

agreements. Thus, the “final written decision” for purposes of Board review is that determination appealable to the Secretary under the agreement.

*F. Where Board review is not available.*

The Board will not review a decision if a hearing under 5 U.S.C. 554 is required by statute, if the basis of the decision is a violation of applicable civil rights or non-discrimination laws or regulations (for example, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act), or if some other hearing process is established pursuant to statute.

*G. How the Board determines whether it will review a case.*

Under § 16.7, the Board Chair determines whether an appeal meets the requirements of this Appendix. If the Chair finds that there is some question about this, the Board will request the written opinion of the HHS component which issued the decision. Unless the Chair determines that the opinion is clearly erroneous, the Board will be bound by the opinion. If the HHS component does not respond within a time set by the Chair, or cannot determine whether the Board clearly does or does not have jurisdiction, the Board will take the appeal.

[46 FR 43817, Aug. 31, 1981, as amended at 47 FR 29492, July 6, 1982; 53 FR 7864, Mar. 10, 1988]

## PART 17—RELEASE OF ADVERSE INFORMATION TO NEWS MEDIA

### Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301.

SOURCE: 41 FR 3, Jan. 2, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

### § 17.1 Definition.

Adverse information released by an agency means any statement or release by the Department or any principal operating component made to the news media inviting public attention to an action or a finding by the Department or principal operating component of the Department which may adversely affect persons or organizations identified therein. This part does not apply to nor is it affected by any disclosure of records to the public in response to

requests made under the Freedom of Information Act (Pub. L. 90-23). The criteria for such disclosures are set forth in the Department’s Public Information Regulation (45 CFR Part 5).

### § 17.2 Basic policy.

All adverse information release to news media shall be factual in content and accurate in description. Disparaging terminology not essential to the content and purpose of the publicity shall be avoided.

### § 17.3 Precautions to be taken.

The issuing organization shall take reasonable precautions to assure that information released is accurate and that its release fulfills an authorized purpose.

### § 17.4 Regulatory investigations and trial-type proceedings.

Adverse information relating to regulatory investigations of specifically identified persons or organizations or to pending agency trial-type proceedings shall be released only in limited circumstances in accordance with the criteria outlined below:

(a) Where the Department or a principal operating component determines that there is a significant risk that the public health or safety may be impaired or substantial economic harm may occur unless the public is notified immediately, it may release information to news media as one of the means of notifying the affected public speedily and accurately. However, where the Department or principal operating component determines that public harm can be avoided by immediate discontinuance of an offending practice, a respondent shall be allowed an opportunity, where feasible, to cease the practice (pending a legal test) in lieu of release of adverse information by the agency.

(b) Where it is required in order to bring notice of pending agency adjudication to persons likely to desire to participate therein or likely to be affected by that or a related adjudication, the Department or principal operating component shall rely on the news media to the extent necessary to provide such notice even though it may be adverse to a respondent.

## § 17.5

### § 17.5 Context to be reflected.

The authority for and the character of the information shall be made clear, where appropriate, the release shall explain the nature of any studies performed, the sources of relevant data, the areas in which administrative findings of fact were made, and whether the information is based on allegations subject to subsequent adjudication.

### § 17.6 Advance notice.

Any respondent or prospective respondent in an agency proceeding shall, if practicable and consistent with the nature of the proceeding, be given advance notice of information to be released about the proceeding and a reasonable opportunity to prepare in advance a response to the information released.

### § 17.7 Retractions or corrections.

Where the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs finds that information released by the Department was misleading or a misstatement of fact and any person named therein requests a retraction or correction, the Department shall issue a retraction or correction in the same manner to all of the media outlets that received the original information (or as many of them as is feasible). Where information shown to be misleading or misstatement of fact has been released by a principal operating component of the Department and any person named therein requests a retraction or correction, the agency head shall issue a retraction or correction in the same manner to all of the media outlets that received the original information (or as many of them as is feasible).

## PART 30—CLAIMS COLLECTION

### Subpart A—General

- Sec.
- 30.1 Purpose and scope.
- 30.2 Definitions.
- 30.3 Interagency claims.
- 30.4 Other administrative proceedings.
- 30.5 Other remedies.
- 30.6 Property claims.
- 30.7 Claims involving criminal activity or misconduct.
- 30.8 Claims arising from GAO exceptions.
- 30.9 Subdivision of claims.

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- 30.10 Omissions not a defense.

### Subpart B—Collection of Claims

- 30.11 Collection rule.
- 30.12 Notices to debtor.
- 30.13 Interest, administrative costs and late payment penalties.
- 30.14 Interest and charges pending waiver or review.
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- 30.16 Use of credit reporting agencies.
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### Subpart C—Compromise of Claims

- 30.22 Compromise rule.
- 30.23 Exceptions.
- 30.24 Inability to collect the full amount.
- 30.25 Litigative probabilities.
- 30.26 Cost of collecting claim.
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- 30.28 Joint and several liability.
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### Subpart D—Termination or Suspension of Collection Action

- 30.31 Termination rule.
- 30.32 Exceptions.

### Subpart E—Referrals to the Department of Justice or GAO

- 30.33 Litigation.
- 30.34 Claims over \$20,000.
- 30.35 GAO exceptions.

AUTHORITY: Subchapter II of Chapter 37 of Title 31, United States Code, 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 5 U.S.C. 552a as amended by Pub. L. 97-365, 96 Stat. 1749.

SOURCE: 52 FR 264, Jan. 5, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General

#### § 30.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This regulation prescribes standards and procedures for the officers and employees of the Department, including officers and employees of the various Operating Divisions and regional offices of the Department, charged with collection and disposition of debts owed to the United States.