



# TRANSIT POLICE

## CROWD MANAGEMENT, DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISTURBANCES

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 Office of Primary Responsibility: Sergeant Operational Planning

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### POLICY

#### Definitions

BCPPS – British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards, as amended from time to time.

Criminal Code – *Criminal Code of Canada*, RSC 1985, c. C-46, as amended from time to time.

CSO – Community Safety Officer, a Designated Law Enforcement Officer of the Transit Police.

ICS – Incident Command System, an organizational structure employed by many companies and government agencies in British Columbia to manage major emergencies.

Incident Commander – For the purpose of this policy, a Member trained in ICS (or GSB Command) at Level 2 or higher, designated by Transit Police to take command of an incident.

Kettling – A police tactic for controlling large crowds during demonstrations or protests. It involves the formation of large cordons of police officers who then move to contain a crowd within a limited area. The Courts have been clear that Kettling is a last resort for crowd control.

Member – Designated Constable (all ranks), a Deputy Chief Officer, the Chief Officer and Designated Law Enforcement Officers of the Transit Police.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police (“Transit Police”) – The operating name of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (Designated Policing Unit and Designated Law Enforcement Unit).

OCC – Operations Communication Centre of the Transit Police.

Officer in Charge – The police officer assigned to take command of an incident.

OMC/COMC – British Columbia Rapid Transit Company’s Operating Maintenance Centre and ProTransBC/Canada Line’s Operating Maintenance Centre.

Tac Troop – The Lower Mainland Integrated Tactical Troop is composed of trained police officers from a number of police agencies in the Lower Mainland, including selected Transit Police Officers. The primary function, among other duties, is crowd management and protest interdiction. Other roles include, but are not limited to, scene security, ground search and neighbourhood canvassing, disaster response and counter-terrorist searches. The Tac Troop command is under the supervision of the RCMP “E” Division.

TCOMM – Coast Mountain Bus Company’s operations communication centre.

Transit Police Personnel – The sworn members and civilian professionals of the Transit Police.

## General

### Crowd Management, Demonstrations and Civil Disturbances

1. In consideration of the BCPPS<sup>1</sup>, Transit Police will provide general direction to its personnel regarding planning, preparedness, and response to pre-planned or spontaneous events that require management of large crowds and public demonstrations<sup>2</sup>.
2. Members may be required during their duties to control large crowds (“Public Order”) under varying circumstances, which includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. large public celebrations;
  - b. sporting events;
  - c. parades;
  - d. demonstrations; and
  - e. visits from dignitaries.
3. Every person in Canada has the fundamental freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly as guaranteed under s. 2 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Protest is a right enjoyed by every person but that protest must be peaceful, lawful and safe.
4. The role of Transit Police at Public Order events is to preserve the peace, prevent offences, maintain crowd control, and enforce the law, including offences against persons and property, in accordance with powers and discretion available to a police under the law.
  - (1) Maintaining the public peace is a critical police function. It is, however, a challenging responsibility as police must use discretion and balance the right to peaceful assembly and protecting people and property while policing Public Order events.

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<sup>1</sup> BCPPS Addendum 1 - D12.

<sup>2</sup> A demonstration is an incident involving a breach of the peace arising out of labour disputes or politically motivated activities.

- (2) Transit Police will maintain an impartial position in public demonstrations. In the event police involvement is necessary, the basic obligation to keep the peace, and protect life and property will be fulfilled.
5. Transit Police subscribes to the following principles of Public Order policing:
- Lawful justification: All police action must be pursued towards a necessary and legitimate policing objective;
  - Proportionality: The risk and impact of police actions must be proportional to the priority of the policing objectives and the severity of the situation in need of intervention; and
  - Least Intrusiveness: Police actions will be the least intrusive available, the smallest possible in geographic area, and the briefest in time, as necessary to fulfill policing responsibilities, including public safety and police officer safety.

#### Coordination with Jurisdictional Police

6. Consistent with the [Operational Memorandum of Understanding between Transit Police and JPDs](#), Transit Police will respond to needs for Public Order policing that relates to the transit system/property, and consult and/or advise the JPD as appropriate to the incident and its potential impact on and off the transit system.
7. Transit Police frontline Supervisors (or first Members on scene, if applicable) will assume initial command of all incidents involving the management of large crowds and demonstrations related to the transit system. Such command will be transferred in the event that an Incident Commander is appointed or command is transferred to the JPD.
8. Transit Police will respond to JPD requests for assistance with Public Order events occurring on and off transit property, and provide assistance where resources are available. (This includes, if Transit Police is requested to provide assistance to an emergency at a detention facility within the Transportation Service Region, pursuant to the BCPPS<sup>3</sup>).

