

Eleventh Circuit Holds Individual Mandate of Health Reform Unconstitutional

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The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit has ruled unconstitutional the provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the health care reform law, that would require individuals to purchase health insurance or face an annual penalty (called the individual mandate). Unlike the district court, however, the Eleventh Circuit did not conclude that the unconstitutionality of the individual mandate caused the entire act to be unconstitutional. The Eleventh Circuit's decision striking down the individual mandate contrasts with the decision of the Sixth Circuit, which upheld the individual mandate as constitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to review the constitutionality of health reform during its upcoming term, with a ruling possible by the summer of 2012. A copy of the decision can be found [here](#).