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## U.S. Bank Regulators Clarify Crypto Custody Guidelines

July 15, 2025

– Categories: Crypto



*United States banking regulators have clarified their position on crypto asset safekeeping, stating that existing rules continue to apply and that no new policies are being introduced.*

In an effort to provide clarity without adding new regulations, the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) released a joint statement explaining how current banking rules apply to financial institutions offering crypto custody services.

The statement reinforces existing expectations for banks that handle digital assets on behalf of their clients. While some had anticipated potential regulatory updates, the

agencies confirmed that no new policy changes are being proposed.

Instead, regulators emphasized that banks engaging in crypto custody must adhere to the same risk management standards and oversight principles that govern traditional banking services. These include requirements for internal controls, recordkeeping, and client asset protection.

The clarification comes amid rising interest in digital asset services among banks, including safekeeping, trading, and settlement. As more institutions explore these offerings, regulators are focused on ensuring that these activities remain safe, sound, and in line with existing legal frameworks.

According to the agencies, banks must notify their supervisors and may require approval before launching crypto-related services. They also stressed that compliance with current regulations is essential, even when engaging with emerging technologies.

This measured approach sends a clear message: financial innovation is welcome, but it must be pursued responsibly. Rather than introducing new regulations, the agencies are reminding banks to operate within the scope of their existing obligations.

The statement also reflects growing regulatory attention to the crypto space as both consumer demand and institutional involvement increase. By reinforcing current requirements, regulators aim to minimize confusion and prevent missteps that could harm consumers or create instability in the financial system.

While some in the crypto industry may have hoped for more flexible or supportive guidance, the reaffirmation of existing rules offers a degree of regulatory certainty. Banks already familiar with traditional compliance standards can continue developing crypto services within that same framework.

This latest announcement illustrates a broader regulatory approach in the United States: supporting innovation in financial services while maintaining strong oversight and consumer protection.