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# 18 U.S. Code § 1512 - Tampering with a witness, victim, or an informant

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## U.S. Code Toolbox

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- (1) Whoever kills or attempts to kill another person, with intent to—  
(A) prevent the attendance or testimony of any person in an official proceeding;  
(B) prevent the production of a record, document, or other object, in an official proceeding; or  
(C) prevent the communication by any person to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States of information relating to the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation, parole, or release pending judicial proceedings;  
shall be punished as provided in paragraph (3).

(2) Whoever uses physical force or the threat of physical force against any person, or attempts to do so, with intent to—

- (A) influence, delay, or prevent the testimony of any person in an official proceeding;  
(B) cause or induce any person to—  
(i) withhold testimony, or withhold a record, document, or other object, from an official proceeding;  
(ii) alter, destroy, mutilate, or conceal an object with intent to impair the integrity or availability of the object for use in an official proceeding;  
(iii) evade legal process summoning that person to appear as a witness, or to produce a record, document, or other object, in an official proceeding; or  
(iv) be absent from an official proceeding to which that person has been summoned by legal process; or

(C) hinder, delay, or prevent the communication to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States of information relating to the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation, supervised release, parole, or release pending judicial proceedings;

shall be punished as provided in paragraph (3).

(3) The punishment for an offense under this subsection is—

- (A) in the case of a killing, the punishment provided in sections 1111 and 1112;  
(B) in the case of—  
(i) an attempt to murder; or  
(ii) the use or attempted use of physical force against any person;  
imprisonment for not more than 30 years; and  
(C) in the case of the threat of use of physical force against any person, imprisonment for not more than 20 years.
- (b) Whoever knowingly uses intimidation, threatens, or corruptly persuades another

person, or attempts to do so, or engages in misleading conduct toward another person, with intent to—

- (1) influence, delay, or prevent the testimony of any person in an official proceeding;
- (2) cause or induce any person to—
  - (A) withhold testimony, or withhold a record, document, or other object, from an official proceeding;
  - (B) alter, destroy, mutilate, or conceal an object with intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding;
  - (C) evade legal process summoning that person to appear as a witness, or to produce a record, document, or other object, in an official proceeding; or
  - (D) be absent from an official proceeding to which such person has been summoned by legal process; or
- (3) hinder, delay, or prevent the communication to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States of information relating to the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation<sup>1</sup> supervised release,<sup>1</sup> parole, or release pending judicial proceedings;

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

**(c)** Whoever corruptly—

- (1) alters, destroys, mutilates, or conceals a record, document, or other object, or attempts to do so, with the intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding; or
  - (2) otherwise obstructs, influences, or impedes any official proceeding, or attempts to do so,
- shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

**(d)** Whoever intentionally harasses another person and thereby hinders, delays, prevents, or dissuades any person from—

- (1) attending or testifying in an official proceeding;
  - (2) reporting to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation<sup>1</sup> supervised release,<sup>1</sup> parole, or release pending judicial proceedings;
  - (3) arresting or seeking the arrest of another person in connection with a Federal offense; or
  - (4) causing a criminal prosecution, or a parole or probation revocation proceeding, to be sought or instituted, or assisting in such prosecution or proceeding;
- or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both.

**(e)** In a prosecution for an offense under this section, it is an affirmative defense, as to which the defendant has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence, that the conduct consisted solely of lawful conduct and that the defendant's sole intention was to encourage, induce, or cause the other person to testify truthfully.

**(f)** For the purposes of this section—

- (1) an official proceeding need not be pending or about to be instituted at the time of the offense; and
- (2) the testimony, or the record, document, or other object need not be admissible in evidence or free of a claim of privilege.

**(g)** In a prosecution for an offense under this section, no state of mind need be proved with respect to the circumstance—

- (1) that the official proceeding before a judge, court, magistrate judge, grand jury, or government agency is before a judge or court of the United States, a United States magistrate judge, a bankruptcy judge, a Federal grand jury, or a Federal Government agency; or
- (2) that the judge is a judge of the United States or that the law enforcement officer is an officer or employee of the Federal Government or a person authorized to act for or on behalf of the Federal Government or serving the Federal Government as an adviser or consultant.

**(h)** There is extraterritorial Federal jurisdiction over an offense under this section.

**(i)** A prosecution under this section or section 1503 may be brought in the district in which the official proceeding (whether or not pending or about to be instituted) was intended to be affected or in the district in which the conduct constituting the alleged offense occurred.

**(j)** If the offense under this section occurs in connection with a trial of a criminal case, the maximum term of imprisonment which may be imposed for the offense shall be the higher of that otherwise provided by law or the maximum term that could have been imposed for any offense charged in such case.

**(k)** Whoever conspires to commit any offense under this section shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense the commission of which was the object of the conspiracy.

