

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

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September 3, 2025

To all recipients of the *Guidelines Manual*:

As chair of the United States Sentencing Commission, I am pleased to transmit the 2025 edition of the *Guidelines Manual*, which incorporates amendments to guidelines, policy statements, and commentary effective November 1, 2025. This edition of the *Guidelines Manual* reflects recent actions of the Commission, including the following—

- **Circuit Conflicts**

The Commission promulgated a two-part amendment addressing two circuit conflicts. Part A of this amendment revises the 2-level “physically restrained” enhancement at §2B3.1(b)(2)(B) so that it does not apply solely based on the coercion of using a firearm to restrict a victim’s movement, and the 6-level “firearm” enhancement at §2B3.1(b)(2) to ensure that use of a firearm during a robbery is accounted for under this enhancement with more uniformity. It also makes parallel changes to two guidelines with similar enhancements: §2B3.2 and §2E2.1. Part B of this amendment revises §4A1.2(a)(2) to clarify that a traffic stop should not be considered an “intervening arrest” for purposes of the “single-sentence rule.”

- **Drug Offenses**

The Commission promulgated a two-part amendment to address concerns that §2D1.1 and §3B1.2, as they currently apply in tandem, do not adequately account for the lower culpability of individuals performing low-level functions in drug trafficking offenses and concerns that the *mens rea* requirement in §2D1.1(b)(13)(B) was vague and difficult to apply. Part A of this amendment revises the mitigating role provisions in §2D1.1(a)(5) to set a base offense level cap of either level 32 or 30 depending on the role adjustment received under §3B1.2. It also expands the circumstances in drug trafficking cases where the mitigating role adjustment is generally warranted and provides a list of examples to guide courts in determining whether to apply the adjustment. Part B of this amendment changes the *mens rea* requirement in the 2-level enhancement at §2D1.1(b)(13)(B) for representing or marketing fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue as a legitimately manufactured drug from “willful blindness or conscious avoidance of knowledge” to “reckless disregard.”

- **Firearms Offenses**

The Commission revised §2K2.1 to more fully account for machinegun conversion devices by adding a new tiered specific offense characteristic at §2K2.1(b)(5) for cases involving machine conversion devices.

- **Supervised Release**

The Commission updated the *Guidelines Manual*’s approach to supervised release by revising Chapter Five, Part D and Chapter Seven to provide courts with greater discretion under the guidelines to impose individualized terms and conditions of supervised release and respond to supervised release violations. This amendment encourages courts to conduct an individualized assessment for all supervised release decisions, including its imposition, length of term, selecting and modifying appropriate conditions, and responding to non-compliance. It eliminates certain requirements, such as mandatory imposition if a term of imprisonment of more than one year is imposed. This amendment also emphasizes the rehabilitative purposes of supervised release by dividing the provisions addressing violations of probation and violations of supervised release into separate parts of Chapter Seven.

- **Simplification of the Three-Step Process**

The Commission simplified the guidelines by removing step two of the three-step sentencing process, which requires courts to consider departures provided for within the *Guidelines Manual*. As amended, the *Guidelines Manual* now provides a two-step sentencing process. This amendment deletes most departures previously provided throughout the *Guidelines Manual*. However, some provisions (e.g., substantial assistance and early disposition programs reductions) are retained in another form. The removal of departures 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 be considered for purposes of determining the appropriate sentence. In this regard, Appendix B of the *Guidelines Manual* now compiles the departure provisions deleted by this amendment. Similarly, information describing the historical development and evolution of the federal sentencing guidelines is also set forth in Appendix B.

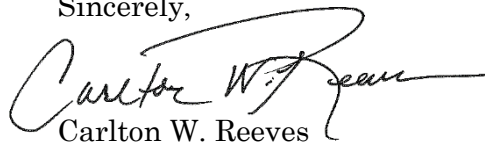
This edition of the *Guidelines Manual* also includes as a separate volume a revised **Appendix B**, which now contains: (1) the principal statutory provisions governing sentencing, the Sentencing Commission, and the drafting of sentencing guidelines, as of May 1, 2025; (2) the historical background of the *Guidelines Manual*; and (3) a compilation of deleted departure provisions. That volume is also enclosed.

Appendix C sets forth guideline amendments and the accompanying reasons for amendment. **Please take time to read the reasons for amendment when considering the amendments.** Volume IV of Appendix C (containing guideline amendments effective November 1, 2012, through November 1, 2025) is enclosed. You should already have Volumes I through III (containing guideline amendments effective November 1, 1987, through November 1, 2011, and the reasons for those amendments).

The 2025 *Guidelines Manual* Annotated, which is an online HTML version of the *Guidelines Manual* that provides improved access to the history of specific guideline and commentary provisions, is available on the Commission's website at www.ussc.gov. The *Guidelines Manual* is also available as the Guidelines App, a mobile-friendly web-based app that features additional tools to assist in understanding and applying the federal sentencing guidelines. The web app is accessible through any internet browser on mobile devices and desktop or laptop computers by visiting www.guidelines.ussc.gov.

As always, the Commission encourages judges, probation officers, prosecuting and defense attorneys, and other interested individuals to submit suggestions for improving the guidelines. Please send comments to: United States Sentencing Commission, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-8002, Attention: Office of Public Affairs, or by email to pubaffairs@ussc.gov.

Sincerely,



Carlton W. Reeves

You can submit a sentencing question to the **USSC Helpline** by completing our online form at askussctraining.ussc.gov. The USSC Helpline is also accessible by phone at (202) 502-4545. The *Guidelines Manual* and other Commission publications and information are available on the Commission's website at www.ussc.gov. On the website, for example, you will find the latest **Quick Facts** publications and the **Interactive Data Analyzer (IDA)**.