§454. Tampering with a witness, informant, juror or victim

1. A person is guilty of tampering with a witness or informant if, believing that an official proceeding, as defined in section 451, subsection 5, paragraph A, or an official criminal investigation is pending or will be instituted, the actor:

A. Induces or otherwise causes, or attempts to induce or cause, a witness or informant:

(1) To testify or inform in a manner the actor knows to be false; or

(2) To withhold testimony, information or evidence.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2003, c. 143, §5 (AMD).]

B. Uses force, violence or intimidation, or promises, offers or gives pecuniary benefit with the intent to induce a witness or informant:

(1) To withhold testimony, information or evidence;

(2) To refrain from attending a criminal proceeding or criminal investigation; or

(3) To refrain from attending any other proceeding or investigation to which the witness or informant has been summoned by legal process.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

C. Solicits, accepts or agrees to accept pecuniary benefit for committing an act specified in paragraph A, subparagraph (1), or in paragraph B, subparagraph (1), (2) or (3). Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 143, §5 (AMD).]

1-A. A person is guilty of tampering with a juror if the actor:

A. Contacts by any means a person who is a juror or any other person that the actor believes is in a position to influence a juror and the actor does so with the intention of influencing the juror in the performance of the juror's duty. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

B. Violates paragraph A and the proceeding the juror is involved in is a criminal proceeding for murder or a Class A crime. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime. [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]
[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

1-B. A person is guilty of tampering with a victim if, believing that an official proceeding, as defined in section 451, subsection 5, paragraph A, or an official criminal investigation is pending or will be instituted, the actor:

A. Induces or otherwise causes, or attempts to induce or cause, a victim:

(1) To testify or inform falsely; or

(2) To withhold testimony, information or evidence.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

B. Uses force, violence or intimidation, or promises, offers or gives pecuniary benefit with the intent to induce a victim:

(1) To withhold testimony, information or evidence;

(2) To refrain from attending a criminal proceeding or criminal investigation; or

(3) To refrain from attending any other proceeding or investigation to which the victim has been summoned by legal process.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; or [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

C. Solicits, accepts or agrees to accept pecuniary benefit for committing an act specified in paragraph A, subparagraph (1), or in paragraph B, subparagraph (1), (2) or (3).

Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime. [PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

2.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (RP); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

3.

[PL 1989, c. 300 (RP).]

4.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (RP); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 510, §54 (RPR). PL 1983, c. 352, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 300 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 878, §B16 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §63 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 143, §5 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2026. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.