**[Refer also to Transit Police policy chapter [OB310 – Request for Assistance](#)]**

#### Operational Planning Function

9. Transit Police will maintain an operational planning function (under the direction of the Deputy Chief Officer Operations) and maintain written procedures to respond Public Order events, as appropriate to the Transit Police mandate and jurisdiction.

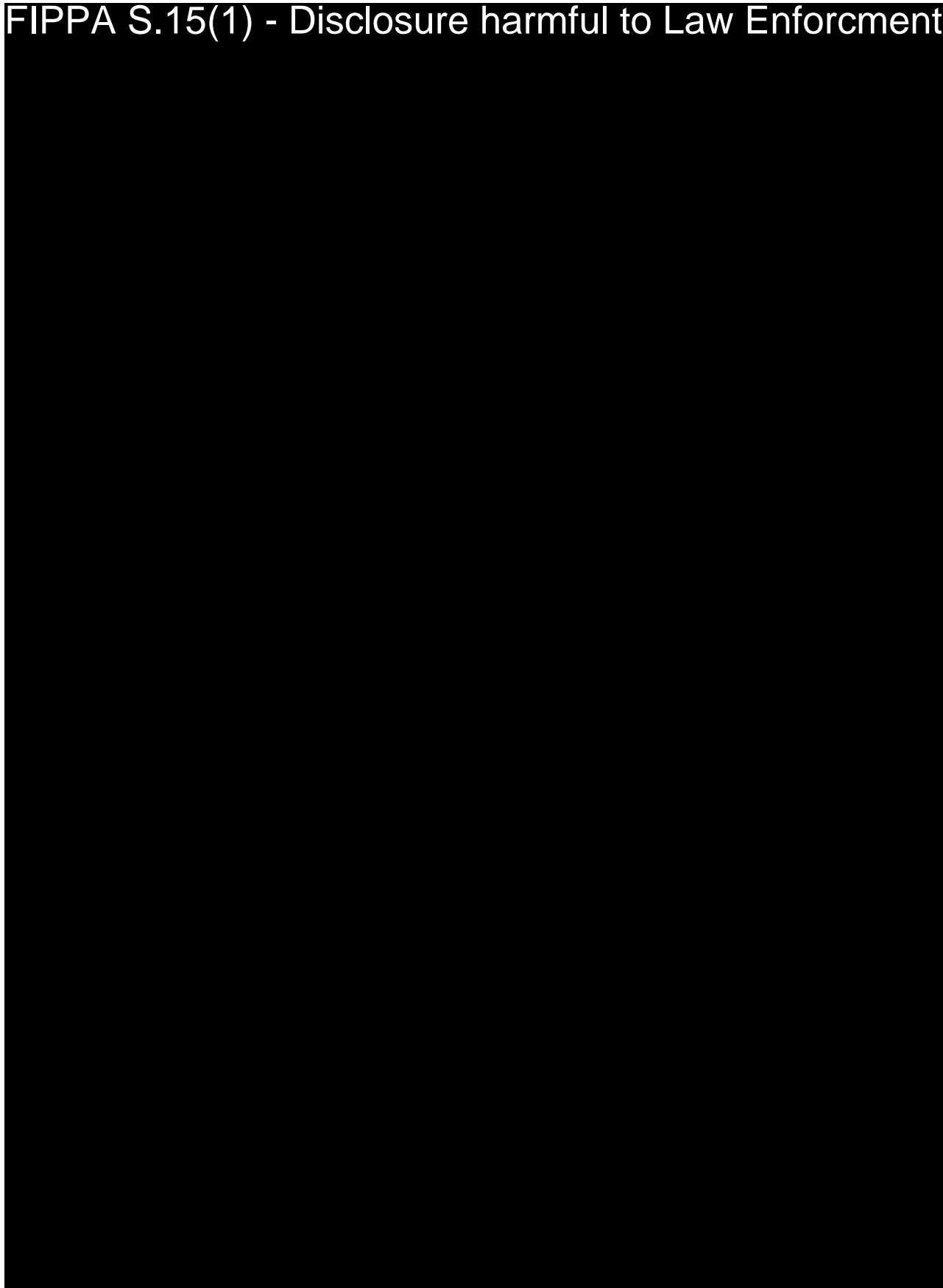
#### Liaison with Other Agencies

10. Transit Police will maintain liaison with law enforcement partners, transit authorities, government partners and community partners to assist with delivery of Transit Police Public Order policing and public safety goals.

