



2026 AMENDMENTS IN BRIEF

In April 2026, the U.S. Sentencing Commission approved amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines. 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 (link in QR code).

2026 Amendment Simplification

The Simplification Amendment deletes 26 specific offense characteristics that courts applied rarely (if at all) over the last 25 years. These specific offense characteristics are found under the following guidelines: §2A5.1, §2B1.5, §2B2.3, §2B6.1, §2D1.1, §2D1.11, §2D1.12, §2D1.14, §2G3.2, §2H3.1, §2J1.3, §2J1.6, §2J1.9, §2K1.5, §2K2.6, §2M4.1, §2P1.1, §2Q1.2, §2Q1.3, §2Q1.4, and §2T1.9.



THE ISSUE

Longstanding Commission Initiative

This amendment continues the Commission’s multi-year efforts to simplify the *Guidelines Manual*, which have taken various forms over time. During this amendment cycle, the Commission examined application rates for the 298 specific offense characteristics in Chapter Two to identify any infrequently used provisions that could be eliminated as a good-government measure. This amendment deletes 26 specific offense characteristics in light of their infrequent applicability to streamline the *Guidelines Manual*.

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