

**§ 1341. Frauds and swindles**

Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, or to sell, dispose of, loan, exchange, alter, give away, distribute, supply, or furnish or procure for unlawful use any counterfeit or spurious coin, obligation, security, or other article, or anything represented to be or intimated or held out to be such counterfeit or spurious article, for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice or attempting so to do, places in any post office or authorized depository for mail matter, any matter or thing whatever to be sent or delivered by the Postal Service, or deposits or causes to be deposited any matter or thing whatever to be sent or delivered by any private or commercial interstate carrier, or takes or receives therefrom, any such matter or thing, or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail or such carrier according to the direction thereon, or at the place at which it is directed to be delivered by the person to whom it is addressed, any such matter or thing, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both. If the violation occurs in relation to, or involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with, a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)), or affects a financial institution, such person shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 763; May 24, 1949, ch. 139, § 34, 63 Stat. 94; Pub. L. 91-375, § (6)(j)(11), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 778; Pub. L. 101-73, title IX, § 961(i), Aug. 9, 1989, 103 Stat. 500; Pub. L. 101-647, title XXV, § 2504(h), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4861; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXV, § 250006, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(H), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2087, 2147; Pub. L. 107-204, title IX, § 903(a), July 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 805; Pub. L. 110-179, § 4, Jan. 7, 2008, 121 Stat. 2557.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

## 1948 ACT

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 338 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 215, 35 Stat. 1130).

The obsolete argot of the underworld was deleted as suggested by Hon. Emerich B. Freed, United States district judge, in a paper read before the 1944 Judicial Conference for the sixth circuit in which he said:

A brief reference to § 1341, which proposes to reenact the present section covering the use of the mails to defraud. This section is almost a page in length, is involved, and contains a great deal of superfluous language, including such terms as "sawdust swindle, green articles, green coin, green goods and green cigars." This section could be greatly simplified, and now-meaningless language eliminated.

The other surplusage was likewise eliminated and the section simplified without change of meaning.

A reference to causing to be placed any letter, etc. in any post office, or station thereof, etc. was omitted as unnecessary because of definition of "principal" in section 2 of this title.

## 1949 ACT

This section [section 34] corrects a typographical error in section 1341 of title 18, U.S.C.

## AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-179 inserted "occurs in relation to, or involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with, a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)), or" after "If the violation".

2002—Pub. L. 107-204 substituted "20 years" for "five years".

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, § 330016(1)(H), substituted "fined under this title" for "fined not more than \$1,000" after "thing, shall be".

Pub. L. 103-322, § 250006, inserted "or deposits or causes to be deposited any matter or thing whatever to be sent or delivered by any private or commercial interstate carrier," after "Postal Service," and "or such carrier" after "causes to be delivered by mail".

1990—Pub. L. 101-647 substituted "30" for "20" before "years".

1989—Pub. L. 101-73 inserted at end "If the violation affects a financial institution, such person shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both."

1970—Pub. L. 91-375 substituted "Postal Service" for "Post Office Department".

1949—Act May 24, 1949, substituted "of" for "or" after "dispose".

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

## SHORT TITLE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-204, title IX, § 901, July 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 804, provided that: "This title [enacting sections 1349 and 1350 of this title, amending this section, section 1343 of this title, and section 1131 of Title 29, Labor, and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 994 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure] may be cited as the 'White-Collar Crime Penalty Enhancement Act of 2002'."

**§ 1342. Fictitious name or address**

Whoever, for the purpose of conducting, promoting, or carrying on by means of the Postal Service, any scheme or device mentioned in section 1341 of this title or any other unlawful business, uses or assumes, or requests to be addressed by, any fictitious, false, or assumed title, name, or address or name other than his own proper name, or takes or receives from any post office or authorized depository of mail matter, any letter, postal card, package, or other mail matter addressed to any such fictitious, false, or assumed title, name, or address, or name other than his own proper name, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 763; Pub. L. 91-375, § 6(j)(12), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 778; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(H), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 339 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 216, 35 Stat. 1131).

The punishment language used in section 1341 of this title was substituted in lieu of the reference to it in this section.

Minor changes in phraseology were made.

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$1,000”.

1970—Pub. L. 91-375 substituted “Postal Service” for “Post Office Department of the United States”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

### § 1343. Fraud by wire, radio, or television

Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television communication in interstate or foreign commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both. If the violation occurs in relation to, or involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with, a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)), or affects a financial institution, such person shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both.

(Added July 16, 1952, ch. 879, § 18(a), 66 Stat. 722; amended July 11, 1956, ch. 561, 70 Stat. 523; Pub. L. 101-73, title IX, § 961(j), Aug. 9, 1989, 103 Stat. 500; Pub. L. 101-647, title XXV, § 2504(i), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4861; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(H), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147; Pub. L. 107-204, title IX, § 903(b), July 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 805; Pub. L. 110-179, § 3, Jan. 7, 2008, 121 Stat. 2557.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-179 inserted “occurs in relation to, or involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with, a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)), or” after “If the violation”.

2002—Pub. L. 107-204 substituted “20 years” for “five years”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$1,000”.

1990—Pub. L. 101-647 substituted “30” for “20” before “years”.

1989—Pub. L. 101-73 inserted at end “If the violation affects a financial institution, such person shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.”

1956—Act July 11, 1956, substituted “transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television communication in interstate or foreign commerce” for “transmitted by means of interstate wire, radio, or television communication”.

### § 1344. Bank fraud

Whoever knowingly executes, or attempts to execute, a scheme or artifice—

(1) to defraud a financial institution; or

(2) to obtain any of the moneys, funds, credits, assets, securities, or other property owned by, or under the custody or control of, a financial institution, by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises;

shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 98-473, title II, § 1108(a), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2147; amended Pub. L. 101-73, title IX, § 961(k), Aug. 9, 1989, 103 Stat. 500; Pub. L. 101-647, title XXV, § 2504(j), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4861.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-647 substituted “30” for “20” before “years”.

1989—Pub. L. 101-73 amended section generally, restating former subsec. (a) and striking out former subsec. (b) which defined “federally chartered or insured financial institution”. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows: “Whoever knowingly executes, or attempts to execute, a scheme or artifice—

“(1) to defraud a federally chartered or insured financial institution; or

“(2) to obtain any of the moneys, funds, credits, assets, securities or other property owned by or under the custody or control of a federally chartered or insured financial institution by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, shall be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

### § 1345. Injunctions against fraud

(a)(1) If a person is—

(A) violating or about to violate this chapter or section 287, 371 (insofar as such violation involves a conspiracy to defraud the United States or any agency thereof), or 1001 of this title;

(B) committing or about to commit a banking law violation (as defined in section 3322(d) of this title); or

(C) committing or about to commit a Federal health care offense;

the Attorney General may commence a civil action in any Federal court to enjoin such violation.

(2) If a person is alienating or disposing of property, or intends to alienate or dispose of property, obtained as a result of a banking law violation (as defined in section 3322(d) of this title) or a Federal health care offense or property which is traceable to such violation, the Attorney General may commence a civil action in any Federal court—

(A) to enjoin such alienation or disposition of property; or

(B) for a restraining order to—

(i) prohibit any person from withdrawing, transferring, removing, dissipating, or disposing of any such property or property of equivalent value; and

(ii) appoint a temporary receiver to administer such restraining order.

(3) A permanent or temporary injunction or restraining order shall be granted without bond.

(b) The court shall proceed as soon as practicable to the hearing and determination of such an action, and may, at any time before final determination, enter such a restraining order or