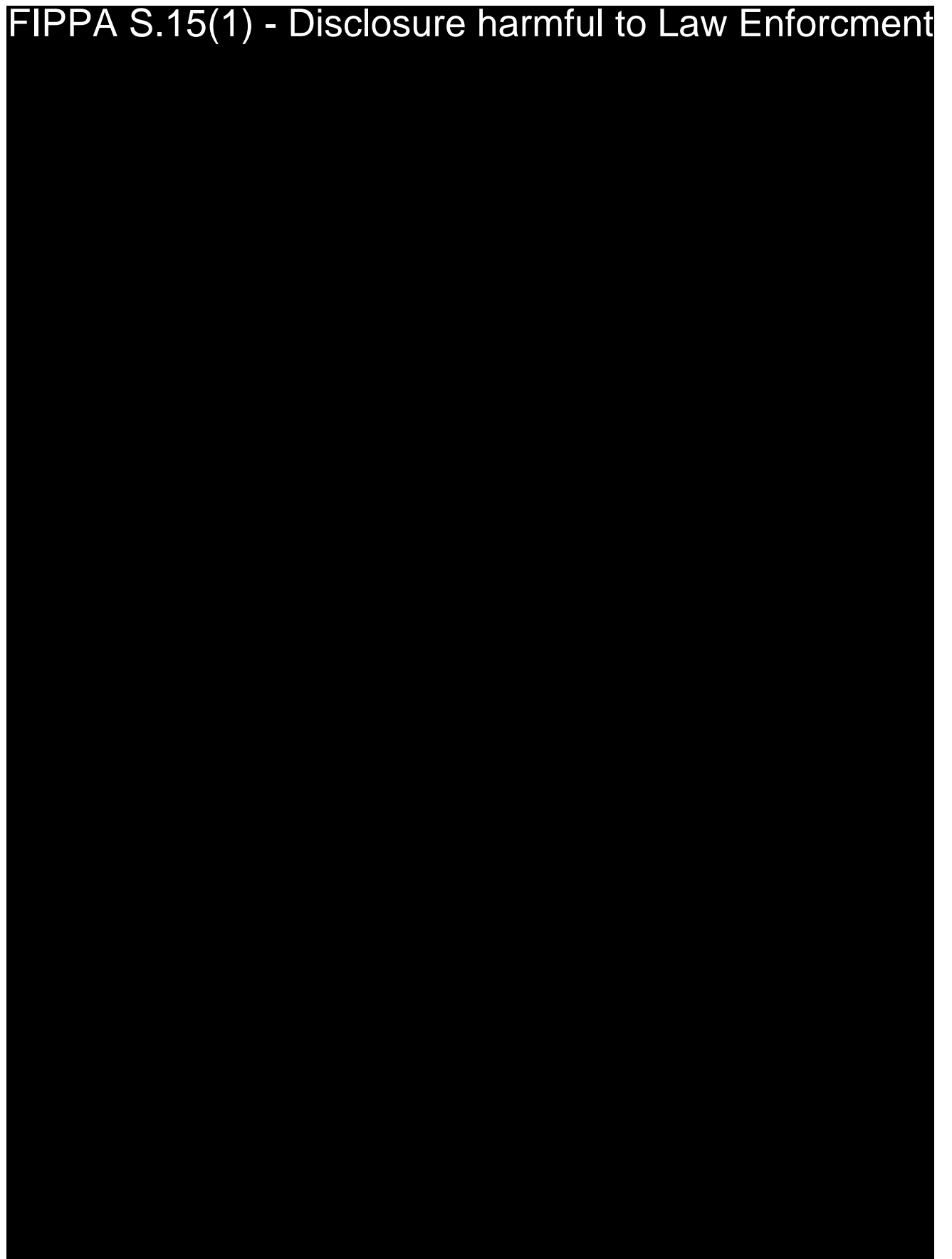
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<sup>3</sup> Direction provided per BCPPS Addendum 1 - D12.1.6.

