

**United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Illinois
Individual Self-Disclosure Program
Effective May 14, 2026**

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois ("the Office") is implementing an Individual Self-Disclosure Program ("Individual Self-Disclosure Program" or "Program"). This Program supersedes the Individual Self-Disclosure Pilot Program for Organizational Misconduct announced on September 16, 2024. The Office is implementing this Program so that individuals and their counsel have greater certainty as to what they can expect in exchange for their full, truthful, and complete (collectively and for ease of reference "full" or "fully")¹ voluntary reporting of criminal wrongdoing and subsequent full cooperation. This Individual Self-Disclosure Program applies exclusively to individuals and does not overlap with the Department of Justice's Corporate Enforcement and Voluntary Self-Disclosure Policy of March 10, 2026. Any corporate disclosures will be governed by the DOJ's Corporate Enforcement Policy.²

I. Purpose of the Individual Self-Disclosure Program

Subject to the Program eligibility requirements set forth in this Memorandum, the purpose of this Program is to encourage and incentivize individuals to fully and voluntarily report and/or self-report criminal wrongdoing in certain program areas that is previously unknown to the government in exchange for the reporting individual to have the opportunity to secure one of three tiers of potential benefits: (1) letter immunity; (2) a deferred or non-prosecution agreement (combined, "Pretrial Diversion Agreement" or "PTD"); or (3) criminal prosecution with substantial sentencing relief. This tiered approach is designed to incentivize and encourage individuals to fully report and/or self-report criminal wrongdoing as well as fully cooperate with the government in its investigation and as applicable, subsequent prosecutions of other offenders, all while recognizing the Office's prosecutorial discretion and the various additional factors identified below, including the facts and circumstances of each case and the history and characteristics of the reporting individual.

II. Letter Immunity and/or PTD Factors

The Office maintains the discretion to determine on a case-by-case basis whether an individual reporting wrongdoing merits (1) letter immunity, (2) a PTD, or (3) criminal prosecution with substantial sentencing relief. Among the factors that the Office will consider are, but are not limited to:

¹ The terms "full" and "complete" have distinct meanings. Complete focuses on the presence of all necessary parts or components, while full emphasizes maximum capacity.

² Attempts to obtain an unfair strategic advantage by simultaneously disclosing individual misconduct under the NDIL's Individual Self-Disclosure Program and corporate misconduct under the DOJ's Corporate Enforcement Policy may result in ineligibility under one or both programs.

(1) Whether and to what extent the criminal conduct had previously been made public or was previously known to the Office, or to any component of the Department of Justice, or federal, state, or local law enforcement agency;

(2) Whether the individual disclosed the criminal conduct voluntarily to the Office and not in response to a government inquiry or reporting obligation to the Office or any department or agency of the United States, and prior to imminent threat of disclosure or government investigation;

(3) The individual's truthfulness and the extent and completeness of the disclosure, including whether the individual has fully disclosed all criminal conduct in which the individual has participated and of which the individual is aware;

(4) The timeliness of the individual's disclosure;

(5) The individual's ability and willingness to provide full cooperation with law enforcement, including whether the individual is self-reporting criminal conduct against himself/herself versus whether and to what extent the individual is able to provide substantial assistance as that term is understood by Section 5K1.1 of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines in the investigation and prosecution of one or more equally or more culpable persons, with preference for information leading to the prosecution of others;

(6) The extent—including magnitude and duration—of the individual's participation, if any, in the wrongdoing;

(7) The individual's role and position within the criminal activity, if applicable, including whether the individual was an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of criminal activity involving multiple participants, whether the individual exercised primary control over the operations of the organization or the criminal conduct in question, and the individual's culpability relative to others;

(8) The extent to which the individual occupies any official or leadership position or other position of public or private trust;

(9) The individual's willingness to disgorge and/or forfeit any proceeds of the wrongdoing and pay restitution to victims, as applicable, consistent with the individual's role and applicable law;

(10) The individual's criminal history, including, but not limited to, any prior convictions for fraud, false statements, or dishonesty, as well as the nature and circumstances of any prior convictions and their relationship to the conduct in question;

(11) The adequacy of non-criminal sanctions, including but not limited to remedies imposed by civil or administrative regulators; and

(12) Any other mitigating or aggravating factors that the Office views as relevant to its consideration.

