

**COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA****28 CFR Part 812****[CSOSA-0006-F]****RIN 3225-AA04****Collection and Use of DNA Information**

**AGENCY:** Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia ("CSOSA") is finalizing its interim rule which implemented section 4 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000, in conjunction with District of Columbia laws enacted pursuant to that Act which specify qualifying District of Columbia offenses for purposes of DNA sample collection. The interim regulations set forth the responsibilities of CSOSA for collecting DNA samples from individuals under its supervision who have been convicted of specific offenses identified by District of Columbia statute. The regulations specify that DNA samples are to be collected, handled, preserved, and submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") in accordance with FBI guidelines for inclusion in the Combined DNA Index System ("CODIS"), a national database of DNA profiles from convicted offenders, unsolved crime scenes, and missing persons. The regulations also specify that CSOSA will cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to ensure that unnecessary samples will not be collected; establish a standard for what constitutes an individual's refusal to cooperate in the collection of a DNA sample; and define what steps CSOSA deems to be reasonably necessary to take when an individual refuses to cooperate. The regulations identify in an appendix the offenses which qualify for DNA collection, as they appear in the District of Columbia public laws, in the District of Columbia Code (1981 ed.), and in the District of Columbia Official Code (2001 ed.).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 22, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of the General Counsel, CSOSA, Room 1253, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** CSOSA is finalizing its interim regulations on the collection and use of DNA information (28 CFR part 812) which were published in the **Federal Register** on August 21, 2002 (67 FR 54098).

**Matters of Regulatory Procedure***Administrative Procedure Act*

The implementation of these regulations as interim regulations, with provision for post-promulgation public comments, is based on the "good cause" exceptions found at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B) and (d)(3). The rule implements section 4 of Public Law 106-546 (42 U.S.C. 14135b), which requires the Director of CSOSA to "collect a DNA sample from each individual under the supervision of the Agency who is on supervised release, parole, or probation who is, or has been, convicted of a qualifying District of Columbia offense" and requires collection of DNA samples to commence not later than 180 days after the effective date of the Act. Given that section 4(d) authorizes the government of the District of Columbia to "determine those offenses under the District of Columbia Code that shall be treated \* \* \* as qualifying District of Columbia offenses," Congress must have been aware that it would not be feasible within a 180-day time period to enact the required District of Columbia legislation, publish a proposed regulation for notice and comment, as well as a subsequent final rule, and for the period of the final rule's delayed effective date to have run. Public Law 106-546, in conjunction with the District of Columbia legislation, is explicit and comprehensive concerning the types of offenses that will be treated as qualifying District of Columbia offenses and concerning the responsibilities of CSOSA in collecting DNA samples. In light of the short statutory time frame for the implementation of this law and the fact that the formulation of implementing regulations involves the exercise of relatively little discretion, it is impracticable and unnecessary to adopt this rule with the prior notice and comment period normally required under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) or with the delayed effective date normally required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d).

Moreover, the collection, analysis, and indexing of DNA samples as required by Public Law 106-546 furthers important public safety interests by facilitating the solution and prevention of crime, *see* H.R. Rep. No. 900, 106th Cong., 2d Sess. 8-11 (2000) (House Judiciary Committee Report).

Delay in the full implementation of the law—including the absence of a specification of what constitutes a refusal to cooperate in DNA sample collection and what measures are to be taken in response to such a refusal, as set forth in these regulations—would thwart or delay the realization of these public safety benefits. Dangerous offenders who might be successfully identified through DNA matching may reach the end of supervision before DNA sample collection can be carried out, thereby remaining at large to engage in further crimes against the public. Furthermore, delay in collecting, analyzing, and indexing DNA samples, and hence in the identification of offenders, may foreclose prosecution due to the running of statutes of limitations. Failure to identify, or delay in identifying, offenders as the perpetrators of crimes through DNA matching also increases the risk that innocent persons may be wrongfully suspected, accused, or convicted of such crimes. Therefore, it would be contrary to the public interest to adopt these regulations with the prior notice and comment period normally required under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) or with the delayed effective date normally required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d).

Accordingly, CSOSA issued interim regulations to allow for public comment during the implementation of its procedures for DNA collection and use. CSOSA did not receive any public comment on the interim regulations. CSOSA is therefore adopting the interim regulations as final. In adopting the interim regulations as final, CSOSA is making two editorial amendments to correct typographical errors.

*Executive Order 12866*

This rule has been determined to be significant under Executive Order 12866 and has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

*Executive Order 13132*

This rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 13132, the Director of CSOSA has determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

*Regulatory Flexibility Act*

The Director of CSOSA, in accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), has reviewed this rule