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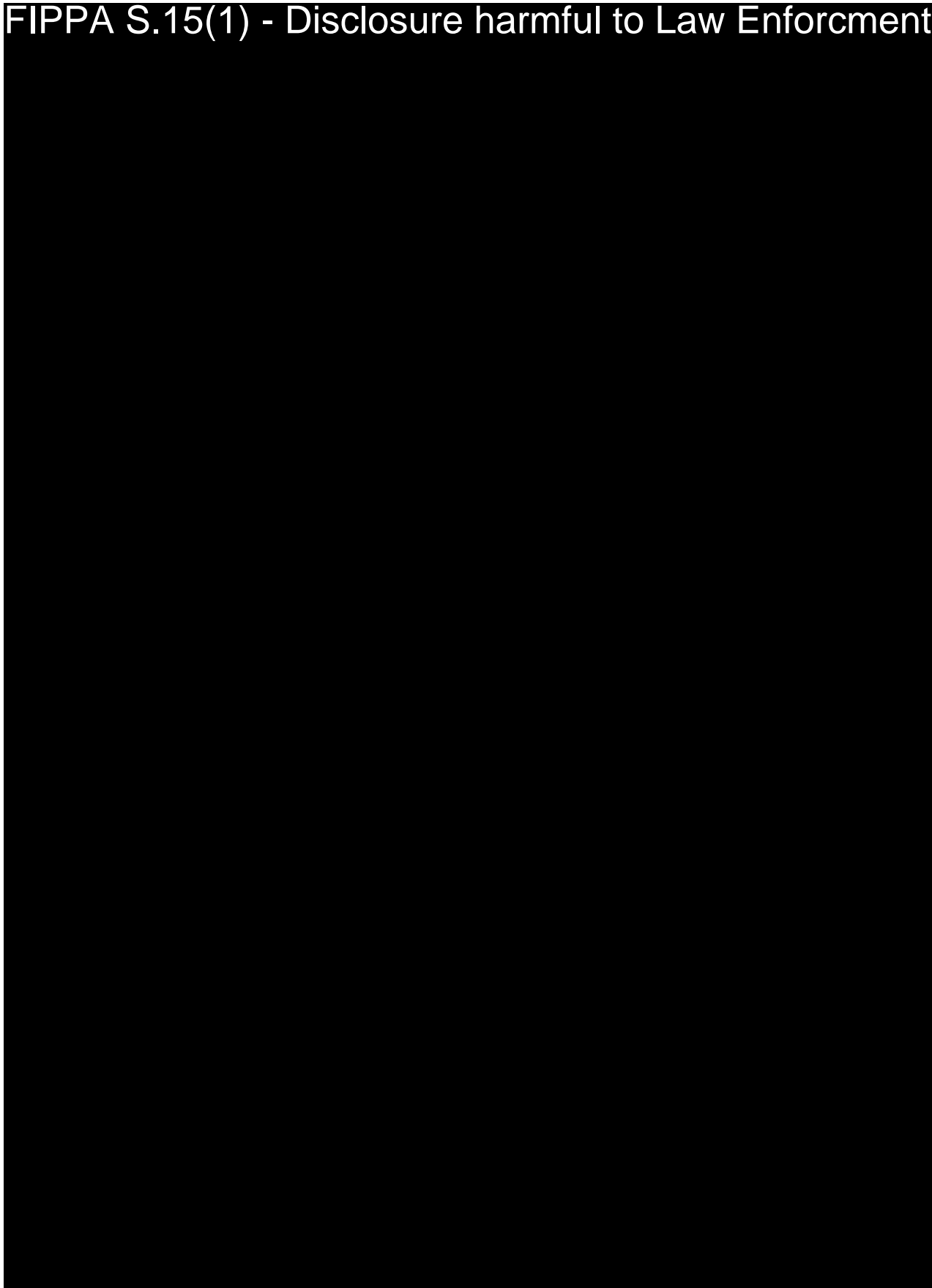
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