

# 18 U.S. Code § 3571. Sentence of fine

**(a) In General.**— A defendant who has been found guilty of an offense may be sentenced to pay a fine.

**(b) Fines for Individuals.**— Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, an individual who has been found guilty of an offense may be fined not more than the greatest of—

- (1) the amount specified in the law setting forth the offense;
- (2) the applicable amount under subsection (d) of this section;
- (3) for a felony, not more than \$250,000;
- (4) for a misdemeanor resulting in death, not more than \$250,000;
- (5) for a Class A misdemeanor that does not result in death, not more than \$100,000;
- (6) for a Class B or C misdemeanor that does not result in death, not more than \$5,000; or
- (7) for an infraction, not more than \$5,000.

**(c) Fines for Organizations.**— Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, an organization that has been found guilty of an offense may be fined not more than the greatest of—

- (1) the amount specified in the law setting forth the offense;
- (2) the applicable amount under subsection (d) of this section;
- (3) for a felony, not more than \$500,000;
- (4) for a misdemeanor resulting in death, not more than \$500,000;
- (5) for a Class A misdemeanor that does not result in death, not more than \$200,000;
- (6) for a Class B or C misdemeanor that does not result in death, not more than \$10,000;  
and
- (7) for an infraction, not more than \$10,000.

**(d) Alternative Fine Based on Gain or Loss.**—

If any person derives pecuniary gain from the offense, or if the offense results in pecuniary loss to a person other than the defendant, the defendant may be fined not more than the greater of

twice the gross gain or twice the gross loss, unless imposition of a fine under this subsection would unduly complicate or prolong the sentencing process.

**(e) Special Rule for Lower Fine Specified in Substantive Provision.—**

If a law setting forth an offense specifies no fine or a fine that is lower than the fine otherwise applicable under this section and such law, by specific reference, exempts the offense from the applicability of the fine otherwise applicable under this section, the defendant may not be fined more than the amount specified in the law setting forth the offense.

(Added [Pub. L. 98-473, title II, § 212\(a\)\(2\)](#), Oct. 12, 1984, [98 Stat. 1995](#); amended [Pub. L. 100-185, § 6](#), Dec. 11, 1987, [101 Stat. 1280](#).)