Even in cases where a reporting individual is not eligible for letter immunity or PTD, the Office may still provide relief in the form of a government sentencing recommendation for a reduced sentence that recognizes the disclosure and cooperation that allowed the Office to file a criminal case. Such sentencing relief would be available if a reporting individual self-reports and cooperates, even if the individual would not otherwise meet the criteria of U.S.S.G. Section 5K1.1.

III. Ineligibility for the Program

Absent unique or unusual circumstances, or when the Office determines it is otherwise in the public interest, the Program is not available for those whose participation in and reporting of criminal conduct involved any of the following: (i) violence; (ii) the threat of violence; (iii) gun trafficking and firearm offenses; (iv) terrorism; (v) drug trafficking offenses; (vi) child exploitation; (vii) human trafficking; or (viii) a sex offense involving fraud, force, coercion, trafficking, or a minor victim.

An individual who is under criminal investigation or currently facing charges in a case brought by the Office is not eligible for this Program. This ineligibility applies even if the individual is not aware s/he is under investigation. Nor is the Program available pursuant to an existing agreement or legal requirement to report misconduct to any department or agency of the United States, or federal, state, or local law enforcement.

As a general matter, and absent extraordinary or unique circumstances to be determined at the discretion of the Office, elected federal, state, local, or foreign officials, and federal law enforcement officers, are not eligible to participate in this Program.

Individuals with prior felony convictions involving any of the following conduct are ineligible for this Program: (i) violence; (ii) the threat of violence; (iii) terrorism; (iv) child exploitation; (v) human trafficking; or (vi) a sex offense involving fraud, force, coercion, trafficking, or a minor victim.

This Program does not apply to individuals seeking to provide information about national security offenses that require the approval of the National Security Division as detailed in section 9-90.020(A)(1) of the Justice Manual, or to federal tax or antitrust offenses.

IV. Procedure for Reporting Misconduct

Anyone who makes a voluntary disclosure must be truthful in the written submission and any follow-up meeting as well as all subsequent meetings with the government, and fully and completely disclose all criminal conduct in which they participated or are otherwise aware.

To begin the process, a reporting individual must provide no less than the information requested by the pre-printed form (available [here](#)) and submit that voluntary disclosure to USAILN.WBP@usdoj.gov. Although anonymous reporting is not allowed

under this Program, as an initial matter, attorneys may reach out to the Front Office to provide an attorney proffer of their client's wrongdoing, role in the offense, and the other criteria and factors discussed in this Program before identifying their client. The attorney proffer must be full and complete and cover all the criminal conduct that the Office is being asked to consider for purposes of letter immunity, a PTD, or substantial sentencing relief.

A reporting individual can only qualify for letter immunity, a PTD, or substantial sentencing relief after proffering to the Office under its standard proffer letter. The individual's proffer must be full and complete and cover all the criminal conduct that the Office is being asked to consider for purposes of letter immunity, a PTD, or substantial sentencing relief. The Office retains the exclusive discretion to determine whether the reporting individual has complied with this requirement and is therefore eligible for participation in this Program.

V. Agreement to Testify

The Office also expects that an individual who reports misconduct will be prepared to meet and cooperate with federal law enforcement and, if asked, to testify under oath in the grand jury and/or in related criminal proceedings to the facts that have been reported.

VI. Disgorgement and/or Restitution

An individual who receives a PTD under this Program must agree to disgorge any proceeds from the criminal activity through forfeiture or other means and to otherwise pay restitution to victims consistent with the individual's role in the offense and applicable law.

VII. Limitations

This memorandum is meant to provide guidance to the Office, reporting individuals, the legal community, as well as the public regarding potential benefits and leniency for individuals reporting criminal conduct.

This Program does not supplant the Justice Manual and also does not bind any other U.S. Attorneys' Offices or litigating components of the Department of Justice.

The Office may make public any letter immunity or PTD granted pursuant to this Program.

Finally, this Program does not convey any rights or benefits in any current or future investigation, criminal matter, or civil matter handled by the Office.