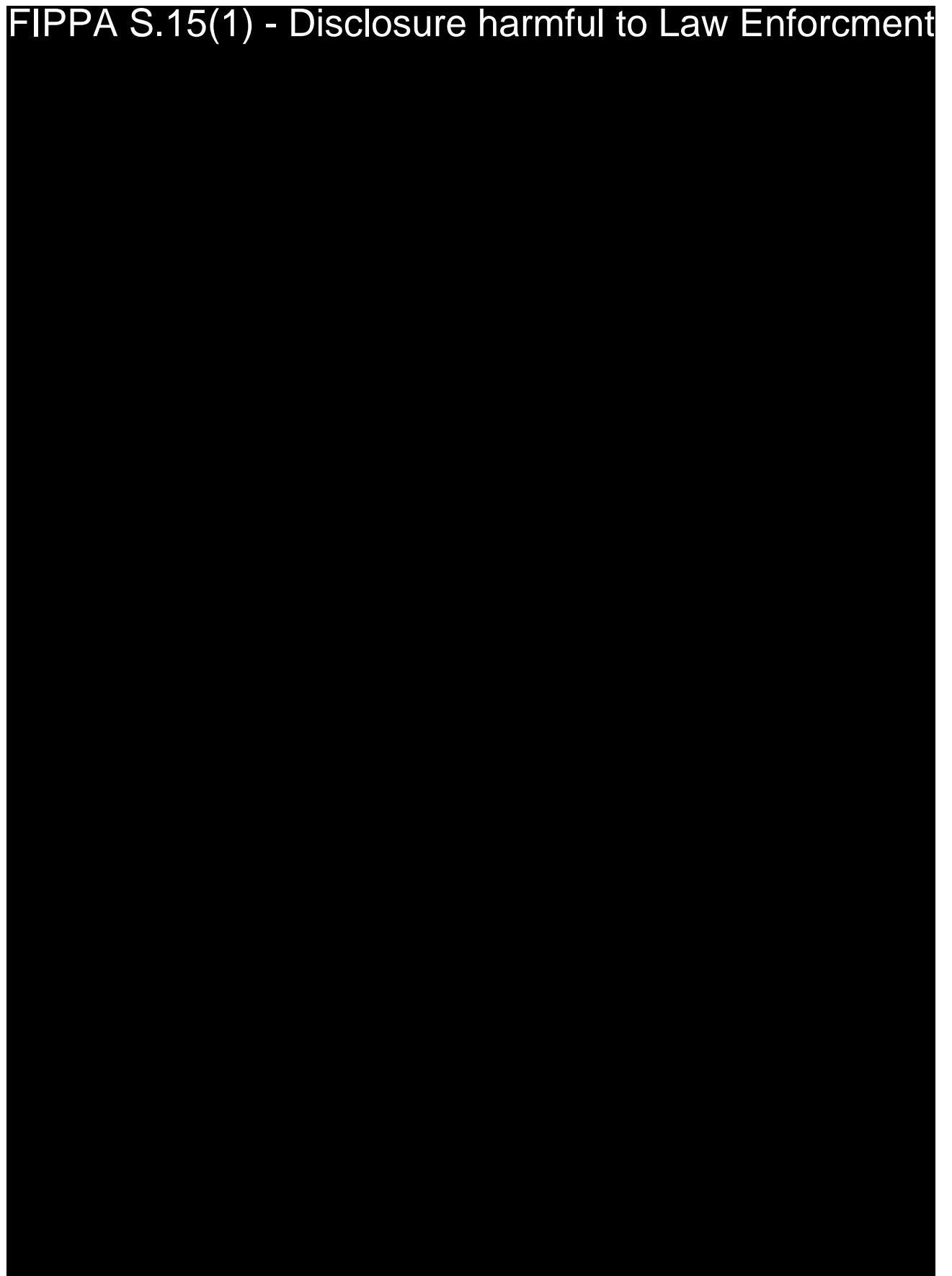
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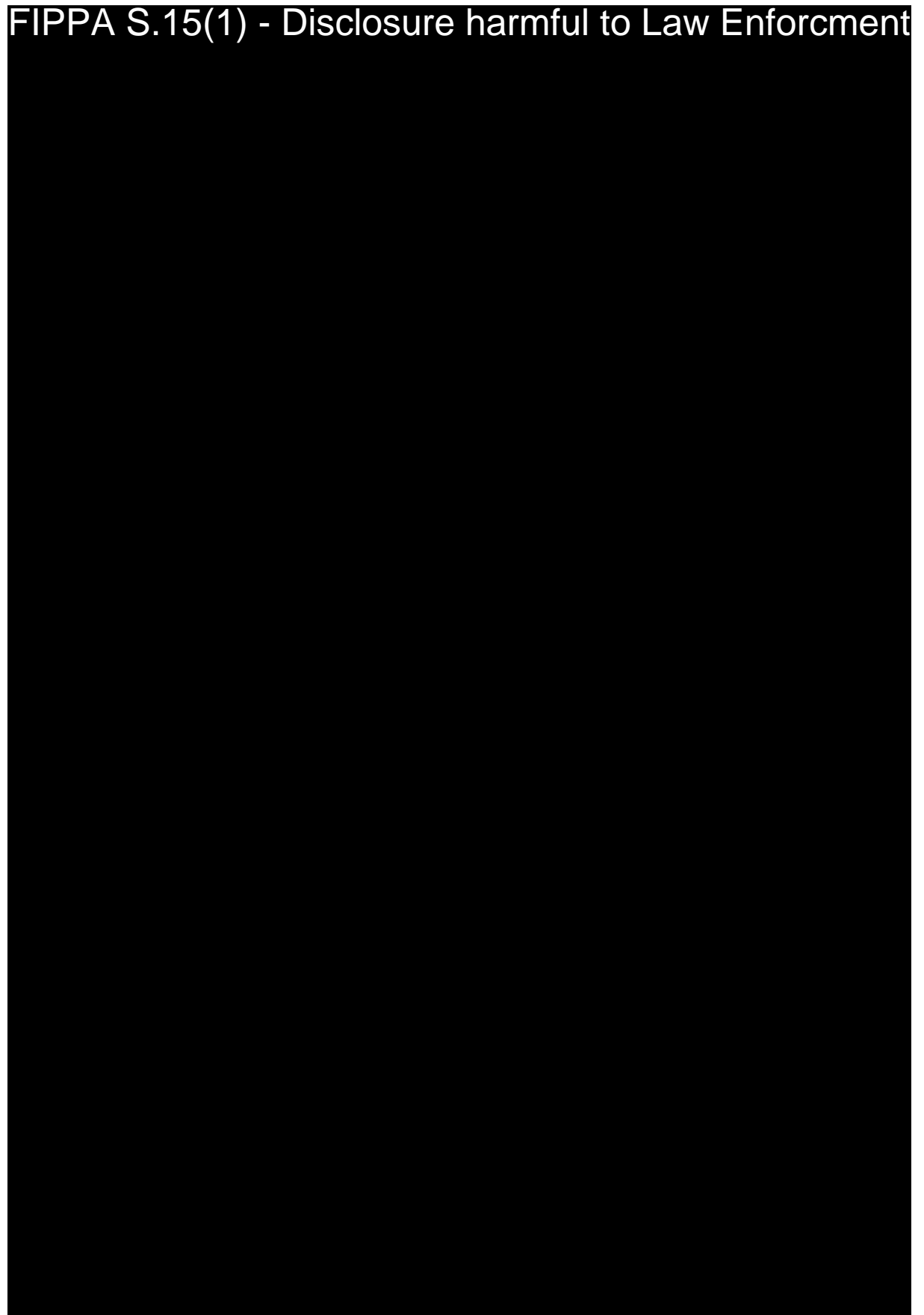


