

October 1, 1996

To recipients of the Guidelines Manual:

This document contains several amendments to the guidelines, policy statements, and commentary that implement recently enacted legislation. These amendments will take effect November 1, 1996.

Just prior to adjournment, Congress passed additional legislation that directs the Commission to amend the sentencing guidelines for certain immigration and drug offenses. Several of these provisions require the Commission to use expedited, "emergency amendment authority" which dispenses with the public notice and congressional review requirements normally required for promulgation of guideline amendments.

In view of these developments, the Commission has decided to delay publication of the 1996 edition of the Guidelines Manual for several months in order to address the latest sentencing legislation as directed by Congress. Given the minimal number of amendments promulgated by the Commission this year, we believe it cost effective to proceed with an interim publication at this point. Therefore, this interim publication – together with the 1995 Guidelines Manual (burgundy cover) – will constitute the operative Manual effective November 1, 1996. After the Commission has developed guideline amendments in response to the immigration and drug legislation, it will publish a revised Manual incorporating the amendments in this interim publication along with the "emergency amendments."

This publication shows each guideline amended in 1996. An historical note is included showing the amendment number that corresponds to the number in the section titled "Reasons for Amendments" (to be reprinted in Appendix C of the 1996 Manual). Also included in the "Reasons for Amendments" are minor conforming and technical changes to other guidelines.

I regret any inconvenience this may cause. I hope you understand, however, the reasons for this decision in light of the recent congressional action and the financial necessity of avoiding the printing of multiple, costly volumes.

Thank you.

RICHARD P. CONABOY  
*Chairman*