

VR agency unless the State VR agency appeals that decision in writing in accordance with 45 CFR part 16 to the Department of Health and Human Services Departmental Grant Appeals Board within 30 days after receiving the Commissioner's decision.

(b) *Disputes on whether there was a continuous period of SGA and whether VR services contributed to a continuous period of SGA.* The rules in paragraph (a) of this section will apply, except that the Commissioner's decision will be final and conclusive. There is no right of appeal to the Grant Appeals Board.

(c) *Disputes on determinations made by the Secretary which affect a disabled or blind beneficiary's rights to benefits.* Determinations made by the Secretary which affect an individual's right to benefits (e.g., determinations that disability or blindness benefits should be terminated, denied, suspended, continued or begun at a different date than alleged) cannot be appealed by a State VR agency or alternate participant. Because these determinations are an integral part of the disability or blindness benefits claims process, they can only be appealed by the beneficiary or applicant whose rights are affected or by his or her authorized representative. However, if an appeal of an unfavorable determination is made by the individual and is successful, the new determination would also apply for purposes of this subpart. While a VR agency or alternate participant cannot appeal a determination made by the Secretary which affects a beneficiary's or applicant's rights, the VR agency can furnish any evidence it may have which would support a revision of a determination.

[48 FR 6297, Feb. 10, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 8458, Mar. 8, 1990]

## PART 422—ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

### Subpart A—Organization and Functions of the Social Security Administration

Sec.

- 422.1 Organization and functions.
- 422.5 District offices and branch offices.

### Subpart B—General Procedures

- 422.101 Material included in this subpart.
- 422.103 Social security numbers.
- 422.104 To whom Social Security numbers are assigned.
- 422.105 Presumption of authority of non-immigrant alien to accept employment.
- 422.106 Filing applications with other government agencies.
- 422.107 Evidence requirements.
- 422.108 Criminal penalties.
- 422.110 Individual's request for change in record.
- 422.112 Employer identification numbers.
- 422.114 Annual wage reporting process.
- 422.120 Earnings reported without a social security number or with an incorrect employee name or social security number.
- 422.122 Information on deferred vested pension benefits.
- 422.125 Statement of earnings; resolving earnings discrepancies.
- 422.130 Claim procedure.
- 422.135 Reports by beneficiaries.
- 422.140 Reconsideration of initial determination.

### Subpart C—Procedures of the Office of Hearings and Appeals

- 422.201 Material included in this subpart.
- 422.203 Hearings.
- 422.205 Review by Appeals Council.
- 422.210 Judicial review.

### Subpart D-E [Reserved]

### Subpart F—Applications and Related Forms

- 422.501 Applications and other forms used in Social Security Administration programs.
- 422.505 Applications and related forms for retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs.
- 422.510 Applications and related forms used in the health insurance for the aged program.
- 422.512 Applications and related forms used in the black lung benefits program.
- 422.515 Forms used for withdrawal, reconsideration and other appeals, and appointment of representative.
- 422.520 Forms related to maintenance of earnings records.
- 422.525 Where applications and other forms are available.
- 422.527 Private printing and modification of prescribed applications and other forms.

### Subpart G—Administrative Review Process Under the Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act of 1992

- 422.601 Scope and purpose.

## § 422.1

- 422.602 Terms used in this subpart.
- 422.603 Overview of the review process.
- 422.604 Request for detailed information.
- 422.605 Request for review.
- 422.606 Processing the request for review.
- 422.607 Limited reopening of assignments.

SOURCE: 32 FR 13653, Sept. 29, 1967, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—Organization and Functions of the Social Security Administration

AUTHORITY: Secs. 205, 218, 221, and 701-704 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405, 418, 421, and 901-904).

#### § 422.1 Organization and functions.

(a) *General.* A complete description of the organization and functions of the Social Security Administration (pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a), as amended by Pub. L. 90-23, the Public Information Act) was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER of July 15, 1967 (32 FR 10458), and was subsequently revised on April 16, 1968 (33 FR 5828), and amended on July 18, 1968 (33 FR 10292). Further amendments to or revisions of the description will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER when and if required by changes in the organization or functions of the Social Security Administration. Such description (referred to as the SSA Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority) is printed and kept up to date in the Department Staff Manual on Organization, Department of Health and Human Services, part 8, a copy of which is maintained in each district office and branch office of the Social Security Administration and is available for inspection and copying.

(b) *Information included in description.* This description includes information about the organization and functions of each component of the Social Security Administration. It also includes a listing of all district offices and branch offices within the organization of the Bureau of District Office Operations, and a listing of field offices within the organization of the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals where the public may secure information, make submittals or requests, or obtain decisions.

[34 FR 435, Jan. 11, 1969]

## 20 CFR Ch. III (4-1-97 Edition)

### § 422.5 District offices and branch offices.

There are over 700 social security district offices and branch offices located in the principal cities and other urban areas or towns of the United States. In addition, there are over 3,300 contact stations, located in population and trading centers, which are visited on a regularly, recurring, preannounced basis. A schedule of these visits can be obtained from the nearest district office or branch office. The address of the nearest district office or branch office can be obtained from the local telephone directory or from the post office. Each district office and branch office has a list of all district offices and branch offices throughout the country and their addresses. The principal officer in each district office is the manager. The principal officer in each branch office is the officer-in-charge. Each district office and branch office also has a list of field offices of the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals and their addresses. The administrative hearing examiner is the principal officer in each field office. For procedures relating to claims see § 422.130, subpart J of part 404 of this chapter, and § 404.1520 of this chapter (the latter relating to disability determinations). For procedures on request for hearing by an Administrative Law Judge and review by the Appeals Council see subpart C of this part 422.

### Subpart B—General Procedures

AUTHORITY: Secs. 205, 232, 702(a)(5), 1131, and 1143 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405, 432, 902(a)(5), 1320b-1, and 1320b-13).

#### § 422.101 Material included in this subpart.

This subpart describes the procedures relating to applications for and assignment of social security numbers, maintenance of earnings records of individuals by the Social Security Administration, requests for statements of earnings or for revision of earnings records, and general claims procedures, including filing of applications, submission of evidence, determinations, and reconsideration of initial determinations.

**§ 422.103 Social security numbers.**

(a) *General.* The Social Security Administration (SSA) maintains a record of the earnings reported for each individual assigned a social security number. The individual's name and social security number identify the record so that the wages or self-employment income reported for or by the individual can be properly posted to the individual's record. Additional procedures concerning social security numbers may be found in Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury regulation 26 CFR 31.6011(b)-2.

