

District of Columbia Sentencing Commission FY2016

Agency District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

Mission The mission of the District of Columbia Sentencing Commission is to implement, monitor, and support the District's voluntary sentencing guidelines, to promote fair and consistent sentencing policies, to increase public understanding of sentencing policies and practices, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the guidelines system in order to recommend changes based on actual sentencing and corrections practice and research.

Summary of Services The Commission advises the District of Columbia on policy matters related to criminal law, sentencing and corrections policy. The Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission Amendment Act of 2007 established a permanent voluntary felony sentencing guidelines and requires the Commission to monitor and make adjustments as needed to promote sentencing policies that limit unwarranted disparity while allowing adequate judicial discretion and proportionality. The sentencing guidelines provide recommended sentences that enhance fairness so that offenders, victims, the community, and all parties will understand the sentence, and sentences will be both more predictable and consistent. The commission provides analysis of sentencing trends and guideline compliance to the public and its representatives to assist in identifying sentencing patterns for felony convictions.

2016 Objectives

FY16 Objectives

Objective Number	Objective Description
(empty) (4 Objectives)	
1	Promulgate the accurate, timely, and effective use of sentencing guidelines in every felony case.
2	Promulgate compliance with the guidelines in at least 93% of all felony cases.
3	Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Sentencing Guidelines in Achieving Certainty, Consistency, and Adequacy of Punishment.
4	Analyze the District of Columbia's Current Criminal Code and Propose Reforms in the Criminal Code to Create a Uniform and Coherent Body of Criminal Law in the District of Columbia.

2016 Key Performance Indicators

Measure	Division	Frequency of Reporting	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
1 - Promulgate the accurate, timely, and effective use of sentencing guidelines in every felony case. (4 Measures)							
Number of agency webpage hits		Quarterly	7,776	10,681	14,050		11500
Number of Agency Web Site Updates		Quarterly	15	57	38		29
Number of Guideline Questions Answered Within 24 Hours		Quarterly	99		99.7		99.8
Number of Hours Required to Respond to Data Requests		Quarterly	94	510	525		600
2 - Promulgate compliance with the guidelines in at least 93% of all felony cases. (3 Measures)							
Judicial Compliance with the Sentencing Guidelines		Quarterly	96.7		95.3		96
Percentage of Compliant Departure		Quarterly	93.9		91.9		92.5

Sentences							
Percent Compliant In-The- Box Guideline Sentences		Quarterly	89.3		85.8		86
4 - Analyze the District of Columbia's Current Criminal Code and Propose Reforms in the Criminal Code to Create a Uniform and Coherent Body of Criminal Law in the District of Columbia. (4 Measures)							
Number of Code Revision Research Hours		Quarterly	3,210	3,998	4,137		4137
Number of Code Revision Research Memorandum Completed		Quarterly	15	37	45		16
Number of Criminal Statutes Revised		Quarterly	0	15	37		26
Number of Criminal Code Revision Committee Meetings		Quarterly	19	25	21		13

2016 Workload Measures

Measure	Frequency of Reporting	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Workload Measure (5 Measures)				
Number of Felony Cases Sentenced	Quarterly	3,778	2,056	1,891
Number of Felony Counts Sentenced	Quarterly	4,442	2,932	2,611
Number of CSOSA Criminal History Forms Processed	Quarterly	3,612	2,591	2,730
Number of Requests for Sentencing Data and Analysis	Quarterly	6	32	49
Number of Sealed/Expunged Cases Processed	Quarterly	2,251	2,270	3,441

2016 Initiatives

Objective Number	Objective Title	Initiative Number	Initiative Title	Initiative Description
(empty) - 1 (1 Initiative)				
1		1.1	Review and Identify the Appropriate Data Risk Issues to be Addressed in the Development of an Agency Data Security Plan.	This initiative is intended to use a multi-tiered risk management approach that will assess technical, business process and organizational risks related to the Commission's two data systems: GRID (Guideline Reporting Information Data) system and GSS (Guideline Scoring System). The Risk Assessment will represent Phase I of developing the agency's comprehensive data security plan, with Phase II focusing on developing the security controls needed to address the assessed risks in FY 2017, and the implementation of the required security measures and protocols completed in FY 2018.
TOT				
(empty) - 2 (2 Initiatives)				
2		2.1	Expand the Data Section of the Agency's Website by	This Initiative will expand the Data Section of the agency's website to include five new graphs and charts analyzing judicial compliance with the Sentencing Guidelines by compliance type and offense categories. Monitoring and analyzing specific felony offenses or

			Adding Five New Statistical Compliance Graphs or Charts.	offense groups receiving non-compliant sentences can assist in identifying sentencing trends and provide insight into emerging patterns that may need to be explored in greater detail.
2		2.2	Develop an Interactive Training on Compliant Guideline Sentences for the Agency Website.	In FY 2016, this initiative will enhance the training/educational section of the agency's website by developing an interactive training on compliant guideline sentences that enables individuals to learn about the various components of complaint sentences under Sentencing Guidelines. This interactive training will benefit attorneys, defendants and their families, and the citizens of District by providing an educational training on one of the key components of the Guidelines.
TOT				
(empty) - 3 (2 Initiatives)				
3		3.1	Complete Phase I for the Five Year Evaluation Study of the Sentencing Guidelines.	The Commission has determined that the Sentencing Guidelines have been operational for a sufficient number of years to have reliable data to undertake an evaluation of the guidelines to determine whether these goals have been achieved. The Guideline Evaluation Project involves three distinct phases: (1) Evaluation of achieving the statutory goals of the guidelines; (2) completion of a comparative of analysis of sentences pre and post guideline implementation; and (3) the development of data driven recommendations for potential modifications to the guidelines and to identify areas for further research. Phase I will involve the statistical analysis of sentencing data from 2010 through 2014 to address six specific research questions focused on identifying the level of consistency and certainty for felony sentences imposed under the sentencing guidelines.
3		3.2	Complete Phase II for the Five Year Evaluation Study of the Sentencing Guidelines.	This initiative is focused on completing Phase II of the Five Year Evaluation Study of the Sentencing Guidelines, which includes a comparative analysis of felony sentences imposed prior to the implementation of the guidelines with felony sentences imposed under the guidelines to determine whether sentencing patterns have changed either by the type or length of sentence type imposed.
TOT				
(empty) - 4 (2 Initiatives)				
4		4.1	Final Review and Commission Action on General Provisions.	This initiative represents a final review by the Criminal Code Revision Committee and action by the full Commission on the twelve new proposed "General Provisions," which involve creating new code provisions that provide definitions and principals that apply to all specific offenses that are revised.
4		4.2	Final Review and Commission Action on Property Offenses.	This initiative represents a final review by the Criminal Code Revision Committee and action by the full Commission on proposed revisions to a minimum of ten property offenses and four related provisions.
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