

Department of Justice

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statutes unless otherwise noted in this part: Interstate and Foreign Commerce—Gambling Devices—Transportation Prohibited, Jan. 2, 1951, ch. 1194 section 7, 64 Stat. 1135 (codified at 15 U.S.C. 1177, commonly referred to as Transportation of Gambling Devices); Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, Public Law 91-452, title VIII, part C, section 803(a), 84 Stat. 937 (1970) (codified at 18 U.S.C. 1955, commonly referred to as Illegal Gambling Businesses); Copyrights Act, Public Law 94-553, title I, section 101, 90 Stat. 2768 (1976) (codified at 17 U.S.C. 509); Motor Vehicle Theft Law Enforcement Act of 1984, Public Law 98-547, title II, section 201, 98 Stat. 2754 (1984) (codified at 18 U.S.C. 512); Crimes and Criminal Procedure, June 25, 1948, ch. 645, section 1, 62 Stat. 786 (codified at 18 U.S.C. 1762, commonly referred to as Prison-Made Goods); Child Protection Act of 1984, Public Law 98-292, section 6, 98 Stat. 205 (1984) (codified at 18 U.S.C. 2254); Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, Public Law 90-351, title III, section 802, 82 Stat. 215 (1968) (codified at 18 U.S.C. 2513, commonly referred to as Wire Interception and Interception of Oral Communications); Seizure of Arms and Other Articles Intended for Export, June 15, 1917, ch. 30, title VI section 1, 40 Stat. 223; June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, 523, 46 Stat. 740; Aug. 13, 1953, ch. 434, section 1, 67 Stat. 577 (codified at 22 U.S.C. 401, commonly referred to as Illegal Exportation of War Materials); Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, Public Law 99-570, sec. 1351-1367 (1986) (codified at 18 U.S.C. 981, commonly referred to as Money Laundering Control Act of 1986).

[Order No. 1128-86, 51 FR 8818, Mar. 14, 1986, as amended by Order No. 1197-87, 52 FR 24448, July 1, 1987]

§ 8.2 Designation of officials having seizure authority.

The Director, Associate Director, Assistants to the Director, Assistant Directors, inspectors, and Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are authorized to seize such property as may be subject to seizure pursuant to statutes identified in § 8.1.

§ 8.3 Designation of the investigative bureau having administrative forfeiture authority; claims for awards, offers in compromise and matters relating to bonds.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is, in accordance with the statutes identified in § 8.1, authorized and designated as the investigative bureau to perform various duties with respect to forfeiture which are comparable to the duties performed by collectors of customs or other persons with respect to the seizure and forfeiture of vessels, vehicles, merchandise, and baggage under the customs' laws. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or his designee is designated as the officer authorized to take final action under these statutes on claims for award of compensation to informers, offers in compromise, and matters relating to bonds or other security.

§ 8.4 Custody of seized property, inventory and receipt.

All property seized pursuant to the statutes identified in § 8.1 shall be turned over to the U.S. Marshals Service when not held as evidence or to be placed into official use following forfeiture. An inventory shall be prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the seized property and a receipt given for it to the person from whom it was seized at the time of seizure or as soon thereafter as practical.

§ 8.5 Appraisal of property subject to forfeiture.

Seized property shall be appraised. The appraisal shall be the function of the Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation or his designee having custody of the property. The value of an article seized shall be the price at which it or a similar article is fairly offered for sale at the time and place of appraisal.

§ 8.6 Quick-release authority.

Where the forfeiture proceedings are administrative, the Special Agent in Charge, prior to forfeiture, is authorized to release property seized for forfeiture. The property can be quick-released when the Special Agent in Charge deems that there is an innocent owner having an immediate right to

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possession of the property or when the release would be in the best interest of justice and the Government.

§ 8.7 Judicial forfeiture.

If the appraised value exceeds the monetary amount set forth in title 19, United States Code, section 1607, or a claim and satisfactory bond have been received either for property appraised at that amount or less, or for seized merchandise which is any monetary instrument within the meaning of section 5312(a)(3) of title 31 of the United States Code, the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI field office that seized the property shall transmit the claim and bond to the U.S. Attorney for the judicial district in which the seizure was made for the purpose of instituting judicial forfeiture proceedings. Also transmitted with the claim and bond will be a description of the property and a complete statement of the facts and circumstances leading to the seizure of the property.

[Order No. 1476-91, 56 FR 8685, Mar. 1, 1991]

§ 8.8 Advertisement and declaration of forfeiture.

(a) The notice required by customs laws, section 607, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1607), of seizure and intention to forfeit and sell or otherwise dispose of property seized pursuant to the statutes identified in § 8.1, shall describe the property seized, state the date seized, cause, and place of seizure; and state that any person desiring to claim the property must file with the Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice a claim to such property and a bond.

(b) The bond amount shall be \$5,000 or ten percent of the value of the claimed property whichever is lower, but not less than \$250. The bond posted to cover costs may be in cash, certified check, or satisfactory sureties. When the claim and bond are received by the Special Agent in Charge, he shall, after finding the documents in proper form and the sureties satisfactory, transmit the documents, together with a description of the property and a complete statement of the facts and circumstances surrounding the seizure, to

the U.S. Attorney for the judicial district in which the seizure was made for purpose of proceeding to forfeiture of the property in a manner prescribed by law. If the documents are not in satisfactory condition when first received, a reasonable time for correction may be allowed. If correction is not made within a reasonable time, the documents may be treated as nugatory, and the administrative forfeiture shall proceed as though they had not been tendered. The filing of the claim and the posting of the bond does not entitle the claimant to possession of the property, however, it does stop the administrative forfeiture proceeding.

(c) The notice for administrative forfeiture proceedings shall be published once each week for at least three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the judicial district in which the property was seized. If a claim is not made within the time period, the FBI Property Management Officer shall declare the property forfeited.

[Order No. 1128-86, 51 FR 8818, Mar. 14, 1986, as amended by Order No. 1197-87, 52 FR 24448, July 1, 1987; Order No. 1476-91, 56 FR 8687, Mar. 1, 1991]

§ 8.9 Disposition of forfeited property.

(a) If the laws of a state in which an article of forfeited property is located prohibit the sale of such property or if the U.S. Marshals Service is of the opinion that it would be more advantageous to sell the forfeited property in another district, the property may be moved to and sold in such other district as the U.S. Marshals Service may direct.

(b) If, after the administrative forfeiture of property is completed, it appears that the proceeds of sale will not be sufficient to pay the costs of sale or the proceeds will be insignificant in relation to the expenses involved in the forfeiture, the U.S. Marshals Service may order the destruction of the property. Similarly, property forfeited under a decree of a court may be destroyed in accordance with section 611, Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1611). Also, if the sale or use of any article is prohibited under any law of the United States or the state where it is stored, the U.S. Marshals Service may order it