

*Section 6* And be it further enacted, That when a person held to service or labor in any State or Territory of the United States, has heretofore or shall hereafter escape into another State or Territory of the United States, the person or persons to whom such service or labor may be due, or his, her, or their agent or attorney ... may pursue and reclaim such fugitive person ...

*Section 7* And be it further enacted, That any person who shall knowingly and willingly obstruct, hinder, or prevent such claimant, his agent or attorney, or any person or persons lawfully assisting him, her, or them, from arresting such a fugitive ... or shall aid, abet, or assist such person so owing service or labor as aforesaid, directly or indirectly, to escape from such claimant ... or shall harbor or conceal such fugitive, so as to prevent the discovery and arrest of such person ... shall ... be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months ...

- United States Fugitive Slave Law (September 18, 1850) excerpt