

AN ACT

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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*Codification  
District of  
Columbia  
Official Code*

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To require, on a temporary basis, the Metropolitan Police Department to electronically record interrogations conducted in Metropolitan Police Department interview rooms, to establish standards and procedures for the recording of the interrogations, to authorize the Chief of Police to establish by General Order additional procedures for the recording of interrogations, to require that members of the Metropolitan Police Department who willfully violate this act be subject to discipline, and to repeal the Electronic Recording Procedures Act of 2002.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Electronic Recording Procedures and Penalties Temporary Act of 2005".

TITLE I.

Sec. 101. Procedures for electronic recording of custodial interrogations.

(a)(1) The Metropolitan Police Department shall electronically record, in their entirety, and to the greatest extent feasible, custodial interrogations of persons suspected of committing a crime of violence, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 23-1331(4), when the interrogation takes place in Metropolitan Police Department interview rooms equipped with electronic recording equipment.

(2) The recording required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall commence with the first contact between the suspect and law enforcement personnel once the suspect has been placed in the interview room and shall include all subsequent contacts between the suspect and law enforcement personnel in the interview room.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Metropolitan Police Department from recording the actions of the suspect while law enforcement personnel are not in the interview room.

(b) The recording required by subsection (a) of this section shall include the giving of any warnings as to rights required by law, the response of the suspect to such warnings, and the consent, if any, of the suspect to the interrogation. If the required warnings have been given prior to placing the suspect in the interview room, the suspect shall be asked to affirm that he was informed of and waived those rights.

(c)(1) If, after a suspect has been given the warnings as to rights required by law and voluntarily waived such rights, the suspect announces that the suspect will voluntarily speak with law enforcement personnel only on the express condition that the interrogation not be further recorded, the remainder of the interrogation need not be recorded. In such a case, the giving of any warnings, the suspect's response, the suspect's conditional consent, and all events preceding

the conditional consent shall be recorded.

(2) Law enforcement personnel shall not expressly or implicitly encourage the suspect to give such conditional consent in lieu of a completely recorded interrogation.

Sec. 102. Authority to establish additional procedures.

The Chief of Police may issue a General Order establishing additional procedures, not inconsistent with those prescribed in section 101, for the electronic recording of interrogations by the Metropolitan Police Department.

Sec. 103. Sanction for willful violations of this act.

(a) The Metropolitan Police Department shall administratively investigate every case where an interrogation was required to be recorded pursuant to this act but was not. Any Metropolitan Police Department employee who is found to have knowingly violated this act or the General Order issued pursuant to this act shall be subject to the following administrative sanctions:

- (1) Suspension of 30 days without pay for the 1<sup>st</sup> violation;
- (2) Suspension of 180 days without pay for the 2<sup>nd</sup> violation; and
- (3) Automatic termination for a 3rd violation.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Chief of Police from imposing a more severe sanction based on the facts and circumstance of the violation. The administrative sanctions shall be taken in accordance with the Metropolitan Police Department's Disciplinary Procedures and Policies General Order or the adverse and corrective action procedures as provided in the District Personnel Manual.

## TITLE II.

Sec. 201. Repealer.

The Electronic Recording Procedures Act of 2002, effective April 4, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-280; D.C. Official Code § 5-133.20), is repealed.

Note,  
§ 5-133.20

## TITLE III

Sec. 301. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 302. Effective date.

(a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

(b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.

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Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia

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Mayor  
District of Columbia