

Understanding the Three Secrecy Regimes in the Magical Code of Regulations

The Code contains three secrecy-related regimes with similar names but different functions. They are not interchangeable. One governs public exposure of ordinary magic, one governs reporting and monitoring of magical commerce, and one governs magical acts or knowledge that have been formally designated as secret. More than one regime may apply to the same event.

Quick Identification

- If the concern is whether non-magical persons can see, hear, detect, or otherwise perceive spellcasting, begin with § 401.7, Secrecy of Magic Act Compliance for Public Spellcasting.
- If the concern is a high-risk, high-value, bulk, or suspicious magical transaction, begin with § 701.9, the Magic Secrecy Act.
- If the concern is a spell, ritual, method, vulnerability, or body of magical knowledge that has been designated secret, begin with Part XXIX, Magical Acts of Secrecy (§§ 2901.1–2901.5).

Magic Secrecy Act (§ 701.9)

What it governs. Financial transactions and magical trade involving high-risk magical activities or assets. The Act is a reporting, monitoring, recordkeeping, and compliance regime for magical commerce.

Who it reaches. Commercial practitioners; institutions involved in magical trade, manufacturing, storage, or distribution; financial entities dealing in magically infused currency, artifacts, or instruments; and brokers or other intermediaries participating in covered transactions.

When it applies. A transaction can become reportable because of value, object classification, bulk activity, aggregation, or suspicious circumstances. Current thresholds include transactions exceeding 10,000 MCUs, five or more Class II objects within seven days, any Class III or Class IV object regardless of value, and a presumption of reportability for ten or more magical objects acquired or transferred within thirty days.

Principal duties. File required transaction reports; identify parties and beneficial owners where known; describe and classify the magical asset or activity; maintain monitoring and escalation procedures; report suspicious activity; preserve reconstructable transaction records for the required retention period; and cooperate with Department examinations.

Confidentiality. A suspicious-activity report may not be disclosed to the person who is the subject of the report. That confidentiality requirement protects the reporting process; it does not make the underlying spell, artifact, or transaction a classified magical secret.

Example. A dealer transfers six Class II magical objects during a seven-day period. The transaction falls within the reporting threshold even if each object, considered separately, is below 10,000 MCUs. If the dealer divides the transfers to avoid reporting, the aggregation rule still applies.

Do not use this provision for. Ordinary concealment of spellcasting from non-magical observers, or the classification and secure handling of restricted magical knowledge. Those matters are governed elsewhere.

Secrecy of Magic Act Compliance for Public Spellcasting (§ 401.7)

What it governs. Spellcasting that may be visible, audible, detectable, or otherwise perceptible to non-magical populations. Its purpose is concealment of magical activity in public and mixed-population settings.

Where it applies. Streets, markets, festivals, transportation corridors, public gatherings, commercial establishments, and any other location where a practitioner reasonably knows or should know that non-magical persons may be present.

Principal duties. Use concealment measures sufficient to prevent observation or detection; consider visibility, sound, magical residue, duration, and environmental disruption; conceal or contain associated creatures, constructs, animated objects, and summoned entities; and maintain institutional procedures designed to prevent unauthorized public spellcasting.

Accidental exposure. If magical activity is observed, or reasonably believed to have been observed, the responsible practitioner must act immediately to reduce the exposure. Measures may include terminating or stabilizing the spell, reversing visible effects, repairing damage, and removing or neutralizing observable magical evidence.

Example. A practitioner produces a visible transformation during a public festival attended by non-magical persons. The practitioner must have adequate concealment or another applicable authorization. If the effect is observed, the practitioner must promptly stabilize or terminate it and address the resulting exposure.

Do not use this provision for. Magical trade reporting or the handling of formally classified magical knowledge. A spell can violate § 401.7 even when the spell itself is not secret or classified.

Magical Acts of Secrecy (Part XXIX, §§ 2901.1–2901.5)

What it governs. Magical acts, methods, materials, vulnerabilities, and knowledge that have been designated secret. Part XXIX is concerned with classification, authorized access, secure handling, and reporting of unauthorized disclosure.

What can be protected. The Part reaches spells, rituals, procedures, methods, structural vulnerabilities, restricted combinations of otherwise lawful elements, and theoretical or fragmentary knowledge. A secret act remains protected even when only part of it is disclosed or when its components are distributed separately.

Classification. Section 2901.2 establishes four levels: Restricted, Confidential, Highly Restricted, and Prohibited Knowledge. Classification is based on sensitivity, potential harm, ease of replication, containment difficulty, and the scale of systems or populations affected.

Access and handling. Section 2901.3 limits access to persons with specific authorization and a defined need. Section 2901.4 requires secure storage, access controls, protected transmission, compartmentalization where appropriate, monitoring, auditing, and incident response.

Disclosure reporting. Section 2901.5 requires prompt reporting of known or suspected unauthorized access, transmission, loss, theft, compromise, or other conditions increasing the likelihood of disclosure. Reporting parties must also take reasonable steps to limit further dissemination, preserve evidence, and assist with containment.

Example. A researcher is authorized to review a Highly Restricted ritual for containment work. The authorization permits only the approved purpose and classification level. Copies, transmission, storage, and access must comply with Part XXIX. If an unauthorized person obtains part of the ritual, the disclosure must be reported and contained even if the ritual cannot yet be reconstructed in full.

Do not use this Part for. Every instance of magic that should remain unseen by non-magical persons. Part XXIX applies because the act or knowledge is designated secret, not merely because magic is generally concealed from the public.

At-a-Glance Comparison

Provision	Main Question	Primary Trigger	Primary Obligation
§ 401.7 Secrecy of Magic Act	Can non-magical persons perceive the magic?	Public or mixed-population spellcasting that can be seen, heard, detected, or otherwise perceived.	Conceal the activity and remediate accidental exposure.
§ 701.9 Magic Secrecy Act	Is this a covered magical transaction or suspicious trade activity?	High-value, high-risk, bulk, aggregated, or suspicious magical commerce.	Report, monitor, keep records, and maintain internal controls.
Part XXIX Magical Acts of Secrecy	Has the act, method, or knowledge been designated secret?	Restricted or classified magical acts, materials, methods, or knowledge.	Limit access, secure handling, monitor use, and report compromise.

When More Than One Applies

A single event may fall under two or all three regimes. Consider the public sale of a Class III artifact that contains a Highly Restricted ritual. The transaction is reportable under § 701.9 because a Class III object is covered regardless of value. Part XXIX applies because the ritual is classified. If the seller demonstrates the artifact by visibly casting from it in front of non-magical persons, § 401.7 may also apply. Each provision addresses a different problem, so compliance with one does not replace compliance with the others.

Still Have Questions?

For additional guidance, consult the full text of the MCOR or contact the Office of Magical Compliance at 1-800-ASK-MCOR (275-6267).

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