(b) *Applying for a number—(1) Form SS-5.* An individual needing a social security number may apply for one by filing a signed form SS-5, "Application for A Social Security Number Card," at any social security office and submitting the required evidence. Upon request, the social security office may distribute a quantity of form SS-5 applications to labor unions, employers, or other representative organizations. An individual outside the United States may apply for a social security number card at the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office, Manila, Philippines, at any U.S. foreign service post, or at a U.S. military post outside the United States. (See § 422.106 for special procedures for filing applications with other government agencies.) Additionally, a U.S. resident may apply for a social security number for a non-resident dependent when the number is necessary for U.S. tax purposes or some other valid reason, the evidence requirements of § 422.107 are met, and we determine that a personal interview with the dependent is not required. Form SS-5 may be obtained at:

- (i) Any local social security office;
- (ii) The Social Security Administration, 300 N. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201;
- (iii) Offices of District Directors of Internal Revenue;
- (iv) U.S. Postal Service offices (except the main office in cities having a social security office);
- (v) U.S. Employment Service offices in cities which do not have a social security office;
- (vi) The Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office, Manila, Philippines;

(vii) Any U.S. foreign service post; and

(viii) U.S. military posts outside the U.S.

(2) *Birth registration document.* SSA may enter into an agreement with officials of a State, including, for this purpose, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and New York City, to establish, as part of the official birth registration process, a procedure to assist SSA in assigning social security numbers to newborn children. Where an agreement is in effect, a parent, as part of the official birth registration process, need not complete a form SS-5 and may request that SSA assign a social security number to the newborn child.

(c) *How numbers are assigned—(1) Request on form SS-5.* If the applicant has completed a form SS-5, the social security office, the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office, Manila, Philippines, the U.S. foreign service post, or the U.S. military post outside the United States that receives the completed form SS-5 will require the applicant to furnish documentary evidence, as necessary, to assist SSA in establishing the age, U.S. citizenship or alien status, true identity, and previously assigned social security number(s), if any, of the applicant. A personal interview may be required of the applicant. (See § 422.107 for evidence requirements.) After review of the documentary evidence, the completed form SS-5 is forwarded or data from the SS-5 is transmitted to SSA's central office in Baltimore, Md., where the data is electronically screened against SSA's files. If the applicant requests evidence to show that he or she has filed an application for a social security number card, a receipt or equivalent document may be furnished. If the electronic screening or other investigation does not disclose a previously assigned number, SSA's central office assigns a number and issues a social security number card. If investigation discloses a previously assigned number for the applicant, a duplicate social security number card is issued.

(2) *Request on birth registration document.* Where a parent has requested a social security number for a newborn

child as part of an official birth registration process described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the State vital statistics office will electronically transmit the request to SSA's central office in Baltimore, MD, along with the child's name, date and place of birth, sex, mother's maiden name, father's name (if shown on the birth registration), address of the mother, and birth certificate number. This birth registration information received by SSA from the State vital statistics office will be used to establish the age, identity, and U.S. citizenship of the newborn child. Using this information, SSA will assign a number to the child and send the social security number card to the child at the mother's address.

(d) *Social security number cards.* A person who is assigned a social security number will receive a social security number card from SSA within a reasonable time after the number has been assigned. (See § 422.104 regarding the assignment of social security number cards to aliens.) Social security number cards are the property of SSA and must be returned upon request.

(e) *Replacement of social security number card.* In case of loss of or damage to the social security number card, a duplicate card bearing the same number may be issued. (See § 422.107 for evidence requirements.)

[55 FR 46664, Nov. 6, 1990]

**§ 422.104 To whom Social Security numbers are assigned.**

(a) *Persons with evidence of age, identity, and U.S. citizenship or alien status.* A Social Security number may be assigned to an applicant who meets the evidence requirements in § 422.107, if the applicant is:

(1) A U.S. citizen;

(2) An alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence or under other authority of law permitting him or her to work in the United States (see § 422.105 regarding presumption of authority of nonimmigrant alien to work); or

(3) An alien who is legally in the United States but not under authority of law permitting him or her to engage in employment, but only for a nonwork purpose (see § 422.107(e)(1) and (2)).

(b) *Persons with other evidence of alien status.* A Social Security number may be assigned for a nonwork purpose to an alien who cannot provide the evidence of alien status required by § 422.107(e), if the evidence described in that section does not exist, if other evidence is provided, and if:

(1) The alien resides either in or outside the United States and a Social Security number is required by law as a condition of the alien's receiving a federally-funded benefit to which the alien has established entitlement; or

(2) The alien resides outside the United States and needs a Social Security number for a Federal tax reporting purpose for which SSA and the Internal Revenue Service have agreed that an individual needs a number.

(c) *Annotation for a nonwork purpose.* If SSA has assigned a Social Security number for a nonwork purpose under the provision of paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section, SSA will annotate its record to show that the number has been assigned for a nonwork purpose. Additionally, the Social Security number card will be marked with a nonwork legend. If earnings are reported to SSA on a nonwork Social Security number which was assigned under a provision of this section, SSA will inform the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the reported earnings.

[56 FR 41790, Aug. 23, 1991]

**§ 422.105 Presumption of authority of nonimmigrant alien to accept employment.**

The nonimmigrant Form I-94 classifications assigned by the Immigration and Naturalization Service shall be used to determine whether a nonimmigrant alien is permitted to work. (See 8 CFR 274a.12 for these classifications.) Permission to work shall not be presumed in the case of an alien who has not been issued a Form I-94 or whose Form I-94 shows any classification symbol designated and provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service which does not reflect that the alien may work.

[44 FR 10371, Feb. 20, 1979; 44 FR 20078, Apr. 4, 1979, as amended at 55 FR 46665, Nov. 6, 1990]

**§ 422.106 Filing applications with other government agencies.**

(a) *Agreements.* In carrying out its responsibilities to assign social security numbers, SSA enters into agreements with the United States Attorney General and other Federal officials, and with State and local welfare agencies and school authorities. Examples of these agreements are discussed in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) *Immigration and Naturalization Service.* In connection with the legalization procedures established pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the Immigration and Naturalization Service may accept an application for a social security number card from an alien. Immigration and Naturalization Service employees who accept such applications are authorized to certify that they have reviewed the evidence required to be submitted in support of the application. The employees will verify age, identity, alien status and work authorization of the applicants, and obtain evidence to assist SSA in determining the existence of any previously assigned social security number. The Immigration and Naturalization Service will then send the application to SSA for the issuance of a social security number card.

(c) *States.* SSA and a State may enter into an agreement that authorizes employees of a State or one of its subdivisions to accept social security number card applications from some individuals who apply for or are receiving welfare benefits under a State-administered Federal program. Under such an agreement, a State employee is also authorized to certify the application to show that he or she has reviewed the required evidence of the applicant's age, identity, and U.S. citizenship. The employee is also authorized to obtain evidence to assist SSA in determining whether the applicant has previously been assigned a number. The employee will then send the application to SSA which will issue a social security number card.

[55 FR 46665, Nov. 6, 1990]

**§ 422.107 Evidence requirements.**

(a) *General.* An applicant for an original social security number card must

submit documentary evidence which the Secretary of Health and Human Services regards as convincing evidence of age, U.S. citizenship or alien status, and true identity. An applicant for a duplicate or corrected social security number card must submit convincing documentary evidence of identity and may also be required to submit convincing documentary evidence of age and U.S. citizenship or alien status. An applicant for an original, duplicate, or corrected social security number card is also required to submit evidence to assist the SSA in determining the existence and identity of any previously assigned number(s). A social security number will not be assigned, or an original, duplicate, or corrected card issued, unless all the evidence requirements are met. An in-person interview is required of all applicants of age 18 or older who apply for an original social security number. An in-person interview may also be required of other applicants. All documents submitted as evidence must be originals or certified copies of the original documents and are subject to verification with the custodians of the original records.