(Added Pub. L. 97-291, §4(a), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1249; amended Pub. L. 99-646, §61, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3614; Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7029(a), (c), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4397, 4398; Pub. L. 101-650, title III, §321, Dec. 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5117; Pub. L. 103-322, title VI, §60018, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(O), (U), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1975, 2148; Pub. L. 104-214, §1(2), Oct. 1, 1996, 110 Stat. 3017; Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §604(b)(31), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3508; Pub. L. 107-204, title XI, §1102, July 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 807; Pub. L. 107-273, div. B, title III, §3001(a), (c)(1), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1803, 1804; Pub. L. 110-177, title II, §205, Jan. 7, 2008, 121 Stat. 2537.)



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## 18 U.S. Code § 875 - Interstate communications

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**(a)** Whoever transmits in interstate or foreign commerce any communication containing any demand or request for a ransom or reward for the release of any kidnapped person, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

**(b)** Whoever, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value, transmits in interstate or foreign commerce any communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of another, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

**(c)** Whoever transmits in interstate or foreign commerce any communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of another, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

**(d)** Whoever, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value, transmits in interstate or foreign commerce any communication containing any threat to injure the property or reputation of the addressee or of another or the reputation of a deceased person or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other person of a crime, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 741; Pub. L. 99-646, § 63, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3614; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(G), (H), (K), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)



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## 2015 US Code

### Title 18 - Crimes and Criminal Procedure (Sections 1 - 6005)

#### Part I - Crimes (Sections 1 - 2725)

#### Chapter 73 - Obstruction of Justice (Sections 1501 - 1521)

#### Sec. 1519 - Destruction, alteration, or falsification of records in Federal investigations and bankruptcy

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##### 18 U.S.C. § 1519 (2015)

###### §1519. Destruction, alteration, or falsification of records in Federal investigations and bankruptcy

Whoever knowingly alters, destroys, mutilates, conceals, covers up, falsifies, or makes a false entry in any record, document, or tangible object with the intent to impede, obstruct, or influence the investigation or proper administration of any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States or any case filed under title 11, or in relation to or contemplation of any such matter or case, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 107-204, title VIII, §802(a), July 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 800.)

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# 18 U.S. Code § 1952 - Interstate and foreign travel or transportation in aid of racketeering enterprises

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**(a)** Whoever travels in interstate or foreign commerce or uses the mail or any facility in interstate or foreign commerce, with intent to—

- (1) distribute the proceeds of any unlawful activity; or
- (2) commit any crime of violence to further any unlawful activity; or
- (3) otherwise promote, manage, establish, carry on, or facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, or carrying on, of any unlawful activity,  
and thereafter performs or attempts to perform—
  - (A) an act described in paragraph (1) or (3) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both; or
  - (B) an act described in paragraph (2) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or both, and if death results shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life.

**(b)** As used in this section (i) “unlawful activity” means (1) any business enterprise involving gambling, liquor on which the Federal excise tax has not been paid, narcotics or controlled substances (as defined in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act), or prostitution offenses in violation of the laws of the State in which they are committed or of the United States, (2) extortion, bribery, or arson in violation of the laws of the State in which committed or of the United States, or (3) any act which is indictable under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, or under section 1956 or 1957 of this title and (ii) the term “State” includes a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

**(c)** Investigations of violations under this section involving liquor shall be conducted under the supervision of the Attorney General.

**(d)** If the offense under this section involves an act described in paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a) and also involves a pre-retail medical product (as defined in section 670), the punishment for the offense shall be the same as the punishment for an offense under section 670 unless the punishment under subsection (a) is greater.

**(e)**

(1) This section shall not apply to a savings promotion raffle conducted by an insured depository institution or an insured credit union.

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term “insured credit union” shall have the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752);

(B) the term “insured depository institution” shall have the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

(C) the term “savings promotion raffle” means a contest in which the sole consideration required for a chance of winning designated prizes is obtained by the deposit of a specified amount of money in a savings account or other savings program, where each ticket or entry has an equal chance of being drawn, such contest being subject to regulations that may from time to time be promulgated by the appropriate prudential regulator (as defined in section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481)).

(Added Pub. L. 87-228, § 1(a), Sept. 13, 1961, 75 Stat. 498; amended Pub. L. 89-68, July 7, 1965, 79 Stat. 212; Pub. L. 91-513, title II, § 701(i)(2), Oct. 27, 1970, 84 Stat. 1282; Pub. L. 99-570, title I, § 1365(a), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-35; Pub. L. 101-647, title XII, § 1205(i), title XVI, § 1604, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4831, 4843; Pub. L. 103-322, title XIV, § 140007(a), title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(L), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2033, 2147; Pub. L. 107-296, title XI, § 1112(h), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2277; Pub. L. 112-186, § 4(b)(1), Oct. 5, 2012, 126 Stat. 1429; Pub. L. 113-251, § 5(1), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2890.)