District of Columbia Sentencing Commission
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Hon. Danya Dayson
Chairperson

Linden Fry
Executive Director

****SENTENCING GUIDELINES ALERT****

DATE:	**October 30, 2025**
EFFECTIVE DATE:	**Immediate**
RULES AFFECTED:	**Appendix C and Supplement 1 (Offense Rankings)**

On October 21, 2025, the District of Columbia Sentencing Commission discussed and ranked three previously unranked felony offenses: Unsafe Storage of a Firearm, False/Fictitious Threats of WMD, and False/Fictitious Threats of WMD During a State of Emergency. Additionally, three Title 48 offenses, which were previously ranked on the Main Grid, were reranked and placed on the Drug Grid. With this change, all Title 48 felony offenses are now ranked on the Drug Grid. The new Appendix C listing for each ranked or reranked offense is attached to this alert and will be included in the 2026 DC Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual (print and online).

A. UNRANKED OFFENSES

1) False/Fictitious Threats of Weapon of Mass Destruction (D.C. Code § 22-1319(c))

The offense of False/Fictitious Threats of Weapon of Mass Destruction was ranked in Main Group 8. The Court shall apply the ranking to pleas/verdicts entered on or after **October 21, 2025.**

2) False/Fictitious Threats of Weapons of Mass Destruction During State of Emergency (D.C. Code § 22-1319(d))

The offense of False/Fictitious Threats of Weapons of Mass Destruction During State of Emergency was ranked in Main Group 8. The Court shall apply the ranking to pleas/verdicts entered on or after **October 21, 2025.**

3) Unsafe Storage of a Firearm: Injury or Death (D.C. Code § 7-2507.02(c)(2))

The offense of Unsafe Storage of a Firearm: Injury or Death was ranked in Main Group 8. The Court shall apply the ranking to pleas/verdicts entered on or after **October 21, 2025.**

B. RERANKED OFFENSES

4) Drug Paraphernalia – 2nd+ Offense (D.C. Code § 48-1103(b)(2), (e)(4))

The offense of Drug Paraphernalia – 2nd+ Offense, formerly ranked in Main Group 9, **was ranked in Drug Group 4.** The Court shall apply the ranking to pleas/verdicts entered on or after **October 21, 2025.**

This change impacts both the In-the-Box Guidelines Recommended Sentencing Range and the scoring of prior convictions for this offense. When calculating a defendant's Criminal History Score, a non-lapsed/revived Drug Paraphernalia – 2nd+ Offense will be worth 0.75 points (0.25 points if lapsed and revived).

5) Obstructing Service of a Drug Search Warrant (D.C. Code § 48-921.02(n))

The offense of Obstructing Service of a Drug Search Warrant, formerly ranked in Main Group 9, **was ranked in Drug Group 4.** The Court shall apply the ranking to pleas/verdicts entered on or after **October 21, 2025.**

This change impacts both the In-the-Box Guidelines Recommended Sentencing Range and the scoring of prior convictions for this offense. When calculating a defendant's Criminal History Score, a non-lapsed/revived Obstructing Service of a Drug Search Warrant will be worth 0.75 points (0.25 points if lapsed and revived).

6) Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (PDP) w/ Intent – 2nd+ Offense (D.C. Code § 48-1103(b))

The offense of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (PDP) w/ Intent – 2nd+ Offense¸formerly ranked in Main Group 9, **was ranked in Drug Group 4.** The Court shall apply the ranking to pleas/verdicts entered on or after **October 21, 2025.**

This change impacts both the In-the-Box Guidelines Recommended Sentencing Range and the scoring of prior convictions for this offense. When calculating a defendant's Criminal History Score, a non-lapsed/revived Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (PDP) w/ Intent – 2nd+ Offense will be worth 0.75 points (0.25 points if lapsed and revived).

As with any modification to the Guidelines, practitioner feedback is always welcome. Feel free to forward any questions or comments to the Commission at scdc@dc.gov or (202) 727-8822.

Sincerely,

Linden Fry
Executive Director

Offense	D.C. Code (2001)	Offense Severity Group	Maximum Statutory Penalty (Years)	Backup Time (Years)	Maximum prison term that can be imposed (Years)	Supervised Release If > 1 year, years If ≤ 1 year, up to years	Minimum (Years)	Violent/Dangerous	Fine (Dollars)
Drug Paraphernalia – 2nd+ Offense	48-1103(b)(2), (e)(4)	D 4	2	1	1	3			12,500
Drug Paraphernalia w/ Intent, Possession (PDP) – 2nd+ Offense	48-1103(b)	D 4	2	1	1	3			12,500
False/Fictitious Threats of Weapon of Mass Destruction	22-1319(c)	M 8	5	2	3	3			12,500
False/Fictitious Threats of Weapon of Mass Destruction During State of Emergency	22-1319(d)	M 8	10	2	8	3			25,000
Obstructing Service of a Drug Search Warrant	48—921.02(n)	D 4	2	1	1	3			12,500
Unsafe Storage of a Firearm: Injury or Death	7-2507.05(c)(2)	M 8	5	2	3	3			12,500