(b) *Evidence of age.* An applicant for an original social security number is required to submit convincing evidence of age. An applicant for a duplicate or corrected social security number card may also be required to submit evidence of age. Examples of the types of evidence which may be submitted are a birth certificate, a religious record showing age or date of birth, a hospital record of birth, or a passport. (See § 404.716.)

(c) *Evidence of identity.* An applicant for an original social security number or a duplicate or corrected social security number card is required to submit convincing documentary evidence of identity. Documentary evidence of identity may consist of a driver's license, identity card, school record, medical record, marriage record, passport, Immigration and Naturalization Service document, or other similar document serving to identify the individual. It is preferable that the document contain the applicant's signature

for comparison with his or her signature on the application for a social security number. A birth record is not sufficient evidence to establish identity. Where the applicant is a child under 7 years of age applying for an original social security number card and there is no documentary evidence of identity available, the requirement for evidence of identity will be waived if there is no reason to doubt the validity of the birth record, the social security number application, and the existence of the individual. An applicant for a duplicate social security number card who is a U.S. citizen and who resides in an area where the Social Security Administration is conducting a pilot project on the issuance of duplicate cards will not be required to submit a signed application or corroborative documentary evidence of identity if the Social Security Administration is able to compare information provided by the applicant with information already in its records and, on the basis of this comparison, decides that corroborative documentary evidence is not needed to establish the applicant's identity. These special procedures do not apply to foreign-born U.S. citizens who have not already submitted evidence of citizenship to us; to a person applying on behalf of another if the applicant is not a parent applying on behalf of his or her minor child; and to people whose address is an in-care-of address, a post office box, general delivery, or a suite.

(d) *Evidence of U.S. citizenship.* Generally, an applicant for an original, duplicate, or corrected social security number card may prove that he or she is a U.S. citizen by birth by submitting a birth certificate or other evidence, as described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, that shows a U.S. place of birth. Where a foreign-born applicant claims U.S. citizenship, the applicant for a social security number or a duplicate or corrected social security number card is required to present documentary evidence of U.S. citizenship. If required evidence is not available, a social security number card will not be issued until satisfactory evidence of U.S. citizenship is furnished. Any of the following is generally acceptable

evidence of U.S. citizenship for a foreign-born applicant:

- (1) Certificate of naturalization;
- (2) Certificate of citizenship;
- (3) U.S. passport;
- (4) U.S. citizen identification card issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service;
- (5) Consular report of birth (State Department form FS-240 or FS-545); or
- (6) Other verification from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of State, or Federal or State court records confirming citizenship.

(e) *Evidence of alien status.* When a person who is not a U.S. citizen applies for an original social security number or a duplicate or corrected social security number card, he or she is required to submit, as evidence of alien status, a current document issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in accordance with that agency's regulations. The document must show that the applicant has been lawfully admitted to the United States, either for permanent residence or under authority of law permitting him or her to work in the United States, or that the applicant's alien status has changed so that it is lawful for him or her to work. If the applicant fails to submit such a document, a social security number card will not be issued. If the applicant submits an unexpired Immigration and Naturalization Service document(s) which shows current authorization to work, a social security number will be assigned or verified and a card which can be used for work will be issued. If the authorization of the applicant to work is temporary or subject to termination by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the SSA records may be so annotated. If the document(s) does not provide authorization to work and the applicant wants a social security number for a work purpose, no social security number will be assigned. If the applicant requests the number for a nonwork purpose, *e.g.*, an Internal Revenue Service purpose, the number may be assigned and the card issued will be marked with a nonwork legend. The SSA record will be annotated to show that a number has been assigned and a card issued for a

nonwork purpose. In that case, if earnings are later reported to SSA, the Immigration and Naturalization Service will be notified of the report. SSA may also notify that agency if earnings are reported for a social security number that was valid for work when assigned but for which work authorization expired or was later terminated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. SSA may also annotate the record with other remarks, if appropriate.

(f) *Failure to submit evidence.* If the applicant does not comply with a request for the required evidence or other information within a reasonable time, SSA may attempt another contact with the applicant. If there is still no response, a social security number card will not be issued.

(g) *Invalid or expired documents.* SSA will not issue an original, duplicate, or corrected social security number card when an applicant presents invalid or expired documents. Invalid documents are either forged documents that supposedly were issued by the custodian of the record, or properly issued documents that were improperly changed after they were issued. An expired document is one that was valid for only a limited time and that time has passed.

[55 FR 46665, Nov. 6, 1990, as amended at 60 FR 32446, June 22, 1995]

#### § 422.108 Criminal penalties.

A person may be subject to criminal penalties for furnishing false information in connection with earnings records or for wrongful use or misrepresentation in connection with social security numbers, pursuant to section 208 of the Social Security Act and sections of title 18 U.S.C. (42 U.S.C. 408; 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 1546).

[39 FR 10242, Mar. 19, 1974]

#### § 422.110 Individual's request for change in record.

Form SS-5 should be completed and signed by any person who wishes to change the name or other personal identifying information previously submitted in connection with an application for a social security number card. The person must prove his or her identity and may be required to provide other evidence. (See § 422.107 for evi-

dence requirements.) Form SS-5 may be obtained from any local social security office or from one of the sources noted in § 422.103(b). The completed request for change in records may be submitted to any SSA office, or, if the individual is outside the U.S., to the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office, Manila, Philippines, or to any U.S. foreign service post or U.S. military post. If the request is for a change in name, a new social security number card with the new name and bearing the same number previously assigned will be issued to the person making the request.

[55 FR 46666, Nov. 6, 1990]

#### § 422.112 Employer identification numbers.

(a) *General.* Most employers are required by section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code and by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations at 26 CFR 31.6011(b)-1 to obtain an employer identification number (EIN) and to include it on wage reports filed with SSA. A sole proprietor who does not pay wages to one or more employees or who is not required to file any pension or excise tax return is not subject to this requirement. To apply for an EIN, employers file Form SS-4, "Application for Employer Identification Number," with the IRS. For the convenience of employers, Form SS-4 is available at all SSA and IRS offices. Household employers, agricultural employers, and domestic corporations which elect social security coverage for employees of foreign subsidiaries who are citizens or residents of the U.S. may be assigned an EIN by IRS without filing an SS-4.

(b) *State and local governments.* To facilitate a State's bookkeeping, SSA will assign a special identification number to each political subdivision included in a modification to the State's agreement under section 218 of the Act. These numbers are not used for reporting purposes unless coverage is extended to periods prior to 1987. Then, the special number will be assigned and used for reporting the pre-1987 wages to SSA. This special number will also be assigned to an interstate instrumentality if pre-1987 coverage is

obtained. SSA will inform the appropriate State or interstate instrumentality official of the assigned number by sending a Form SSA-214-CD, "Notice of Identifying Number."

