



**VIRGINIA CRIMINAL
SENTENCING COMMISSION**

Staff Testimony

Before the General Assembly



Policy for Testimony Before the General Assembly

- 1. If requested, Commission staff may provide testimony or statements to the General Assembly regarding the potential impact of proposed legislation on the scoring, development, and implementation of the Sentencing Guidelines, as well as on the management of data maintained by the Commission.**
- 2. Staff may advise legislators when proposed legislation could create unintended consequences affecting the implementation or operation of the Sentencing Guidelines. In providing such information, staff shall remain neutral on matters of policy and shall not advocate for or against proposed legislation.**

Policy for Testimony Before the General Assembly

- 3. Any testimony or statement should include discussion of anticipated fiscal impacts and any additional resources that may be required to implement, revise, or administer the Guidelines.**
- 4. All testimony or statements made by staff must include a disclaimer that the views expressed are those of the staff and do not necessarily represent the position of the Commission unless the Commission has formally adopted that position through prior action.**

Policy for Testimony Before the General Assembly

5. Staff shall not provide opinions or recommendations on substantive policy matters, including but not limited to statutory aggravating or mitigating factors, proposed changes to sentence ranges, or similar policy determinations reserved for the Commission or the General Assembly.





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Release of Guidelines & Pretrial Data

Pending an Attorney General Opinion

