

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective upon the expiration of 120 days after Nov. 10, 1978, see section 2101 of Pub. L. 95-630, set out as a note under section 375b of this title.

**§ 3417. Civil penalties****(a) Liability of agencies or departments of United States or financial institutions**

Any agency or department of the United States or financial institution obtaining or disclosing financial records or information contained therein in violation of this chapter is liable to the customer to whom such records relate in an amount equal to the sum of—

- (1) \$100 without regard to the volume of records involved;
- (2) any actual damages sustained by the customer as a result of the disclosure;
- (3) such punitive damages as the court may allow, where the violation is found to have been willful or intentional; and
- (4) in the case of any successful action to enforce liability under this section, the costs of the action together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the court.

**(b) Disciplinary action for willful or intentional violation of chapter by agents or employees of department or agency**

Whenever the court determines that any agency or department of the United States has violated any provision of this chapter and the court finds that the circumstances surrounding the violation raise questions of whether an officer or employee of the department or agency acted willfully or intentionally with respect to the violation, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promptly initiate a proceeding to determine whether disciplinary action is warranted against the agent or employee who was primarily responsible for the violation. The Director after investigation and consideration of the evidence submitted, shall submit his findings and recommendations to the administrative authority of the agency concerned and shall send copies of the findings and recommendations to the officer or employee or his representative. The administrative authority shall take the corrective action that the Director recommends.

**(c) Good faith defense**

Any financial institution or agent or employee thereof making a disclosure of financial records pursuant to this chapter in good-faith reliance upon a certificate by any Government authority or pursuant to the provisions of section 3413(l) of this title shall not be liable to the customer for such disclosure under this chapter, the constitution of any State, or any law or regulation of any State or any political subdivision of any State.

**(d) Exclusive judicial remedies and sanctions**

The remedies and sanctions described in this chapter shall be the only authorized judicial remedies and sanctions for violations of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1117, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3708; 1978 Reorg. Plan No. 2, §102, eff. Jan.

1, 1979, 43 F.R. 36037, 92 Stat. 3783; Pub. L. 100-690, title VI, §6186(d), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4358.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

1988—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 100-690 inserted “or pursuant to the provisions of section 3413(l) of this title” after “Government authority” and “under this chapter, the constitution of any State, or any law or regulation of any State or any political subdivision of any State” after “such disclosure”.

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**Executive Documents**

## TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

“Director of the Office of Personnel Management” and “Director” substituted in subsec. (b) for “Civil Service Commission” and “Commission” pursuant to Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1978, §102, 43 F.R. 36037, 92 Stat. 3783, set out under section 1101 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, which transferred functions vested by statute in Civil Service Commission to Director of Office of Personnel Management (except as otherwise specified), effective Jan. 1, 1979, as provided by section 1-102 of Ex. Ord. No. 12107, Dec. 28, 1978, 44 F.R. 1055, set out under section 1101 of Title 5.

**§ 3418. Injunctive relief**

In addition to any other remedy contained in this chapter, injunctive relief shall be available to require that the procedures of this chapter are complied with. In the event of any successful action, costs together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the court may be recovered.

(Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1118, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3709.)

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**§ 3419. Suspension of limitations**

If any individual files a motion or application under this chapter which has the effect of delaying the access of a Government authority to financial records pertaining to such individual, any applicable statute of limitations shall be deemed to be tolled for the period extending from the date such motion or application was filed until the date upon which the motion or application is decided.

(Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1119, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3709.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective upon the expiration of 120 days after Nov. 10, 1978, see section 2101 of Pub. L. 95-630, set out as a note under section 375b of this title.