[60 FR 42433, Aug. 16, 1995]

**§ 422.114 Annual wage reporting process.**

(a) *General.* Under the authority of section 232 of the Act, SSA and IRS have entered into an agreement that sets forth the manner by which SSA and IRS will ensure that the processing of employee wage reports is effective and efficient. Under this agreement, employers are instructed by IRS to file annual wage reports with SSA on paper Forms W-2, "Wage and Tax Statement," and Forms W-3, "Transmittal of Income and Tax Statements," or equivalent W-2 and W-3 magnetic media reports. Special versions of these forms for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are also filed with SSA. SSA processes all wage reporting forms for updating to SSA's earnings records and IRS tax records, identifies employer reporting errors and untimely filed forms for IRS penalty assessment action, and takes action to correct any reporting errors identified, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section. SSA also processes Forms W-3c, "Transmittal of Corrected Income Tax Statements," and W-2c, "Statement of Corrected Income and Tax Amounts" (and their magnetic media equivalents) that employers are required to file with SSA when certain previous reporting errors are discovered.

(b) *Magnetic media reporting requirements.* Under IRS regulations at 26 CFR 301.6011-2, employers who file 250 or more W-2 wage reports per year must file them on magnetic media in accordance with requirements provided in SSA publications, unless IRS grants the employer a waiver. Basic SSA requirements are set out in SSA's Technical Instruction Bulletin No. 4, "Magnetic Media Reporting." Special filing requirements for U.S. territorial employers are set out in SSA Technical Instruction Bulletins No. 5 (Puerto Rico), No. 6 (Virgin Islands), and No. 7

(Guam and American Samoa). At the end of each year, SSA mails these technical instructions to employers (or third parties who file wage reports on their behalf) for their use in filing wage reports for that year.

(c) *Processing late and incorrect magnetic media wage transmittals.* If an employer's transmittal of magnetic media wage reports is received by SSA after the filing due date, SSA will notify IRS of the late filing so that IRS can decide whether to assess penalties for late filing, pursuant to section 6721 of the Internal Revenue Code. If reports do not meet SSA processing requirements (unprocessable reports) or are out of balance on critical money amounts, SSA will return them to the employer to correct and resubmit. In addition, beginning with wage reports filed for tax year 1993, if 90 percent or more of an employer's magnetic media wage reports have no social security numbers or incorrect employee names or social security numbers so that SSA is unable to credit their wages to its records, SSA will not attempt to correct the errors, but will instead return the reports to the employer to correct and resubmit (see also § 422.120(b)). An employer must correct and resubmit incorrect and unprocessable magnetic media wage reports to SSA within 45 days from the date of the letter sent with the returned report. Upon request, SSA may grant the employer a 15-day extension of the 45-day period. If an employer does not submit corrected reports to SSA within the 45-day (or, if extended by SSA, 60-day) period, SSA will notify IRS of the late filing so that IRS can decide whether to assess a penalty. If an employer timely resubmits the reports as corrected magnetic media reports, but they are unprocessable or out of balance on W-2 money totals, SSA will return the resubmitted reports for the second and last time for the employer to correct and return to SSA. SSA will enclose with the resubmitted and returned forms a letter informing the employer that he or she must correct and return the reports to SSA within 45 days or be subject to IRS penalties for late filing.

(d) *Paper form reporting requirements.* The format and wage reporting instructions for paper forms are determined

jointly by IRS and SSA. Basic instructions on how to complete the forms and file them with SSA are provided in IRS forms materials available to the public. In addition, SSA provides standards for employers (or third parties who file wage reports for them) to follow in producing completed reporting forms from computer software; these standards appear in SSA publication, "Software Specifications and Edits for Annual Wage Reporting." Requests for this publication should be sent to: Social Security Administration, Office of Financial Policy and Operations, Attention: AWR Software Standards Project, P.O. Box 17195, Baltimore, MD 21235.

(e) *Processing late and incorrect paper form reports.* If SSA receives paper form wage reports after the due date, SSA will notify IRS of the late filing so that IRS can decide whether to assess penalties for late filing, pursuant to section 6721 of the Internal Revenue Code. SSA will ask an employer to provide replacement forms for illegible, incomplete, or clearly erroneous paper reporting forms, or will ask the employer to provide information necessary to process the reports without having to resubmit corrected forms. (For wage reports where earnings are reported without a social security number or with an incorrect name or social security number, see §422.120.) If an employer fails to provide legible, complete, and correct W-2 reports within 45 days, SSA may identify the employers to IRS for assessment of employer reporting penalties.

(f) *Reconciliation of wage reporting errors.* After SSA processes wage reports, it matches them with the information provided by employers to the IRS on Forms 941, "Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return," for that tax year. Based upon this match, if the total social security or medicare wages reported to SSA for employees is less than the totals reported to IRS, SSA will write to the employer and request corrected reports or an explanation for the discrepancy. If the total social security or medicare wages reported to SSA for employees is more than the totals reported to IRS, IRS will resolve the difference with the employer. If the employer fails to provide SSA with cor-

rected reports or information that shows the wage reports filed with SSA are correct, SSA will ask IRS to investigate the employer's wage and tax reports to resolve the discrepancy and to assess any appropriate reporting penalties.

[60 FR 42433, Aug. 16, 1995]

**§ 422.120 Earnings reported without a social security number or with an incorrect employee name or social security number.**

(a) *Correcting an earnings report.* If an employer reports an employee's wages to SSA without the employee's social security number or with a different employee name or social security number than shown in SSA's records for him or her, SSA will write to the employee at the address shown on the wage report and request the missing or corrected information. If the wage report does not show the employee's address or shows an incomplete address, SSA will write to the employer and request the missing or corrected employee information. SSA notifies IRS of all wage reports filed without employee social security numbers so that IRS can decide whether to assess penalties for erroneous filing, pursuant to section 6721 of the Internal Revenue Code. If an individual reports self-employment income to IRS without a social security number or with a different name or social security number than shown in SSA's records, SSA will write to the individual and request the missing or corrected information. If the employer, employee, or self-employed individual does not provide the missing or corrected report information in response to SSA's request, the wages or self-employment income cannot be identified and credited to the proper individual's earnings records. In such cases, the information is maintained in a "Suspense File" of uncredited earnings. Subsequently, if identifying information is provided to SSA for an individual whose report is recorded in the Suspense File, the wages or self-employment income then may be credited to his or her earnings record.

(b) *Returning incorrect reports.* SSA may return to the filer, unprocessed,

an employer's annual wage report submittal if 90 percent or more of the wage reports in that submittal are unidentified or incorrectly identified. In such instances, SSA will advise the filer to return corrected wage reports within 45 days to avoid any possible IRS penalty assessment for failing to file correct reports timely with SSA. (See also §422.114(c).) Upon request, SSA may grant the employer a 15-day extension of the 45-day period.

