regardless of whether the defendant meets the criteria of §5C1.2 (Limitation on Applicability of Statutory Mandatory Minimum Sentences in Certain Cases).</p>
	Application Note 2	<p>Repetitious or Significant, Planned Behavior. Repetitious or significant, planned behavior does not meet the requirements of subsection (b). For example, a fraud scheme generally would not meet such requirements because such a scheme usually involves repetitive acts, rather than a single occurrence or single criminal transaction, and significant planning.</p>
	Application Note 3	<p>Other Circumstances to Consider. In determining whether the court should depart under this policy statement, the court may consider the defendant’s (A) mental and emotional conditions; (B) employment record; (C) record of prior good works; (D) motivation for committing the offense; and (E) efforts to mitigate the effects of the offense.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.20	Background	Section 401(b)(3) of Public Law 108–21 directly amended subsection (a) of this policy statement, effective April 30, 2003.
§5K2.21	§5K2.21	Dismissed and Uncharged Conduct (Policy Statement) The court may depart upward to reflect the actual seriousness of the offense based on conduct (1) underlying a charge dismissed as part of a plea agreement in the case, or underlying a potential charge not pursued in the case as part of a plea agreement or for any other reason; and (2) that did not enter into the determination of the applicable guideline range.
§5K2.22	§5K2.22	Specific Offender Characteristics as Grounds for Downward Departure in Child Crimes and Sexual Offenses (Policy Statement) In sentencing a defendant convicted of an offense involving a minor victim under section 1201, an offense under section 1591, or an offense under chapter 71, 109A, 110, or 117, of title 18, United States Code: (1) Age may be a reason to depart downward only if and to the extent permitted by §5H1.1. (2) An extraordinary physical impairment may be a reason to depart downward only if and to the extent permitted by §5H1.4. (3) Drug, alcohol, or gambling dependence or abuse is not a reason to depart downward.
	Background	Section 401(b)(2) of Public Law 108–21 directly amended Chapter Five, Part K, to add this policy statement, effective April 30, 2003.
§5K2.23	§5K2.23	Discharged Terms of Imprisonment (Policy Statement) A downward departure may be appropriate if the defendant (1) has completed serving a term of imprisonment; and (2) subsection (b) of §5G1.3 (Imposition of a Sentence on a Defendant

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§5K2.23	§5K2.23	Subject to Undischarged Term of Imprisonment or Anticipated Term of Imprisonment) would have provided an adjustment had that completed term of imprisonment been undischarged at the time of sentencing for the instant offense. Any such departure should be fashioned to achieve a reasonable punishment for the instant offense.
§5K2.24	§5K2.24	Commission of Offense While Wearing or Displaying Unauthorized or Counterfeit Insignia or Uniform (Policy Statement) If, during the commission of the offense, the defendant wore or displayed an official, or counterfeit official, insignia or uniform received in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 716, an upward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 1	Definition. For purposes of this policy statement, “<i>official insignia or uniform</i>” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 716(e)(3).
Part K	Subpart 3	3. EARLY DISPOSITION PROGRAMS
§5K3.1	§5K3.1	Early Disposition Programs (Policy Statement) Upon motion of the Government, the court may depart downward not more than 4 levels pursuant to an early disposition program authorized by the Attorney General of the United States and the United States Attorney for the district in which the court resides.
	Background	This policy statement implements the directive to the Commission in section 401(m)(2)(B) of the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (the “PROTECT Act”, Public Law 108–21).

Simplification:

