

## Frequently Asked Questions

# Ranking of Adult Felony Offenses

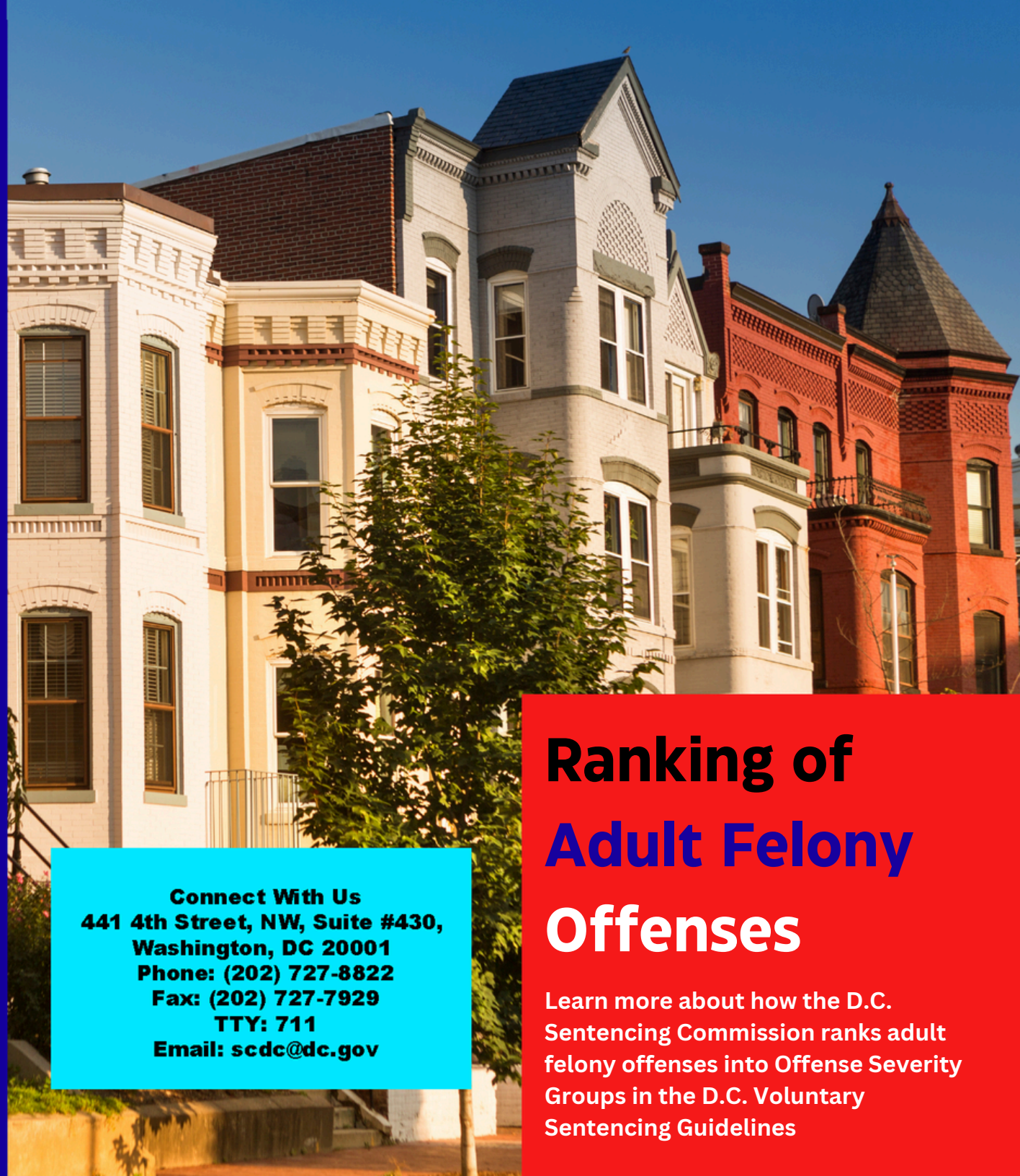
### What is an Offense Severity Group (OSG)?

- The D.C. Sentencing Commission has ranked nearly all DC felony offenses into one of 13 Offense Severity Groups (OSGs). These rankings can be found in groups that are arranged along the vertical axis of the Main Grid from Main Group 1 (First-Degree Murder) to Main Group 9 (Receiving Stolen Property) and on the Drug Grid from Drug Group 1 (Distribution of a Controlled Substance while Armed) to Drug Group 4 (Attempt Distribution of Marijuana and certain other drugs).

### What Determines the OSG of an Adult Felony Offense in the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines?

- The ranking of adult felony offenses into OSG's in the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines is based on the conduct criminalized by the statute, the different ways the offense can be committed, the maximum penalty for the offense, the harm to the victim and/or community, how the offense compares to other ranked offenses, data on the offense, and other factors.

For more information view the agency's [D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual](#).



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# Ranking of Adult Felony Offenses

Learn more about how the D.C. Sentencing Commission ranks adult felony offenses into Offense Severity Groups in the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines

## The Guidelines Implementation Committee's (GIC) Involvement in Ranking Offenses

- New or revised offenses are examined by a Commission subcommittee called the Guidelines Implementation Committee (GIC). The GIC is open to any Commission member.
- Commission staff and GIC members evaluate the new or modified offenses and meet to talk about the appropriate ranking for the offense.
- The GIC will then vote on one or more options to present to the full Commission.

## Voting on the Ranking of Offenses

- The GIC makes an initial recommendation or highlights areas where agreement could not be reached.
- Ranking the offense is then brought before the full Commission for discussion and/or a final vote.
- A majority vote of Commission members present at a meeting (after a quorum is established) is necessary for an offense to be ranked.
- Only voting members can vote.
- The Commission aims to reach a consensus whenever possible.

## After Approval



Once approved, the rankings are shared with the public through “Guidelines Alerts” which are distributed via the agency’s website, social media, monthly emails, and at events. The online version of the D.C. Voluntary Guidelines is also updated with the approved rankings, which can be found on the agency’s website.