Falsification of a Government Document

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Falsification of a Government Document

Warranty – Disclaimer – Guarantee

The statements made or information used is based on my personal experiences. I have tried to research the law to the best of my ability. I am not a lawyer, member of law enforcement, or a legal expert. I am trying to be honest and share my experiences with you. I hope you all understand. Please consult with your local law enforcement or legal experts at your work location, if you come across any of the examples used in the presentation.
Falsification of a Government Document

Falsifying documents is a criminal offense that involves the altering, changing, modifying, passing or possessing of a document for an unlawful purpose.

It is considered a white collar crime and can be called by different names depending on your state, or be included as part of other collateral crimes.

Source: Legal Match – Law Library – Article
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In Texas, it is illegal to use false information to alter, create, or sign a document for the purpose of harming or defrauding another person. The law encompasses the following:

• Altering a document without permission, such as changing the date or time on a document or altering the amount of money on a check.

Source: Forgery – Tampering with a Government Record
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According to Chapter 73 of Title 18 of the United States Code under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act – Anyone who knowingly falsifies documents to “Impede, obstruct, or influence” an investigation shall be fined or face a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

Source: www.waltsanchez.com/blog
Polling Question
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Case Study

In 2015-2016, City of El Paso’s Internal Audit Office assisted TxDOT in reviewing the expenditures on the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program award to the City of El Paso. After a detailed audit, 24 El Paso Police Officers were identified that might violated the STEP Grant Guidelines. The 24 Officers were referred to El Paso County District Attorney’s Office. 17 Officers were indicted by the District Attorney’s Office.

The 17 Officers were charged with “Falsifying a Government Document” for listing false information on their Daily Log Sheets used to report their overtime.
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The items identified as falsified included the following:

- Hours works – Date and/or Times, working at 2 places at the same time.
- Unit used – Police Car Number or Passenger Van
- Location worked – Street location or Freeway patrolled
- Old Ticket (Citation) Numbers used years before
- Equipment used – radar gun or bicycle used
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Fallout – Good and Bad

• City of El Paso received $38,677.25 in restitution from the 17 Officers.
• EPPD lost 17 highly trained Police Officers.
• Numerous daily newspaper articles were written and TV stories were done on the incident.
• The City was billed $358,443 in Unallowable Cost by TXDOT.
• An additional Audit was conducted on a Police Lt. who was falsifying his timesheet while working in the Gang Unit. He was forced to resign/retire and paid $10,033.79 in restitution.
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You may be arrested or falsifying documents if you engage in any of the following Activities

• Altering or misrepresenting factual information, i.e. profits or losses.
• Forging a signature on a check or other documents.
• Using official letterhead stationary without authorization.
• Concealing Assets or property in a bankruptcy or divorce proceeding.
• Knowingly using or distributing a fake document to gain employment or entrance into the USA.
• Destroying information material to an investigation.
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In Texas, a person commits the crime of Tampering with a Government Document.

- Knowing makes a false entry in, or false alteration of a government record.
- Makes, presents, or uses any records, document, or thing with knowledge of its falsity with the intent that if will be taken as genuine. “ORR”
- Intentionally destroys, conceals, removes, or otherwise impairs the verity...of a government record. “ORR”
- Possesses, sells, or offers to sell a government record with the intent to be used unlawfully. “Building Inspections & Permits”
- Makes, presents, or uses a government record with knowledge of its falsity.
- Possesses, sells, or offers to sell a government record with knowledge it was obtained unlawfully.
Falsification of a Government Document can be connected to other crimes.

- **Fraud** – any illegal act characterized by deceit, concealment, or violation of trust.
- **Tax Evasion** – the failure to pay or the deliberate underpayment of taxes.
- **Forgery** – creating or altering a document with the intent to defraud someone.
- **Identity Theft** – assuming someone else’s identity to commit fraud.
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Other examples of a Falsification of a Government Document:

1. False Statements on Employment Applications – Employee claimed to be a Licensed Real Estate Broker but was only a Licensed Real Estate Agent. Job required he be a Licensed Broker.

2. Falsifying a City Receipt – Taxi Cab owner had a City Receipt for Taxi Cab Fees duplicated in Juarez, Mexico. Too avoid paying fees.

3. Bid Documents Falsified – Bidder submitted false insurance binder when submitting a bid. No insurance in effect at time of award.

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More examples of Falsifying a Government Document.

1. Museum employee writing Foundation checks to her family using initials. Stole over $100,000. Had a gambling problem.

2. Municipal Court Employee forging a citizen signature on Bond Refunds. The citizen came in for a refund told already processed.

3. Building Inspections being completed without the proper inspection. Building Inspector signing Inspection Forms to avoid climbing on roof.
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Other employer examples of Falsifying a Government Document.

1. Federal Credit Union – Loan Officer working with a Car Dealer Finance Manager falsified W-2s, Job Verification Letters, copies of checks for down payment on Loan Applications. Federal Felony to lie on a loan application.


3. GMAC – Employee signed a Release of Lien and State Title Application for brother-in-law to sell his vehicle. Previous Loan application had been denied for potential buyer.
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Thank You

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