**§ 3420. Grand jury information; notification of certain persons prohibited**

(a) Financial records about a customer obtained from a financial institution pursuant to a subpoena issued under the authority of a Federal grand jury—

(1) shall be returned and actually presented to the grand jury unless the volume of such records makes such return and actual presentation impractical in which case the grand jury shall be provided with a description of the contents of the records;<sup>1</sup>

(2) shall be used only for the purpose of considering whether to issue an indictment or presentment by that grand jury, or of prosecuting a crime for which that indictment or presentment is issued, or for a purpose authorized by rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or for a purpose authorized by section 3412(a) of this title;

(3) shall be destroyed or returned to the financial institution if not used for one of the purposes specified in paragraph (2); and

(4) shall not be maintained, or a description of the contents of such records shall not be maintained by any Government authority other than in the sealed records of the grand jury, unless such record has been used in the prosecution of a crime for which the grand jury issued an indictment or presentment or for a purpose authorized by rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(b)(1) No officer, director, partner, employee, or shareholder of, or agent or attorney for, a financial institution shall, directly or indirectly, notify any person named in a grand jury subpoena served on such institution in connection with an investigation relating to a possible—

(A) crime against any financial institution or supervisory agency or crime involving a violation of the Controlled Substance Act [21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.], the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act [21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.], section 1956, 1957, or 1960 of title 18, sections 5313, 5316, 5322, 5324, 5331, and 5332 of title 31, or section 6050I of title 26; or

(B) conspiracy to commit such a crime, about the existence or contents of such subpoena, or information that has been furnished to the grand jury in response to such subpoena.

(2) Section 1818 of this title and section 1786(k)(2) of this title shall apply to any violation of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1120, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3709; Pub. L. 100-690, title VI, §6186(e), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4358; Pub. L. 101-73, title IX, §943, Aug. 9, 1989, 103 Stat. 497; Pub. L. 102-550, title XV, §1532, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4066; Pub. L. 107-56, title III, §358(f)(3), Oct. 26, 2001, 115 Stat. 327; Pub. L. 116-283, div. F, title LXIII, §6308(d), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4594.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), (4), is set out in the Appendix to Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

The Controlled Substance Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(A), probably means the Controlled Substances Act, which is title II of Pub. L. 91-513, Oct. 27, 1970, 84 Stat. 1242, and which is classified principally to subchapter I (§801 et seq.) of chapter 13 of Title 21, Food and Drugs. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 801 of Title 21 and Tables.

The Controlled Substances Import and Export Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(A), is title III of Pub. L. 91-513, Oct. 27, 1970, 84 Stat. 1285, as amended, which is classified principally to subchapter II (§951 et seq.) of chapter 13 of Title 21. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 951 of Title 21 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “, 1957, or 1960 of title 18” for “or 1957 of title 18” and “, 5322, 5324, 5331, and 5332 of title 31” for “and 5324 of title 31”.

2001—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 107-56 inserted “, or for a purpose authorized by section 3412(a) of this title” before semicolon at end.

1992—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 102-550 inserted before semicolon “or crime involving a violation of the Controlled Substance Act, the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act, section 1956 or 1957 of title 18, sections 5313, 5316 and 5324 of title 31, or section 6050I of title 26”.

1989—Pub. L. 101-73 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

1988—Par. (1). Pub. L. 100-690 inserted “unless the volume of such records makes such return and actual presentation impractical in which case the grand jury shall be provided with a description of the contents of the records.” before semicolon at end.

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EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-56 applicable with respect to reports filed or records maintained on, before, or after Oct. 26, 2001, see section 358(h) of Pub. L. 107-56, set out as a note under section 1829b of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective upon the expiration of 120 days after Nov. 10, 1978, see section 2101 of Pub. L. 95-630, set out as a note under section 375b of this title.

**§ 3421. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-66, title III, § 3001(d), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 734**

Section, Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1121, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3710, related to reporting requirements.

**§ 3422. Applicability to Securities and Exchange Commission**

Except as provided in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.], this chapter shall apply with respect to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1122, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3710; Pub. L. 96-433, §2, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1855.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, referred to in text, is act June 6, 1934, ch. 404, 48 Stat. 881, which is classified principally to chapter 2B (§78a et seq.) of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 78a of Title 15 and Tables.