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§6A1.4	§6A1.4	<p>Notice of Possible Departure (Policy Statement)</p> <p>Before the court may depart from the applicable sentencing guideline range on a ground not identified for departure either in the presentence report or in a party's prehearing submission, the court must give the parties reasonable notice that it is contemplating such a departure. The notice must specify any ground on which the court is contemplating a departure. Rule 32(h), Fed. R. Crim. P.</p>
	Background	<p>The Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure were amended, effective December 1, 2002, to incorporate into Rule 32(h) the holding in <i>Burns v. United States</i>, 501 U.S. 129, 138–39 (1991). This policy statement parallels Rule 32(h), Fed. R. Crim. P.</p>
Part B	Introductory Commentary	<p>Policy statements governing the acceptance of plea agreements under Rule 11(c), Fed. R. Crim. P., are intended to ensure that plea negotiation practices: (1) promote the statutory purposes of sentencing prescribed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a); and (2) do not perpetuate unwarranted sentencing disparity.</p> <p>These policy statements make clear that sentencing is a judicial function and that the appropriate sentence in a guilty plea case is to be determined by the judge. The policy statements also ensure that the basis for any judicial decision to depart from the guidelines will be explained on the record.</p>
§6B1.2	Commentary	<p>The court may accept an agreement calling for dismissal of charges or an agreement not to pursue potential charges if the remaining charges reflect the seriousness of the actual offense behavior. This requirement does not authorize judges to intrude upon the charging discretion of the prosecutor. If the government's motion to dismiss charges or statement that potential charges will not be pursued is not contingent on the disposition of the remaining charges, the judge should defer to the government's position except under extraordinary circumstances. Rule 48(a), Fed. R. Crim. P. However, when the dismissal of charges or agreement not to pursue potential charges is contingent on acceptance of a plea agreement, the court's authority</p>

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Guideline	2023 Guideline Location	2024-2025 Revisions
§6B1.2	Commentary	<p>to adjudicate guilt and impose sentence is implicated, and the court is to determine whether or not dismissal of charges will undermine the sentencing guidelines.</p> <p>Similarly, the court should accept a recommended sentence or a plea agreement requiring imposition of a specific sentence only if the court is satisfied either that such sentence is an appropriate sentence within the applicable guideline range or, if not, that the sentence is outside the applicable guideline range for justifiable reasons and those reasons are set forth with specificity in the statement of reasons form. <i>See</i> 18 U.S.C. § 3553(c). As set forth in subsection (d) of §5K2.0 (Grounds for Departure), however, the court may not depart below the applicable guideline range merely because of the defendant's decision to plead guilty to the offense or to enter a plea agreement with respect to the offense.</p> <p>A defendant who enters a plea of guilty in a timely manner will enhance the likelihood of his receiving a reduction in offense level under §3E1.1 (Acceptance of Responsibility). Further reduction in offense level (or sentence) due to a plea agreement will tend to undermine the sentencing guidelines.</p> <p>The second paragraph of subsection (a) provides that a plea agreement that includes the dismissal of a charge, or a plea agreement not to pursue a potential charge, shall not prevent the conduct underlying that charge from being considered under the provisions of §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) in connection with the count(s) of which the defendant is convicted. This paragraph prevents a plea agreement from restricting consideration of conduct that is within the scope of §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) in respect to the count(s) of which the defendant is convicted; it does not in any way expand or modify the scope of §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct). Section 5K2.21 (Dismissed and Uncharged Conduct) addresses the use, as a basis for upward departure, of conduct underlying a charge dismissed as part of a plea agreement in the case, or underlying a potential charge not pursued in the case as part of a plea agreement.</p> <p>The Commission encourages the prosecuting attorney prior to the entry of a plea of guilty or <i>nolo contendere</i> under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to disclose to the defendant the facts and circumstances of the offense and offender characteristics, then known</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§6B1.2	Commentary	to the prosecuting attorney, that are relevant to the application of the sentencing guidelines. This recommendation, however, shall not be construed to confer upon the defendant any right not otherwise recognized in law.

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§7B1.4	Application Note 2	Departure from the applicable range of imprisonment in the Revocation Table may be warranted when the court departed from the applicable range for reasons set forth in §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category) in originally imposing the sentence that resulted in supervision. Additionally, an upward departure may be warranted when a defendant, subsequent to the federal sentence resulting in supervision, has been sentenced for an offense that is not the basis of the violation proceeding.
	Application Note 3	In the case of a Grade C violation that is associated with a high risk of new felonious conduct (e.g., a defendant, under supervision for conviction of criminal sexual abuse, violates the condition that the defendant not associate with children by loitering near a schoolyard), an upward departure may be warranted.
	Application Note 4	Where the original sentence was the result of a downward departure (e.g., as a reward for substantial assistance), or a charge reduction that resulted in a sentence below the guideline range applicable to the defendant's underlying conduct, an upward departure may be warranted.

