

on the proposed rule change.² The Commission hereby extends the period for public comment on the proposed rule change until June 19, 1998.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.³

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UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

Sentencing Guidelines for the United States Courts

AGENCY: United States Sentencing Commission.

ACTION: Notice of preliminary priority areas for Commission study. Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: As part of its statutory authority and responsibility to analyze sentencing issues, including operation of the federal sentencing guidelines, and in accordance with Rules 3.5 and 5.2 of its Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission has preliminarily identified certain priorities as the principal focus of its policy development work in the coming year. The Commission invites comment on these tentatively identified priority areas and on any other sentencing issues that it should address during the coming year. The Commission has tentatively scheduled a hearing to receive public comment on these matters.

DATES: A hearing to receive public comment on future policy development priorities has been set for June 17, 1998, in the Commission's offices. Public comment and written testimony for the public hearing should be received on or before June 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: United States Sentencing Commission, One Columbus Circle, NE, Suite 2-500 South, Washington, DC 20002-8002, Attention: Public Information-Priorities Comment. For Further Information Contact: Michael Courlander, Public Affairs Officer, at (202) 273-7731.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Policy development priorities preliminarily identified by the Commission for continuing work during the 1998-1999 amendment cycle are:

1. Revisions of the fraud, theft, and tax guidelines (including the monetary

tables used in these guidelines and other guidelines that reference those tables, consolidation of the theft, fraud, and property destruction guidelines, and the definition of "loss" in the theft and fraud guidelines).

2. Review and assessment of the criminal history guidelines.

3. Review and assessment of the guidelines and sentences imposed for homicide offenses.

In addition, the Commission expects to address recent legislative enactments, such as: (1) the Wireless Telephone Protection Act, relating to cloning cellular telephones; (2) the No Electronic Theft Act; (3) and any other legislation affecting sentencing policy that may be enacted in the remainder of this congressional session.

Obviously, the subject matter, scope, and duration of the Commission's policy development work during the coming year will be influenced considerably by the appointment of new commissioners and the timing of those appointments. Thus, at this time, the Commission has tentatively identified only a few areas in which its work is ongoing.

The Commission invites comment on whether and how it should further investigate these tentative priorities. Additionally, the Commission invites comment on any other sentencing issues that persons believe should be addressed in the coming year, including research issues that the Commission should address. To the extent practicable, comments submitted on additional issues should include the following: (1) a statement of the issue, including the scope and manner of study, particular problem areas and possible solutions, and any other matters relevant to an identified or proposed priority; (2) citations to applicable sentencing guidelines, statutes, case law, and constitutional provisions; and (3) a direct and concise statement of why the Commission should make the issue a priority.

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 994(a), (c).

Richard P. Conaboy,
Chairman.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection Requests and Comment Requests

This notice lists information collection packages that will require submission to the Office of Management

and Budget (OMB), as well as information collection packages submitted to OMB for clearance, in compliance with Pub. L. 104-13 effective October 1, 1995, The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

I. The information collection(s) listed below require(s) extension(s) of the current OMB approval(s) or are proposed new collection(s):

1. *Medical Report (General)—0960-0052.* The information on Form SSA-3826 is used by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine the claimant's physical status prior to making a disability determination and to document disability claims folders with the medical evidence. The respondents are physicians, hospitals, directors and medical records librarians.

Number of Respondents: 750,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 375,000 hours.

2. *Payment of Certain Travel Expenses—0960-0434.* SSA uses the information required by 20 CFR, sections 404.999(d) and 416.1499 to reimburse a claimant who has been required to travel over 75 miles to appear at a medical examination or a disability hearing. The respondents are claimants who travel more than 75 miles in order to attend a medical examination or a disability hearing.

Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,333 hours.

3. *Social Security Request for Information—0960-0531.* The information on Form SSA-6231 is used by SSA to complete or to clarify data on Forms SSA-623 or SSA-6230, previously provided by representative payees. The respondents are representative payees who furnished incomplete or unclear information.

Number of Respondents: 100,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 25,000 hours.

4. *Statement Regarding Student's Attendance—0960-0113.* The information on Form SSA-2434 is used to determine student entitlement status for the children of coal miners, the children of their widows or the brothers of deceased coal miners eligible for black lung benefits. The respondents are dependents of deceased coal miners as cited above, who are attending school and about to attain age 18.

² By letter dated May 15, 1998 NASD Regulation has consented to an extension of the comment period. See letter from Jean I. Feeney, NASD Regulation, Inc., to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission.

³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).