[60 FR 42434, Aug. 16, 1995]

**§ 422.122 Information on deferred vested pension benefits.**

(a) *Claimants for benefits.* Each month, SSA checks the name and social security number of each new claimant for social security benefits or for hospital insurance coverage to see whether the claimant is listed in SSA's electronic pension benefit record. This record contains information received from IRS on individuals for whom private pension plan administrators have reported to IRS, as required by section 6057 of the Internal Revenue Code, as possibly having a right to future retirement benefits under the plan. SSA sends a notice to each new claimant for whom it has pension benefit information, as required by section 1131 of the Act. If the claimant filed for the lump-sum death payment on the social security account of a relative, SSA sends the claimant the pension information on the deceased individual. In either case, SSA sends the notice after it has made a decision on the claim for benefits. The notice shows the type, payment frequency, and amount of pension benefit, as well as the name and address of the plan administrator as reported to the IRS. This information can then be used by the claimant to claim any pension benefits still due from the pension plan.

(b) *Requesting deferred vested pension benefit information from SSA files.* Section 1131 of the Act also requires SSA to provide available pension benefit information on request. SSA will provide this pension benefit information only to the individual who has the pension coverage (or a legal guardian or parent, in the case of a minor, on the individual's behalf). However, if the individual is deceased, the information may be

provided to someone who would be eligible for any underpayment of benefits that might be due the individual under section 204(d) of the Act. All requests for such information must be in writing and should contain the following information: the individual's name, social security number, date of birth, and any information the requestor may have concerning the name of the pension plan involved and the month and year coverage under the plan ended; the name and address of the person to whom the information is to be sent; and the requester's signature under the following statement: "I am the individual to whom the information applies (or 'I am related to the individual as his or her \_\_\_\_\_'). I know that if I make any representation which I know is false to obtain information from Social Security records, I could be punished by a fine or imprisonment or both." Such requests should be sent to: Social Security Administration, Office of Central Records Operations, P.O. Box 17055, Baltimore, Maryland 21235.

[60 FR 42434, Aug. 16, 1995]

**§ 422.125 Statements of earnings; resolving earnings discrepancies.**

(a) *Obtaining a statement of earnings and estimated benefits.* An individual may obtain a statement of the earnings on his earnings record and an estimate of social security benefits potentially payable on his record either by writing, calling, or visiting any social security office, or by waiting until we send him one under the procedure described in §404.812 of this chapter. An individual may request this statement by completing the proper form or by otherwise providing the information the Social Security Administration requires, as explained in §404.810(b) of this chapter.

(b) *Statement of earnings and estimated benefits.* Upon receipt of such a request or as required by section 1143(c) of the Social Security Act, the Social Security Administration will provide the individual, without charge, a statement of earnings and benefit estimates or an earnings statement. See §§404.811 through 404.812 of this chapter concerning the information contained in these statements.

(c) *Detailed earnings statements.* A more detailed earnings statement will be furnished upon request, generally without charge, where the request is program related under § 422.440. If the request for a more detailed statement is not program related under § 422.440, a charge will be imposed according to the schedule of fees set out in § 422.441.

(d) *Request for revision of earnings records.* If an individual disagrees with a statement of earnings credited to his social security account, he may request a revision by writing to the Bureau of Data Processing and Accounts, Social Security Administration, Baltimore, MD 21235, or by calling at or writing to any social security district office or branch office or, if the individual is in the Philippines, by calling at or writing to the Veterans' Administration Regional Office, Manila, Philippines. Upon receipt of a request for revision, the Social Security Administration will initiate an investigation of the individual's record of earnings. Form OAR-7008, "Statement of Employment for Wages and Self-Employment," is used by the Social Security Administration for obtaining information from the individual requesting a revision to aid the Administration in the investigation. These forms are available at any of the sources listed in this paragraph. If an individual receives a Form OAR-7008 from the Bureau of Data Processing and Accounts, the completed form should be returned to that office. In the course of the investigation the district office or branch office, where appropriate, contacts the employer and the employee or the self-employed individual, whichever is applicable, for the purpose of obtaining the information and evidence necessary to reconcile any discrepancy between the allegations of the individual and the records of the Administration. See subpart I of part 404 of this chapter for requirements for filing requests for revision, and for limitation on the revision of records of earnings.

(e) *Notice to individual of determination.* After the investigation has been completed and a determination affecting the individual's earnings record has been made, the Social Security Administration will notify the individual in writing of the status of his earnings

record and inform him at the same time of the determination made in his case and of his right to a reconsideration if he is dissatisfied with such determination (see § 422.140).

(f) *Notice to individual of adverse adjustment of his account.* Written notice is given to an individual or his survivor in any case where the Social Security Administration adversely adjusts the individual's self-employment income. Where, subsequent to the issuance of a statement of earnings to an individual, an adverse adjustment is made of an amount of wages included in the statement, written notice of the adverse adjustment is given to the individual or his survivor. Written notice of the adverse adjustment is also given to the survivor if the statement of earnings had been given to such survivor. The individual or his survivor is requested to notify the Social Security Administration promptly if he disagrees, and he is informed that the adjustment will become final unless he notifies the Administration of his disagreement (if any) within 6 months from the date of the letter, or within 3 years, 3 months, and 15 days after the year to which the adjustment relates, whichever is later.

[32 FR 13653, Sept. 29, 1967, as amended at 35 FR 7891, May 22, 1970; 35 FR 8426, May 29, 1970; 39 FR 26721, July 23, 1974; 41 FR 50998, Nov. 19, 1976; 50 FR 28568, July 15, 1985; 57 FR 54919, Nov. 23, 1992; 61 FR 18078, Apr. 24, 1996]

#### § 422.130 Claim procedure.

(a) *General.* The Social Security Administration provides facilities for the public to file claims and to obtain assistance in completing them. An appropriate application form and related forms for use in filing a claim for monthly benefits, the establishment of a period of disability, a lump-sum death payment, or entitlement to hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits can be obtained from any district office, branch office, contact station, or resident station of the Social Security Administration, from the Division of Foreign Claims, Post Office Box 1756, Baltimore, MD 21203, or from the Veteran's Administration Regional Office, Manila, Philippines. See § 404.608 of this chapter for offices at which applications may be filed. See 42 CFR part 405,

subpart A, for conditions of entitlement to hospital insurance benefits and 42 CFR part 405, subpart B, for information relating to enrollment under the supplementary medical insurance benefits program.

(b) *Submission of evidence.* An individual who files an application for monthly benefits, the establishment of a period of disability, a lump-sum death payment, or entitlement to hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits, either on his own behalf or on behalf of another, must establish by satisfactory evidence the material allegations in his application, except as to earnings shown in the Social Security Administration's records (see subpart H of part 404 of this chapter for evidence requirements in nondisability cases and subpart P of part 404 of this chapter for evidence requirements in disability cases). Instructions, report forms, and forms for the various proofs necessary are available to the public in district offices, branch offices, contact stations, and resident stations of the Social Security Administration, and the Veteran's Administration Regional Office, Manila, Philippines. These offices assist individuals in preparing their applications and in obtaining the proofs required in support of their applications.

