

553.9 Investigation.

1. If the attorney general has reasonable cause to believe that a person has engaged in or is engaging in conduct prohibited by this chapter, the attorney general shall make such investigation as is deemed necessary and may, prior to the commencement of a suit against this person under this chapter:

a. Issue written demand on this person, its officers, directors, partners, fiduciaries, or employees to compel their attendance before the attorney general and examine them under oath;

b. Issue written demand to produce, examine, and copy a document or tangible item in the possession of this person or its officers, directors, partners, or fiduciaries;

c. Upon an order of a district court, pursuant to a showing that such is reasonably necessary to an investigation being conducted under this section:

(1) Compel the attendance of any other person before the attorney general and examine this person under oath;

(2) Require the production, examination, and copying of a document or other tangible item in the possession of such person; and,

d. Upon an order of a district court, impound a document or other tangible item produced pursuant to this section and retain possession of it until the completion of all proceedings arising out of the investigation.

2. A written demand or court order issued pursuant to this section shall contain the following information, as applicable:

a. A reference to this chapter and a general description of the subject matter being investigated;

b. The date, time and place at which any person is to appear or to produce documents or other tangible items;

c. Where the production of documents or other tangible items is required, a description of such documents or items by class with sufficient clarity so that they may be reasonably identified.

3. Any procedure, testimony taken, or material produced under this section shall be sealed by the court and be kept confidential by the attorney general, until an action is filed against a person under this chapter for the violation under investigation, unless confidentiality is waived by the person being investigated and the person who has testified, answered interrogatories, or produced material, or unless disclosure is authorized by the court for the purposes of interstate co-operation in enforcing this chapter and similar state and federal laws.

4. This chapter shall not be construed to limit or abridge statutory or constitutional limitations on self-incrimination.

5. Evidence obtained from a natural person pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not be introduced in a subsequent criminal prosecution of this person. However, evidence obtained from a natural person pursuant to a grand jury proceeding may be so introduced.

[C77, 79, 81, § 553.9]