Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Rule 52. Harmless and Plain Error

(a) *Harmless Error*. Any error, defect, irregularity, or variance that does not affect substantial rights must be disregarded.

(b) *Plain Error*. A plain error that affects substantial rights may be considered even though it was not brought to the court's attention.

(As amended Apr. 29, 2002, eff. Dec. 1, 2002.)