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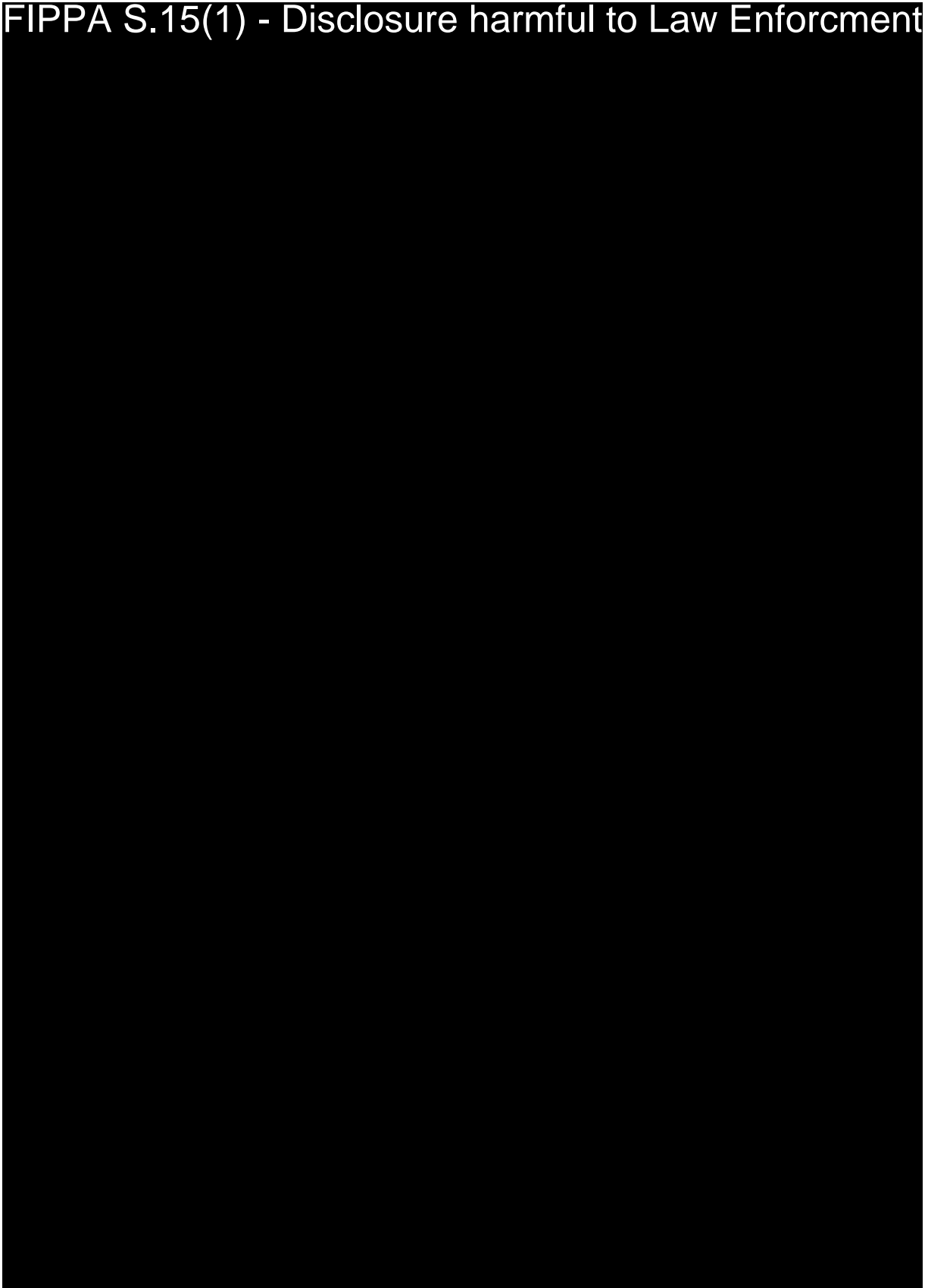




