

## **Federal Penalties and Sanctions for Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance**

### **21 U.S.C. 844(a)**

1st conviction: Up to 1 year imprisonment and fined at least \$1,000 but not more than \$100,000, or both.

After 1 prior drug conviction: At least 15 days in prison, not to exceed 2 years and fined at least \$2,500 but not more than \$250,000, or both.

After 2 or more prior drug convictions: At least 90 days in prison, not to exceed 3 years and fined at least \$5,000 but not more than \$250,000, or both.

Special sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine: Mandatory at least 5 years in prison, not to exceed 20 years and fined up to \$250,000, or both, if:

- (a) 1st conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 5 grams.
- (b) 2nd crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 3 grams.
- (c) 3rd or subsequent crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 1 gram.

### **21 U.S.C. 853(a)(2) and 881(a)(7)**

Forfeiture of personal and real property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if that offense is punishable by more than 1 year imprisonment. (See special sentencing provisions re: crack.)

### **21 U.S.C. 881(a)(4)**

Forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft or any other conveyance used to transport or conceal a controlled substance.

### **21 U.S.C. 844a**

Civil fine of up to \$10,000 (pending adoption of final regulations).

### **21 U.S.C. 853a**

Denial of Federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to 1 year for first offense, up to 5 years for second and subsequent offenses.

### **18 U.S.C. 922(g)**

Ineligible to receive or purchase a firearm.

### **Miscellaneous**

Revocation of certain Federal licenses and benefits, e.g. pilot licenses, public housing tenancy, etc., are vested within the authorities of individual Federal agencies.

Note: These are only Federal penalties and sanctions. Additional State penalties and sanctions may apply.