(c) *Determinations and notice to individuals.* In the case of an application for benefits, the establishment of a period of disability, a lump-sum death payment, a recomputation of a primary insurance amount, or entitlement to hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits, the Social Security Administration, after obtaining the necessary evidence, will make a determination as to the entitlement of the individual claiming or for whom is claimed such benefits, and will notify the applicant of the determination and of his right to a reconsideration if he is dissatisfied with the determination (see § 422.140). Also see § 404.1520 of this chapter for a discussion of the respective roles of State agencies and the Administration in the making of disability determinations and § 404.1521 of this chapter for information regarding initial determinations as to entitlement or termination of entitlement in disability cases. See

section 1869(a) of the Social Security Act for determinations under the health insurance for the aged program and sections 1816 and 1842 of the Act for the role of intermediaries, carriers, and State agencies in performing certain functions under such program, e.g., payment of claims pursuant to an agreement with the Social Security Administration.

[32 FR 13653, Sept. 29, 1967, as amended at 44 FR 34942, June 18, 1979]

#### § 422.135 Reports by beneficiaries.

(a) A recipient of monthly benefits and a person for whom a period of disability has been established are obligated to report to the Social Security Administration the occurrence of certain events which may suspend or terminate benefits or which may cause a cessation of a period of disability. (See §§ 404.419 *et seq.* and 404.1531 of this chapter.)

(b) A person who files an application for benefits receives oral and written instructions about events which may cause a suspension or termination, and also appropriate forms and instruction cards for reporting such events. Pursuant to section 203(h)(1)(A) of the Act, under certain conditions a beneficiary must, within 3 months and 15 days after the close of a taxable year, submit to the Social Security Administration and annual report of his earnings and of any substantial services in self-employment performed during such taxable year. The purpose of the annual report is to furnish the Social Security Administration with information for making final adjustments in the payment of benefits for that year. An individual may also be requested to submit other reports to the Social Security Administration from time to time.

#### § 422.140 Reconsideration of initial determination.

Any part who is dissatisfied with an initial determination with respect to entitlement to monthly benefits, a lump-sum death payment, a period of disability, a revision of an earnings record, with respect to any other right under title II of the Social Security Act, or with respect to entitlement to

hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits, or the amount of hospital insurance benefits, may request that the Social Security Administration reconsider such determination. The information in § 404.1503 of this chapter as to the respective roles of State agencies and the Social Security Administration in the making of disability determinations is also generally applicable to the reconsideration of initial determinations involving disability. However, in cases in which a disability hearing as described in §§ 404.914 through 404.918 and 416.1414 through 416.1418 is available, the reconsidered determination may be issued by a disability hearing officer or by the Director of the Office of Disability Hearings or his or her delegate. After such initial determination has been reconsidered, the Social Security Administration will mail to each of the parties written notice and inform him or her of his right to a hearing before an administrative law judge (see § 422.201). Regulations relating to the details of reconsideration of initial determinations with respect to rights under title II of the Act or with respect to entitlement to hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits may be found in part 404, subpart J of this chapter.

[51 FR 308, Jan. 3, 1986]

### Subpart C—Procedures of the Office of Hearings and Appeals

AUTHORITY: Secs. 205, 221, and 702(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405, 421, and 902(a)(5)); 30 U.S.C. 923(b).

#### § 422.201 Material included in this subpart.

This subpart describes in general the procedures relating to hearings before an administrative law judge of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, review by the Appeals Council of the hearing decision or dismissal, and court review. It also describes the procedures for requesting such hearing or Appeals Council review, and for instituting a civil action for court review. For detailed provisions relating to hearings before an administrative law judge, review by the Appeals Council, and court review,

see the following references as appropriate to the matter involved:

(a) Title II of the Act, §§ 404.929 through 404.983 of this chapter;

(b) Title XVI of the Act, §§ 416.1429 through 416.1483 of this chapter;

(c) Title XVIII of the Act, 42 CFR 405.720 through 405.750, 498.17, 498.40 through 498.95, 417.260 through 417.263, 473.40 through 473.46, and 1001.128. For regulations relating to hearings under title XVIII for a provider of services dissatisfied with the intermediary's determination as to the amount of program reimbursement due to or from the provider, see 42 CFR 405.1809 through 405.1890. Such hearings are conducted by a hearing officer designated by the intermediary or by the Provider Reimbursement Review Board, as appropriate.

(d) Part B of title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 as amended, §§ 410.630 through 410.670.

[41 FR 53791, Dec. 9, 1976, as amended at 44 FR 34942, June 18, 1979; 54 FR 4268, Jan. 30, 1989]

#### § 422.203 Hearings.

(a) *Right to request a hearing.* (1) After a reconsidered or a revised determination (i) of a claim for benefits or any other right under title II of the Social Security Act; or (ii) of eligibility or amount of benefits or any other matter under title XVI of the Act, except where an initial or reconsidered determination involving an adverse action is revised, after such revised determination has been reconsidered; or (iii) as to entitlement under Part A or Part B of title XVIII of the Act, or as to the amount of benefits under Part A of such title XVIII (where the amount in controversy is \$100 or more); or of health services to be provided by a health maintenance organization without additional costs (where the amount in controversy is \$100 or more); or as to the amount of benefits under Part B of title XVIII (where the amount in controversy is \$500 or more); or as to a determination by a peer review organization (PRO) under title XI (where the amount in controversy is \$200 or more); or as to certain determinations made under section 1154, 1842(1), 1866(f)(2), or

1879 of the Act; any party to such a determination may, pursuant to the applicable section of the Act, file a written request for a hearing on the determination. After a reconsidered determination of a claim for benefits under Part B of title IV (Black Lung benefits) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 921 through 925), a party to the determination may file a written request for hearing on the determination.

(2) After (i) a reconsidered or revised determination that an institution, facility, agency, or clinic does not qualify as a provider of services, or (ii) a determination terminating an agreement with a provider of services, such institution, facility, agency, or clinic may, pursuant to section 1866 of the Act, file a written request for a hearing on the determination.

(3) After (i) a reconsidered or revised determination that an independent laboratory, supplier of portable X-ray services, or end-stage renal disease treatment facility or other person does not meet the conditions for coverage of its services or (ii) a determination that it no longer meets such conditions has been made, such laboratory, supplier, treatment facility may, under 42 CFR 498.40 of this chapter, file a written request for a hearing on the determination. (For hearing rights of independent laboratories, suppliers of portable X-ray services, and end-stage renal disease treatment facilities and other person see 42 CFR 498.5.)

(b) *Request for hearing.* (1) A request for a hearing under paragraph (a) of this section may be made on Form HA-501, "Request for Hearing," or Form HA-501.1, "Request for Hearing, Part A Hospital Insurance Benefits," or by any other writing requesting a hearing. The request shall be filed at an office of the Social Security Administration, usually a district office or a branch office, or at the Veterans' Administration Regional Office in the Philippines (except in title XVI cases), or at a hearing office of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, or with the Appeals Council. A qualified railroad retirement beneficiary may, if he prefers, file a request for a hearing under Part A of title XVIII with the Railroad Retirement Board. Form HA-501 may be ob-

tained from any social security district office or branch office, from the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Social Security Administration, P.O. Box 3200, Arlington, VA 22203, or from any other office where a request for a hearing may be filed.

