

§ 28.27

crime, such as saliva on a discarded cigarette butt. Even if the vehicle is kept until a defendant is sentenced to imprisonment, section 3600A's preservation requirement would not apply to the vehicle as such, because the vehicle is not biological material. It would be sufficient for compliance with section 3600A to preserve the particular items in the vehicle that contain identified biological material or portions of them that contain the biological material.

(c) *Preservation of portions sufficient for DNA testing.* If evidence described in section 3600A(c)(4) is not otherwise exempt from the preservation requirement of section 3600A, and section 3600A(c)(4) is relied on in disposing of such evidence, reasonable measures must be taken to preserve portions of the evidence sufficient to permit future DNA testing. For example, considering a stolen car used in a bank robbery, it may be the case that one of the robbers was shot during the getaway and bled all over the interior of the car. In such a case, if the car is kept until a defendant is sentenced to imprisonment for the crime, there would be extensive biological material in the car that would potentially be subject to section 3600A's requirement to preserve biological evidence. Moreover, the biological material in question could not be fully preserved without retaining the whole car or removing and retaining large amounts of matter from the interior of the car. Section 3600A(c)(4) would be relevant in such a case, given that fully retaining the biological evidence is likely to be impracticable or inconsistent with the rightful owner's entitlement to the return of the vehicle. In such a case, section 3600A(c)(4) could be relied on, and its requirements would be satisfied if samples of the blood were preserved sufficient to permit future DNA testing. Preserving such samples would dispense with any need under section 3600A to retain the vehicle itself or larger portions thereof.

§ 28.27 Non-preemption of other requirements.

Section 3600A's requirement to preserve biological evidence applies cumulatively with other evidence retention requirements. It does not preempt or

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supersede any statute, regulation, court order, or other provision of law that may require evidence, including biological evidence, to be preserved.

§ 28.28 Sanctions for violations.

(a) *Disciplinary sanctions.* Violations of section 3600A or of this subpart by Government employees shall be subject to the disciplinary sanctions authorized by the rules or policies of their employing agencies for violations of statutory or regulatory requirements.

(b) *Criminal sanctions.* Violations of section 3600A may also be subject to criminal sanctions as prescribed in subsection (f) of that section. Section 3600A(f) makes it a felony offense, punishable by up to five years of imprisonment, for anyone to knowingly and intentionally destroy, alter, or tamper with biological evidence that is required to be preserved under section 3600A with the intent to prevent that evidence from being subjected to DNA testing or prevent the production or use of that evidence in an official proceeding.

(c) *No effect on validity of convictions.* Section 3600A's requirements are enforceable through the disciplinary sanctions and criminal sanctions described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. A failure to preserve biological evidence as required by section 3600A does not provide a basis for relief in any postconviction proceeding.

PART 29—MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION ACT REGULATIONS

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29.13 No new conditions without consent.

AUTHORITY: 28 U.S.C. 509, 510; 42 U.S.C. 14171.

SOURCE: 61 FR 40725, Aug. 6, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 29.1 Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this part is to implement the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act, 42 U.S.C. 14171, which requires the Attorney General to develop, in cooperation with the states, a national voluntary motor vehicle theft prevention program. The program will be implemented by states and localities, at their sole option.

(b) Under this program, individual motor vehicle owners voluntarily sign a consent form in which the owner

(1) Indicates that the identified vehicle is not normally operated under certain specified conditions and

(2) Agrees to display a program decal or license plate on the vehicle and to permit law enforcement officials in any jurisdiction to stop the motor vehicle if it is being operated under specified conditions and take reasonable steps to determine whether the vehicle is being operated by or with the permission of the owner.

(c) The regulations set forth in this part establish the conditions under which an owner may consent to having his or her vehicle stopped and the manner in which a State or locality may elect to participate.

§ 29.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

(a) *The Act or the MVTPA* means the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act.

(b) *Owner* means the person or persons whose name(s) appear(s) on the certificate of title or to whom the car is registered. In the instance of a new vehicle awaiting sale or lease or in the instance of a used vehicle where the title has been assigned to a dealership, the term "owner" shall be construed to mean new and used automobile dealerships.

(c) *The Program* refers to the National Voluntary Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Program implemented pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Prevention Act.

§ 29.3 Administration by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall administer this Program and shall issue guidelines governing the operational aspects of it, including the design and production of a standardized, universally recognizable MVTPA reflective decal, as well as model consent and registration forms.

§ 29.4 Election to participate by states and localities.

(a) Any State or locality that wishes to participate in the program shall register with the BJA and request program enrollment materials. Registration forms will be available upon request. Participation in the program is wholly voluntary on the part of the State or locality.

(b) By electing to participate in the program, a State or locality agrees to do the following:

(1) Make program enrollment materials, including consent forms, available to interested motor vehicle owners;

(2) Collect completed consent forms;

(3) Provide enrolled motor vehicle owners with the decal(s), and license plate(s) applicable to their program condition or conditions and instructions governing program participation;

(4) Take the necessary steps to authorize law enforcement officials to stop motor vehicles enrolled in the program; and

(5) Comply with any other regulation(s) or guideline(s) governing participation in this program.

§ 29.5 Notification of law enforcement officials.

In addition to the actions enumerated in § 29.4(b), as a condition of participating in the program, a State or locality must agree to take reasonable steps to ensure that law enforcement officials under its jurisdiction are familiar with the program and with the conditions under which motor vehicles may be stopped.

§ 29.6 Limited participation by states and localities permitted.

A State or locality need not authorize the stopping of motor vehicles under all sets of conditions specified