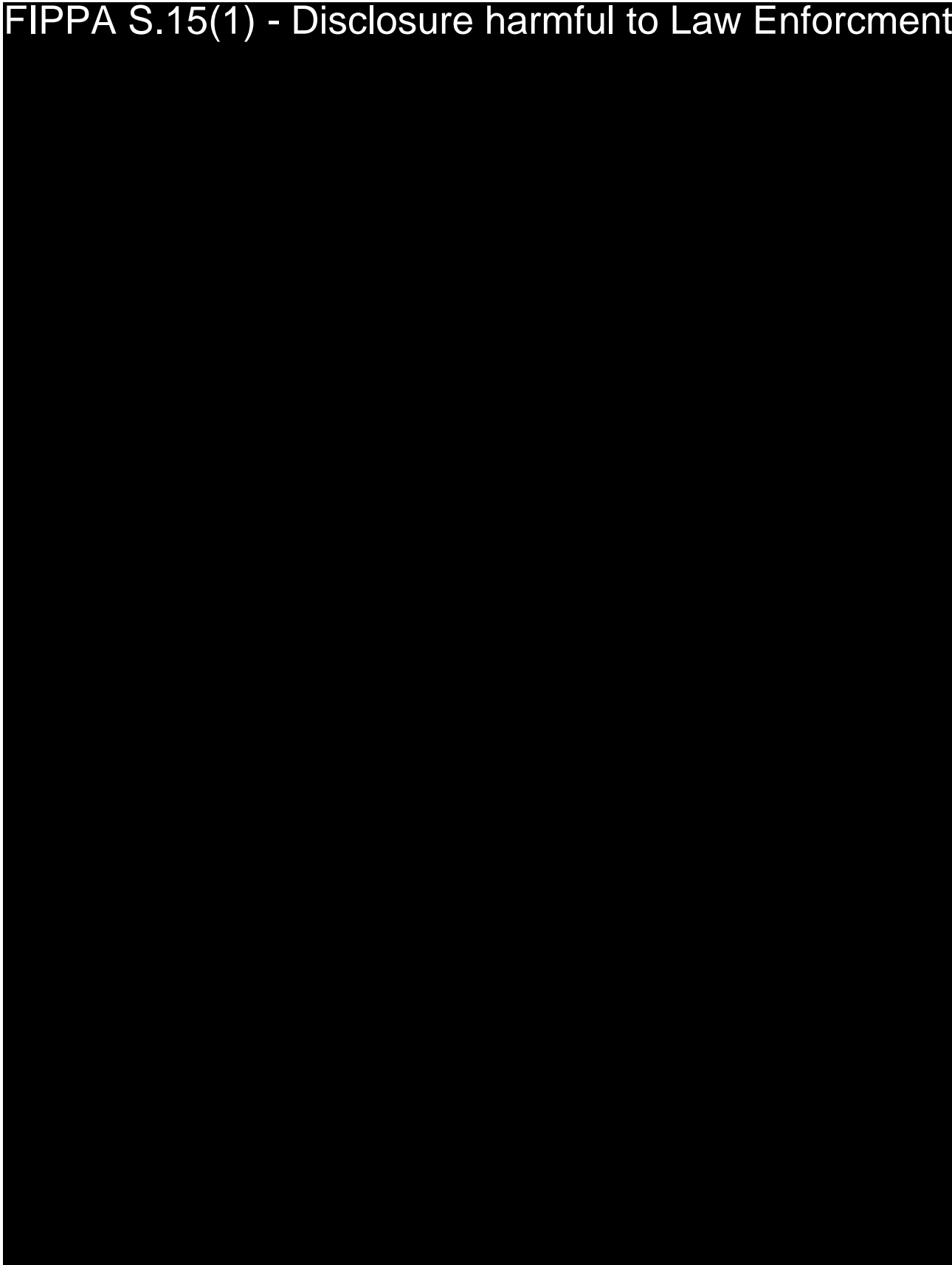
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