

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**OFFICIAL CODE**

**TITLE 22.**  
**CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND PENALTIES.**

**CHAPTER 34.**  
**USE OF "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" BY CERTAIN  
PERSONS.**

**2001 Edition**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE**  
**CHAPTER 34. USE OF "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" BY**  
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# CHAPTER 34. USE OF "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" BY CERTAIN PERSONS.

## **§ 22-3401. USE OF "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" OR SIMILAR DESIGNATION BY PRIVATE DETECTIVE OR COLLECTION AGENCY--PROHIBITED.**

No person engaged in the business of collecting or aiding in the collection of private debts or obligations, or engaged in furnishing private police, investigation, or other private detective services, shall use as part of the name of such business, or employ in any communication, correspondence, notice, advertisement, circular, or other writing or publication, the words "District of Columbia", "District", the initials "D.C.", or any emblem or insignia utilizing any of the said terms as part of its design, in such manner as reasonably to convey the impression or belief that such business is a department, agency, bureau, or instrumentality of the municipal government of the District of Columbia or in any manner represents the District of Columbia. As used in this section and § 22-3402, the word "person" means and includes individuals, associations, partnerships, and corporations.

(Oct. 16, 1962, 76 Stat. 1071, Pub. L. 87-837, § 1.)

### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

#### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-3423.

1973 Ed., § 22-3423.

## **§ 22-3402. USE OF "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" OR SIMILAR DESIGNATION BY PRIVATE DETECTIVE OR COLLECTION AGENCY--PENALTY.**

Any person who violates § 22-3401 shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(Oct. 16, 1962, 76 Stat. 1071, Pub. L. 87-837, § 2.)

### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

#### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-3424.

1973 Ed., § 22-3424.

## **§ 22-3403. USE OF "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" OR SIMILAR DESIGNATION BY PRIVATE DETECTIVE OR COLLECTION AGENCY--PROSECUTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS.**

All prosecutions for violations of § 22-3401 shall be conducted in the name of the District of Columbia by the Corporation Counsel or any Assistant Corporation Counsel. As used in this section the term "Corporation Counsel" means the Attorney for the District of Columbia, by whatever title such attorney may be known, designated by the Mayor of the District of Columbia to perform the functions prescribed for the Corporation Counsel in this section.

(Oct. 16, 1962, 76 Stat. 1071, Pub. L. 87-837, § 3; May 21, 1994, D.C. Law 10-119, § 18, 41 DCR 1639.)

### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

#### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-3425.

1973 Ed., § 22-3425.

*Legislative History of Laws*

For legislative history of D.C. Law 10-119, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 22-2903.

*Change in Government*

This section originated at a time when local government powers were delegated to a Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia (see Acts Relating to the Establishment of the District of Columbia and its Various Forms of Governmental Organization in Volume 1). Section 401 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1967 (see Reorganization Plans in Volume 1) transferred all of the functions of the Board of Commissioners under this section to a single Commissioner. The District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, 87 Stat. 818, § 711 (D.C. Code, § 1-207.11), abolished the District of Columbia Council and the Office of Commissioner of the District of Columbia. These branches of government were replaced by the Council of the District of Columbia and the Office of Mayor of the District of Columbia, respectively. Accordingly, and also pursuant to § 714(a) of such Act (D.C. Code, § 1-207.14(a)), appropriate changes in terminology were made in this section.