Simplification:

Chapter Eight

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§8A1.2	§8A1.2(b)(4), (5)	<p>(4) For grounds for departure from the applicable guideline fine range, refer to Part C, Subpart 4 (Departures from the Guideline Fine Range). Determine whether a sentence below the otherwise applicable guideline range is appropriate upon motion of the government pursuant to §8C4.1 (Substantial Assistance to Authorities — Organizations (Policy Statement)).</p> <p>(5) Consider as a whole the additional factors identified in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to determine the sentence that is sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2). See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).</p>
	Application Note 2	The definitions in the Commentary to §1B1.1 (Application Instructions) and the guidelines and commentary in §§1B1.2 through 1B1.8 apply to determinations under this chapter unless otherwise specified. The adjustments in Chapter Three, Parts A (Victim-Related Adjustments), B (Role in the Offense), C (Obstruction and Related Adjustments), and E (Acceptance of Responsibility), and F (Early Disposition Program) do not apply. The provisions of Chapter Six (Sentencing Procedures, Plea Agreements, and Crime Victims' Rights) apply to proceedings in which the defendant is an organization. Guidelines and policy statements not referenced in this chapter, directly or indirectly, do not apply when the defendant is an organization; e.g., the policy statements in Chapter Seven (Violations of Probation and Supervised Release) do not apply to organizations.
§8C2.3	Application Note 2	In determining the offense level under this section, apply the provisions of §§1B1.2 through 1B1.8. Do not apply the adjustments in Chapter Three, Parts A (Victim-Related Adjustments), B (Role in the Offense), C (Obstruction and Related Adjustments), and E (Acceptance of Responsibility), and F (Early Disposition Program).
§8C2.8	Application Note 5	Subsection (a)(7) provides that the court, in setting the fine within the guideline fine range, should consider any prior civil or criminal misconduct by the organization other than that counted under §8C2.5(c). The civil and criminal misconduct counted under §8C2.5(c) increases the guideline fine range. Civil or criminal misconduct other than that counted under §8C2.5(c) may provide a basis for a higher fine within the range. In a case involving a pattern of illegality, an upward departure may be warranted.

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§8C2.8	Background	Subsection (a) includes factors that the court is required to consider under 18 U.S.C. §§ 3553(a) and 3572(a) as well as additional factors that the Commission has determined may be relevant in a particular case. A number of factors required for consideration under 18 U.S.C. § 3572(a) (e.g., pecuniary loss, the size of the organization) are used under the fine guidelines in this subpart to determine the fine range, and therefore are not specifically set out again in subsection (a) of this guideline. In unusual cases, factors listed in this section may provide a basis for departure.
Subpart 4	Title	DEPARTURES FROM THE GUIDELINE FINE RANGE SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORITIES
	Introductory Commentary	<p>The statutory provisions governing departures are set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b). Departure may be warranted if the court finds “that there exists an aggravating or mitigating circumstance of a kind, or to a degree, not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission in formulating the guidelines that should result in a sentence different from that described.” This subpart sets forth certain factors that, in connection with certain offenses, may not have been adequately taken into consideration by the guidelines. In deciding whether departure is warranted, the court should consider the extent to which that factor is adequately taken into consideration by the guidelines and the relative importance or substantiality of that factor in the particular case.</p> <p>To the extent that any policy statement from Chapter Five, Part K (Departures) is relevant to the organization, a departure from the applicable guideline fine range may be warranted. Some factors listed in Chapter Five, Part K that are particularly applicable to organizations are listed in this subpart. Other factors listed in Chapter Five, Part K may be applicable in particular cases. While this subpart lists factors that the Commission believes may constitute grounds for departure, the list is not exhaustive.</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§8C4.1	§8C4.1(a)	(a) Upon motion of the government stating that the defendant has provided substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another organization that has committed an offense, or in the investigation or prosecution of an individual not directly affiliated with the defendant who has committed an offense, the court may depart from the guidelines a fine that is below the otherwise applicable guideline fine range may be appropriate.
	Application Note 1	Departure Fine reduction under this section is intended for cases in which substantial assistance is provided in the investigation or prosecution of crimes committed by individuals not directly affiliated with the organization or by other organizations. It is not intended for assistance in the investigation or prosecution of the agents of the organization responsible for the offense for which the organization is being sentenced.
§8C4.2	§8C4.2	Risk of Death or Bodily Injury (Policy Statement) If the offense resulted in death or bodily injury, or involved a foreseeable risk of death or bodily injury, an upward departure may be warranted. The extent of any such departure should depend, among other factors, on the nature of the harm and the extent to which the harm was intended or knowingly risked, and the extent to which such harm or risk is taken into account within the applicable guideline fine range.
§8C4.3	§8C4.3	Threat to National Security (Policy Statement) If the offense constituted a threat to national security, an upward departure may be warranted.
§8C4.4	§8C4.4	Threat to the Environment (Policy Statement) If the offense presented a threat to the environment, an upward departure may be warranted.

