CHAPTER 19

FALSIFICATION IN OFFICIAL MATTERS

§451. Perjury

1. A person is guilty of perjury if that person makes:

A. In any official proceeding, a false material statement under oath or affirmation, or swears or affirms the truth of a material statement previously made, and that person does not believe the statement to be true; or [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §8 (COR).]

B. Inconsistent material statements, in the same official proceeding, under oath or affirmation, both within the period of limitations, one of which statements is false and not believed by that person to be true. [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §8 (COR).]

[RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §8 (COR).]

2. In a prosecution under subsection 1, paragraph B, it need not be alleged or proved which of the statements is false but only that one or the other was false and not believed by the person to be true.
[PL 1999, c. 13, §1 (AMD).]

3. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the defendant retracted the falsification in the course of the official proceeding in which it was made, and before it became manifest that the falsification was or would have been exposed.
[PL 1981, c. 317, §12 (AMD).]

3-A. In a prosecution under subsection 1, paragraph A, evidence that the allegedly false testimony in the prior official proceeding was contradicted by evidence in that proceeding may not be a sufficient basis by itself to sustain a conviction for perjury.
[PL 1981, c. 317, §13 (NEW).]

4. It is not a defense to prosecution under this section that the oath or affirmation was administered or taken in an irregular manner or that the declarant was not a competent witness in making the statement or was disqualified from doing so. A document purporting to be made upon oath or affirmation at any time when the actor presents it as being so verified shall be deemed to have been duly sworn or affirmed.
[PL 1975, c. 740, §62 (AMD).]

5. As used in this section:

A. "Official proceeding" means any proceeding before a legislative, judicial, administrative or other governmental body or official authorized by law to take evidence under oath or affirmation including a notary or other person taking evidence in connection with any such proceeding; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Material" means capable of affecting the course or outcome of the proceeding. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

6. Perjury is a Class C crime.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §§61,62 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 512, §27 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 317, §§12,13 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 13, §1 (AMD). RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §8 (COR).

§452. False swearing

1. A person is guilty of false swearing if:

A. The person makes a false statement under oath or affirmation or swears or affirms the truth of such a statement previously made and the person does not believe the statement to be true, provided

(1) the falsification occurs in an official proceeding as defined in section 451, subsection 5, paragraph A, or is made with the intention to mislead a public servant performing the public servant's official duties; or

(2) the statement is one which is required by law to be sworn or affirmed before a notary or other person authorized to administer oaths; or [RR 2009, c. 2, §38 (COR).]

B. The person makes inconsistent statements under oath or affirmation, both within the period of limitations, one of which is false and not believed by the person to be true. In a prosecution under this subsection, it need not be alleged or proved which of the statements is false, but only that one or the other was false and not believed by the defendant to be true. [RR 2009, c. 2, §38 (COR).]
[RR 2009, c. 2, §38 (COR).]

2. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that, when made in an official proceeding, the defendant retracted the falsification in the course of such proceeding before it became manifest that the falsification was or would have been exposed.
[PL 1981, c. 317, §14 (AMD).]

2-A. In a prosecution under subsection 1, paragraph A, evidence that the allegedly false testimony or statement in the prior official proceeding or before a notary or other person authorized to administer oaths was contradicted by evidence in that proceeding may not be a sufficient basis by itself to sustain a conviction for false swearing.
[PL 1983, c. 450, §3 (AMD).]

3. It is not a defense to prosecution under this section that the oath or affirmation was administered or taken in an irregular manner or that the declarant was not a competent witness in making the statement or was disqualified from doing so. A document purporting to be made upon oaths or affirmation at any time when the actor presents it as being so verified shall be deemed to have been duly sworn or affirmed.
[PL 1975, c. 740, §63 (AMD).]

4. False swearing is a Class D crime.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §63 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 512, §28 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 317, §§14,15 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 450, §3 (AMD). RR 2009, c. 2, §38 (COR).

§453. Unsworn falsification

1. A person is guilty of unsworn falsification if:

A. That person makes a written false statement that that person does not believe to be true on or pursuant to a form conspicuously bearing notification authorized by statute or regulation to the effect that false statements made therein are punishable; [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §9 (COR).]

B. With the intent to deceive a public servant in the performance of that public servant's official duties, that person:

(1) Makes any written false statement that that person does not believe to be true, except that this subsection does not apply in the case of a written false statement made to a law enforcement officer by a person then in official custody and suspected of having committed a crime, except as provided in paragraph C;

(2) Knowingly creates, or attempts to create, a false impression in a written application for any pecuniary or other benefit by omitting information necessary to prevent statements in that application from being misleading; or

(3) Submits or invites reliance on any sample, specimen, map, boundary mark or other object that that person knows to be false; or [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §9 (COR).]

C. With the intent to conceal that person's identity from a law enforcement officer while under arrest for a crime, after having been warned that it is a crime to give false information concerning identity, that person gives false information concerning that person's name or date of birth, including, but not limited to, a signature. [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §9 (COR).]

[RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §9 (COR).]

2. Unsworn falsification is a Class D crime.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 317, §§16-19 (AMD). RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §9 (COR).

§454. Tampering with a witness, informant, juror or victim

1. A person is guilty of tampering with a witness or informant if, believing that an official proceeding, as defined in section 451, subsection 5, paragraph A, or an official criminal investigation is pending or will be instituted, the actor:

A. Induces or otherwise causes, or attempts to induce or cause, a witness or informant:

(1) To testify or inform in a manner the actor knows to be false; or

(2) To withhold testimony, information or evidence.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2003, c. 143, §5 (AMD).]

B. Uses force, violence or intimidation, or promises, offers or gives pecuniary benefit with the intent to induce a witness or informant:

(1) To withhold testimony, information or evidence;

(2) To refrain from attending a criminal proceeding or criminal investigation; or

(3) To refrain from attending any other proceeding or investigation to which the witness or informant has been summoned by legal process.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

C. Solicits, accepts or agrees to accept pecuniary benefit for committing an act specified in paragraph A, subparagraph (1), or in paragraph B, subparagraph (1), (2) or (3). Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 143, §5 (AMD).]

1-A. A person is guilty of tampering with a juror if the actor:

A. Contacts by any means a person who is a juror or any other person that the actor believes is in a position to influence a juror and the actor does so with the intention of influencing the juror in the performance of the juror's duty. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

B. Violates paragraph A and the proceeding the juror is involved in is a criminal proceeding for murder or a Class A crime. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime. [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

1-B. A person is guilty of tampering with a victim if, believing that an official proceeding, as defined in section 451, subsection 5, paragraph A, or an official criminal investigation is pending or will be instituted, the actor:

A. Induces or otherwise causes, or attempts to induce or cause, a victim:

(1) To testify or inform falsely; or

(2) To withhold testimony, information or evidence.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

B. Uses force, violence or intimidation, or promises, offers or gives pecuniary benefit with the intent to induce a victim:

(1) To withhold testimony, information or evidence;

(2) To refrain from attending a criminal proceeding or criminal investigation; or

(3) To refrain from attending any other proceeding or investigation to which the victim has been summoned by legal process.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; or [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

C. Solicits, accepts or agrees to accept pecuniary benefit for committing an act specified in paragraph A, subparagraph (1), or in paragraph B, subparagraph (1), (2) or (3).

Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime. [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

2.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (RP); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

3.

[PL 1989, c. 300 (RP).]

4.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (RP); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 510, §54 (RPR). PL 1983, c. 352, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 300 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 878, §B16 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 143, §5 (AMD).

§455. Falsifying physical evidence

1. A person is guilty of falsifying physical evidence if, believing that an official proceeding as defined in section 451, subsection 5, paragraph A or an official criminal investigation is pending or will be instituted, that person:

A. Alters, destroys, conceals or removes any thing relevant to that proceeding or investigation with intent to impair its verity, authenticity or availability in that proceeding or investigation; or [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §10 (COR).]

B. Presents or uses any thing that that person knows to be false with intent to deceive a public servant who is or may be engaged in that proceeding or investigation. [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §10 (COR).]

[RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §10 (COR).]

2. Falsifying physical evidence is a Class D crime.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §10 (COR).

§456. Tampering with public records or information

1. A person is guilty of tampering with public records or information if that person:

A. Knowingly makes a false entry in or false alteration of any record, document or thing belonging to or received or kept by the government or required by law to be kept by others for the information of the government; [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §11 (COR).]

B. Presents or uses any record, document or thing knowing it to be false and with intent that it be taken as a genuine part of information or records referred to in paragraph A; or [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §11 (COR).]

C. Intentionally destroys, conceals, removes or otherwise impairs the verity or availability of any such record, document or thing, knowing that that person lacks authority to do so. [RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §11 (COR).]
[RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §11 (COR).]

2. Tampering with public records or information is a Class D crime.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §11 (COR).

§457. Impersonating a public servant

1. A person is guilty of impersonating a public servant if that person falsely pretends to be a public servant and engages in any conduct in that capacity with the intent to deceive anyone.
[RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §12 (COR).]

2. It is no defense to a prosecution under this section that the office the person pretended to hold did not in fact exist.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

3. Impersonating a public servant is a Class E crime.
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). RR 2025, c. 2, Pt. F, §12 (COR).

§458. Retaliation against a witness, informant, victim or juror

A person is guilty of retaliation against a witness, informant, victim or juror if, believing that another person is participating or has participated as a witness, informant, victim or juror in an official proceeding, as defined in section 451, subsection 5, paragraph A, or in an official criminal investigation, the actor engages in criminal conduct with the intent to retaliate for that other person's role in the official proceeding or official criminal investigation. Violation of this section is a Class C crime. [PL 2019, c. 309, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 309, §1 (NEW).

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