(2) Unless for good cause shown an extension of time has been granted, a request for hearing must be filed within 60 days after the receipt of the notice of the reconsidered or revised determination, or after an initial determination described in 42 CFR 498.3(b) and (c) (see §§ 404.933, 410.631, and 416.1433 of this chapter and 42 CFR 405.722, 498.40, and 417.260.)

(c) *Hearing decision or other action.* Generally, the administrative law judge will either decide the case after hearing (unless hearing is waived) or, if appropriate, dismiss the request for hearing. With respect to a hearing on a determination under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the administrative law judge may certify the case with a recommended decision to the Appeals Council for decision. If the determination on which the hearing request is based relates to the amount of benefits under Part A or B of title XVIII of the Act, to health services to be provided by a health maintenance organization without additional costs, or to PRO determinations, the administrative law judge shall dismiss the request for hearing if he or she finds that the amount in controversy is less than \$100 for appeals arising under Part A or concerning health maintenance organization benefits; less than \$200 for appeals arising from PRO determinations; and less than \$500 for appeals arising under Part B. Hearing decisions must be based on the evidence of record, under applicable provisions of the law and regulations and appropriate precedents.

[41 FR 53791, Dec. 9, 1976, as amended at 44 FR 34942, June 18, 1979; 51 FR 308, Jan. 3, 1986; 54 FR 4268, Jan. 30, 1989]

#### § 422.205 Review by Appeals Council.

(a) Any party to a hearing decision or dismissal may request a review of such action by the Appeals Council. The Health Care Financing Administration or, as appropriate, the Office of the Inspector General is a party to a hearing

on a determination under § 422.203 (a)(2) and (a)(3) and to administrative appeals involving matters under section 1128(b)(6) of the Act (see 42 CFR 498.42). This request may be made on Form HA-520, "Request for Review of Hearing Decision/Order," or by any other writing specifically requesting review. Form HA-520 may be obtained from any social security district office or branch office, from the Office of Hearings and Appeals Social Security Administration, P.O. Box 3200, Arlington, VA 22203, or at any other office where a request for a hearing may be filed. (For time and place of filing, see §§ 404.968, 410.661, and 416.1468 of this chapter, and 42 CFR 405.724, 498.82 and 417.261.)

(b) Whenever the Appeals Council reviews a hearing decision under §§ 404.967 or 404.969, 410.662, 416.1467, or 416.1469 of this chapter, or 42 CFR 405.724 or 417.261 or 473.46 and the claimant does not appear personally or through representation before the Council to present oral argument, such review will be conducted by a panel of not less than two members of the Council designated in the manner prescribed by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Council. In the event of disagreement between a panel composed of only two members, the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, or his delegate, who must be a member of the Council, shall participate as a third member of the panel. When the claimant appears in person or through representation before the Council in the location designated by the Council, the review will be conducted by a panel of not less than three members of the Council designated in the manner prescribed by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman. Concurrence of a majority of a panel shall constitute the decision of the Appeals Council unless the case is considered as provided under paragraph (e) of this section.

(c) The denial of a request for review of a hearing decision concerning a determination under § 422.203(a)(1) shall be by such appeals officer or appeals officers or by such member or members of the Appeals Council as may be designated in the manner prescribed by the Chair or Deputy Chair. The denial of a request for review of a hearing dis-

missal, the dismissal of a request for review, the denial of a request for review of a hearing decision whenever such hearing decision after such denial would not be subject to judicial review as explained in § 422.210(a), or the refusal of a request to reopen a hearing or Appeals Council decision concerning a determination under § 422.203(a)(1) shall be by such member or members of the Appeals Council as may be designated in the manner prescribed by the Chair or Deputy Chair.

(d) A review or a denial of review of a hearing decision or a dismissal of a request for review with respect to requests by parties under 42 CFR 498.82 or 1001.128 in accordance with § 498.83 will be conducted by a panel of at least two members of the Appeals Council designated by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and one person from the U.S. Public Health Service designated by the Surgeon General, Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, or his delegate. This person shall serve on an ad hoc basis and shall be considered for this purpose as a member of the Appeals Council. Concurrence of a majority of the panel shall constitute the decision of the Appeals Council unless the case is considered as provided under paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) On call of the Chairman, the Appeals Council may meet en banc or a representative body of Appeals Council members may be convened to consider any case arising under paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of this section. Such representative body shall be comprised of a panel of not less than five members designated by the Chairman as deemed appropriate for the matter to be considered, including a person from the U.S. Public Health Service in a matter under paragraph (d) of this section. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall preside, or in his absence, the Chairman shall designate a member of the Appeals Council to preside. A majority vote of the designated panel, or of the members present and voting shall constitute the decision of the Appeals Council.

(f) The Chairman may designate an administrative law judge to serve as a member of the Appeals Council for

temporary assignments. An administrative law judge shall not be designated to serve as a member on any panel where such panel is conducting review on a case in which such individual has been previously involved.

[41 FR 53792, Dec. 9, 1976, as amended at 44 FR 34942, June 18, 1979; 54 FR 4268, Jan. 30, 1989; 60 FR 7120, Feb. 7, 1995]

**§ 422.210 Judicial review.**

(a) *General.* A claimant may obtain judicial review of a decision by an administrative law judge if the Appeals Council has denied the claimant's request for review, or of a decision by the Appeals Council when that is the final decision of the Secretary. A claimant may also obtain judicial review of a reconsidered determination, or of a decision of an administrative law judge, where, under the expedited appeals procedure, further administrative review is waived by agreement under §§ 404.926, 410.629d, or 416.1426 of this chapter or 42 CFR 405.718a-e as appropriate. For judicial review as to the amount of benefits under Part A or Part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, or of health services to be provided by a health maintenance organization without additional cost, the amount in controversy must be \$1,000 or more as provided under section 1869(b) and section 1876(c)(5)(B) of the Act. For judicial review of a determination by a PRO, the amount in controversy must be \$2,000 or more. An institution or agency may obtain judicial review of a decision by the Appeals Council that it is not a provider of services, or of a decision by the Appeals Council terminating an agreement entered into by the institution or agency with the Secretary (see section 1866(b)(2) of the Act). The Social Security Act does not provide for a right to judicial review of a final decision of the Secretary regarding the status of an entity which is not a "provider of services", such as an independent laboratory. Providers of services or other persons may seek judicial review of a final administrative determination made pursuant to section 1128(b)(6) of the Act. There are no amount-in-controversy limitations on these rights of appeal.

(b) *Court in which to institute civil action.* Any civil action described in para-

graph (a) of this section must be instituted in the district court of the United States for the judicial district in which the claimant resides or where such individual or institution or agency has his principal place of business. If the individual does not reside within any such judicial district, or if such individual or institution or agency does not have his principal place of business within any such judicial district, the civil action must be instituted in the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia.