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§8C4.5	§8C4.5	<p>Threat to a Market (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the offense presented a risk to the integrity or continued existence of a market, an upward departure may be warranted. This section is applicable to both private markets (e.g., a financial market, a commodities market, or a market for consumer goods) and public markets (e.g., government contracting).</p>
§8C4.6	§8C4.6	<p>Official Corruption (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the organization, in connection with the offense, bribed or unlawfully gave a gratuity to a public official, or attempted or conspired to bribe or unlawfully give a gratuity to a public official, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>
§8C4.7	§8C4.7	<p>Public Entity (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the organization is a public entity, a downward departure may be warranted.</p>
§8C4.8	§8C4.8	<p>Members or Beneficiaries of the Organization as Victims (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the members or beneficiaries, other than shareholders, of the organization are direct victims of the offense, a downward departure may be warranted. If the members or beneficiaries of an organization are direct victims of the offense, imposing a fine upon the organization may increase the burden upon the victims of the offense without achieving a deterrent effect. In such cases, a fine may not be appropriate. For example, departure may be appropriate if a labor union is convicted of embezzlement of pension funds.</p>
§8C4.9	§8C4.9	<p>Remedial Costs that Greatly Exceed Gain (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the organization has paid or has agreed to pay remedial costs arising from the offense that greatly exceed the gain that the organization received from the offense, a downward departure may be warranted. In such a case, a substantial fine may not be necessary in order to achieve</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§8C4.9	§8C4.9	adequate punishment and deterrence. In deciding whether departure is appropriate, the court should consider the level and extent of substantial authority personnel involvement in the offense and the degree to which the loss exceeds the gain. If an individual within high-level personnel was involved in the offense, a departure would not be appropriate under this section. The lower the level and the more limited the extent of substantial authority personnel involvement in the offense, and the greater the degree to which remedial costs exceeded or will exceed gain, the less will be the need for a substantial fine to achieve adequate punishment and deterrence.
§8C4.10	§8C4.10	<p>Mandatory Programs to Prevent and Detect Violations of Law (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the organization's culpability score is reduced under §8C2.5(f) (Effective Compliance and Ethics Program) and the organization had implemented its program in response to a court order or administrative order specifically directed at the organization, an upward departure may be warranted to offset, in part or in whole, such reduction.</p> <p>Similarly, if, at the time of the instant offense, the organization was required by law to have an effective compliance and ethics program, but the organization did not have such a program, an upward departure may be warranted.</p>
§8C4.11	§8C4.11	<p>Exceptional Organizational Culpability (Policy Statement)</p> <p>If the organization's culpability score is greater than 10, an upward departure may be appropriate.</p> <p>If no individual within substantial authority personnel participated in, condoned, or was willfully ignorant of the offense; the organization at the time of the offense had an effective program to prevent and detect violations of law; and the base fine is determined under §8C2.4(a)(1), §8C2.4(a)(3), or a special instruction for fines in Chapter Two (Offense Conduct), a downward departure may be warranted. In a case meeting these criteria, the court may find that the organization had exceptionally low culpability and therefore a fine based on loss,</p>

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<i>Guideline</i>	<i>2023 Guideline Location</i>	<i>2024-2025 Revisions</i>
§8C4.11	§8C4.11	offense level, or a special Chapter Two instruction results in a guideline fine range higher than necessary to achieve the purposes of sentencing. Nevertheless, such fine should not be lower than if determined under §8C2.4(a)(2).