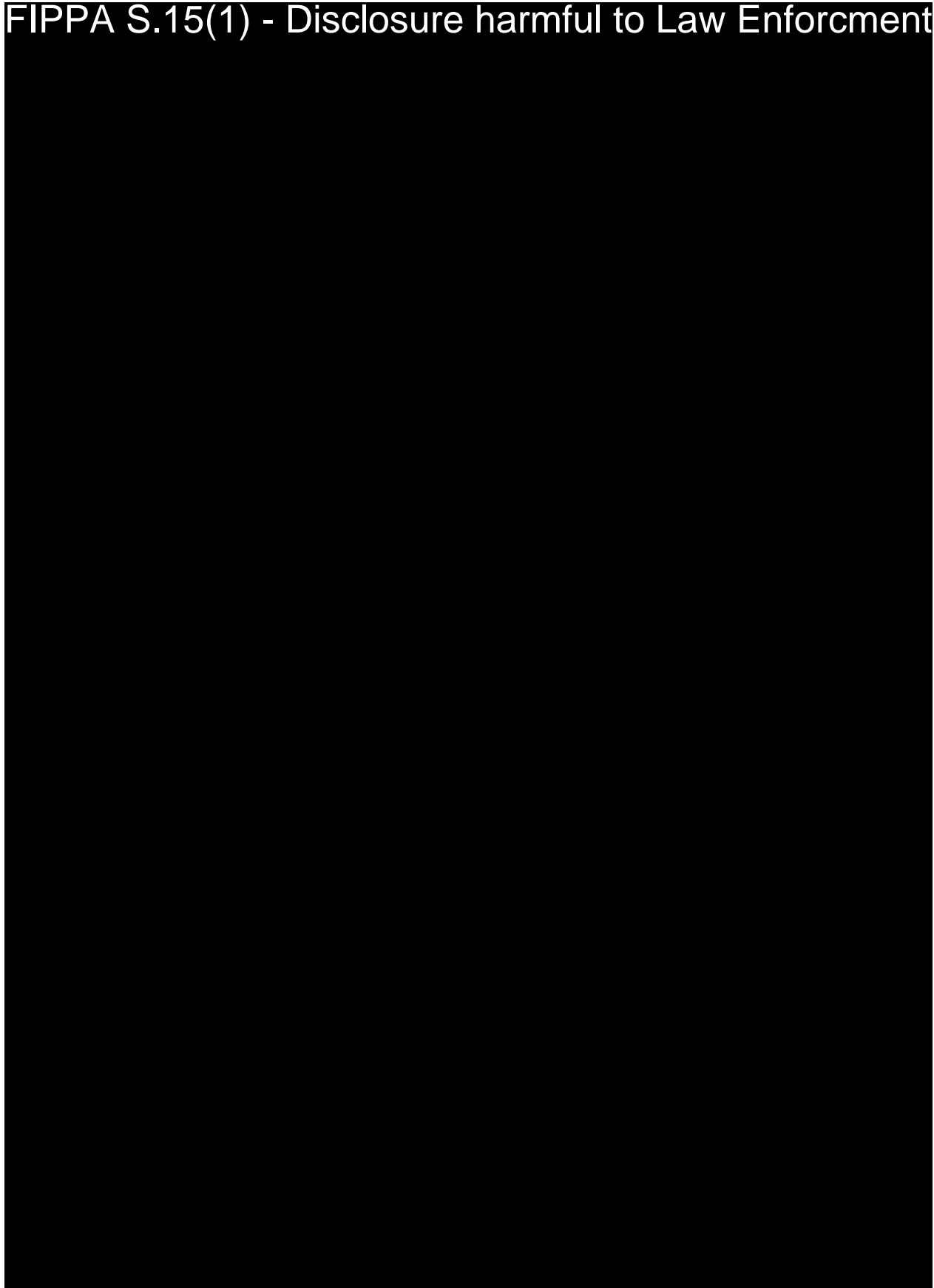
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