

CIRCULAR



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title	Sexual Blackmail Elimination and Immigrant Protection Amendment Act of 2018
Number	CIR-19-09
Effective Date	May 9, 2019
Expiration Date	May 8, 2021
Related Orders:	GO-SPT-401.01 (Field Reporting System)

The purpose of this circular is to inform members of the *Sexual Blackmail Elimination and Immigrant Protection Amendment Act of 2018* that became effective on April 26, 2019.

The existing law [D.C. Official Code § 22-3252(a)] has been amended to expand protection to individuals, to include immigrants, from blackmail. The relevant law is included below with amended content **underlined and in bold** for reference:

- (a) A person commits the offense of blackmail, if, with intent to obtain property of another or to cause another to do or refrain from doing any act, that person threatens to:
 - (1) Accuse another person of a crime;
 - (2) Expose a secret or publicize an asserted fact, whether true or false, tending to subject another person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, **embarrassment, or other injury to reputation;**
 - (3) Impair the reputation of **another** person, including a deceased person;
 - (4) **Distribute a photograph, video, or audio recording, whether authentic or inauthentic, tending to subject another person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, embarrassment, or other injury to reputation; or**
 - (5) **Notify a federal, state, or local government agency or official of, or publicize, another person's immigration or citizenship status.**

- (b) Any person convicted of blackmail shall be fined not more than \$12,500 or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, as set forth in § 22-3571.01.

Although this circular will expire on May 8, 2021, the changes described in this circular are permanent until such time as the law is amended.

Peter Newsham
Chief of Police

PN:KDO:MOC:BK