

**TITLE 42 - THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
**CHAPTER 6A - PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**  
**SUBCHAPTER XII - SAFETY OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS**  
**Part D - Emergency Powers**

**§ 300i-1. Tampering with public water systems**

**(a) Tampering**

Any person who tampers with a public water system shall be imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or fined in accordance with title 18, or both.

**(b) Attempt or threat**

Any person who attempts to tamper, or makes a threat to tamper, with a public drinking water system be imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or fined in accordance with title 18, or both.

**(c) Civil penalty**

The Administrator may bring a civil action in the appropriate United States district court (as determined under the provisions of title 28) against any person who tampers, attempts to tamper, or makes a threat to tamper with a public water system. The court may impose on such person a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000,000 for such tampering or not more than \$100,000 for such attempt or threat.

**(d) “Tamper” defined**

For purposes of this section, the term “tamper” means—

- (1) to introduce a contaminant into a public water system with the intention of harming persons; or
- (2) to otherwise interfere with the operation of a public water system with the intention of harming persons.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XIV, § 1432, as added Pub. L. 99-339, title I, § 108, June 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 651; amended Pub. L. 104-182, title V, § 501(f)(5), Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1692; Pub. L. 107-188, title IV, § 403(3), June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 687.)

**Amendments**

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-188, § 403(3)(A), substituted “20 years” for “5 years”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-188, § 403(3)(B), substituted “10 years” for “3 years”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-188, § 403(3)(C), (D), substituted “\$1,000,000” for “\$50,000” and “\$100,000” for “\$20,000”.

1996—Pub. L. 104-182 made technical amendment to section catchline and subsec. (a) designation.