(c) *Time for instituting civil action.* Any civil action described in paragraph (a) of this section must be instituted within 60 days after the Appeals Council's notice of denial of request for review of the administrative law judge's decision or notice of the decision by the Appeals Council is received by the individual, institution, or agency, except that this time may be extended by the Appeals Council upon a showing of good cause. For purposes of this section, the date of receipt of notice of denial of request for review of the presiding officer's decision or notice of the decision by the Appeals Council shall be presumed to be 5 days after the date of such notice, unless there is a reasonable showing to the contrary. Where pursuant to the expedited appeals procedures an agreement has been entered into under 42 CFR 405.718c, a civil action under section 205(g) of the Act must be commenced within 60 days from the date of the signing of such agreement by, or on behalf of, the Secretary, except where the time described in the first sentence of this paragraph (c) has been extended by the Secretary upon a showing of good cause. Where pursuant to the expedited appeals procedures an agreement has been entered into under §§ 404.926, 410.629d, or 416.1426 of this chapter, a civil action under section 205(g) of the Act must be commenced within 60 days after the date the individual receives notice (a signed copy of the agreement will be mailed to the individual and will constitute notice) of the signing of such agreement by, or on behalf of, the Secretary, except where the time described in this paragraph (c) has been extended by the Secretary upon a showing of good cause.

(d) *Proper defendant.* Where any civil action described in paragraph (a) of this section is instituted, the person holding the Office of Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in his official capacity, be the proper defendant. Any such civil action properly instituted shall survive notwithstanding any change of the person holding the Office of Secretary or any vacancy in such office. If the complaint is erroneously filed against the United States or against any agency, officer, or employee of the United States other than the Secretary, the plaintiff will be notified that he has named an incorrect defendant and will be granted 60 days from the date of receipt of such notice in which to commence the action against the correct defendant, the Secretary.

[41 FR 53792, Dec. 9, 1976, as amended at 44 FR 34942, June 18, 1979; 49 FR 46370, Nov. 26, 1984; 49 FR 48036, Dec. 10, 1984; 54 FR 4268, Jan. 30, 1989]

### Subpart D-E [Reserved]

### Subpart F—Applications and Related Forms

AUTHORITY: Secs. 205 and 702(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405 and 902(a)(5)). Section 422.512 is also issued under 30 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*

#### § 422.501 Applications and other forms used in Social Security Administration programs.

This subpart lists the applications and some of the related forms prescribed by the Social Security Administration for use by the public in applying for benefits under titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act and the black lung benefits program (Part B, title IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended).

[38 FR 11450, May 8, 1973]

#### § 422.505 Applications and related forms for retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs.

(a) *Applications.* To facilitate claims taking, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has designed applications to be used by the public when claiming

benefits under title II of the Social Security Act. Prescribed applications include our traditional printed forms and our computer printouts. The printouts are similar in content to the traditional application, forms, but are produced only after an SSA employee has keyed into a computer terminal the answers the applicant has given to the relevant questions. The information on the applications includes such items as date of birth, family relationship, work history, etc. The printout may omit questions that the computer recognizes as irrelevant as a result of the answers to other questions. Phrasing may differ from that on the traditional printed forms.

(b) *Related forms.* The following are some related forms:

SSA-3—Husband's Certification. (For use in connection with Application for Wife's Insurance Benefits, Form SSA-2.)

SSA-8a—Supplement to Form SSA-8 (Application for Lump-Sum Death Payment). (For use with a funeral home's application for lump-sum death payment, Form SSA-8.)

SSA-11—Application to be Selected as Payee. (For use when the individual proposing to be substituted for current payee files application to receive payment of benefits on behalf of himself, a disabled child or child under age 22, a student beneficiary, or an incompetent beneficiary.)

SSA-15—Wife's Certification. (For use in connection with Application for Husband's Insurance Benefits, Form SSA-14.)

SSA-17—Statement Regarding Disability (By Widow, Widower, Surviving Divorced Wife, or Child). (For use in connection with a request for payment of benefits due to disability by a widow, widower, surviving divorced wife, or a child who is age 18 or over and is under a disability which began before age 22.)

SSA-21—Supplement to Claim of Person Outside of the United States. (To be completed by or on behalf of a person who is, was, or will be outside the United States.)

SSA-22—Supplement to Claim on Behalf of Child Outside the United States. (To be completed for a child who is, was, or will be outside the United States.)

SSA-25—Certificate of Election for Reduced Wife's Benefits. (For use by a wife age 62 through 64 who has an entitled child in her care and elects to receive reduced benefits for months during which she will not have a child in her care.)

SSA-401—Medical History and Disability Report.

SSA-401A—Report of Disability Interview—Widow (Divorced Wife) and Widower.

- SSA-401CH—Report of Childhood Disability Interview. (Forms SSA-401, SSA-401A, and SSA-401CH are for use in documenting a claimant's medical history together with the course and effects of the claimant's vocational history.)
- SSA-717—Statement of Person Requesting Payment on Behalf of Estate.
- SSA-718—Consent by Relative for Payment to Individual on Behalf of Estate.
- SSA-719—Statement of Burial Expenses by Funeral Director. (To be completed by the funeral director in connection with an individual's (other than a widow or widower who was living in the same household with the insured individual at the time of his death) application authorizing direct payment of the lump-sum death payment to the funeral director.) (See Form SSA-8 under § 422.505(a).)
- SSA-721—Statement of Death by Funeral Director. (This form may be used as evidence of death (see § 404.704 of this chapter).)
- SSA-760—Certificate of Support (Parent's, Husband's, or Widower's).
- SSA-766—Statement of Self-Employment Income. (For use by a claimant to establish insured status based on self-employment income in the current year.)
- SSA-780—Certificate of Applicant for Benefits on Behalf of Another. (This form accompanies an individual's or institution's request to be selected payee for a beneficiary and is used to determine the requester's interest in the welfare of the beneficiary.)
- SSA-786—Physician's Statement. (For use in requesting medical evidence of a beneficiary's capacity to manage benefits.)
- SSA-787—Medical Officer's Statement. (For use in requesting medical evidence of a beneficiary's capacity to manage benefits from an institution.)
- SSA-823—Request for Medical Evidence to Hospital or Institution. (For use in requesting information regarding hospitalization or treatment of a disability claimant.)
- SSA-824—Report on Individual With Mental Impairment. (For use in requesting information regarding a disability claimant's mental impairment.)
- SSA-826—Medical Report—General. (For use in obtaining medical information concerning a disability claimant.)
- SSA-826.1—Medical Report—Pulmonary Tuberculosis. (For use in requesting medical evidence from a hospital in which a disability claimant is confined for the treatment of tuberculosis.)
- SSA-827—Applicant's Request for Medical Information. (To be completed by a disability claimant to authorize release of medical information.)
- SSA-1001—Statement of Employer. (For use by an employer to provide evidence of quarterly wage payments.)
- SSA-1002—Statement of Agricultural Employer. (For use by an employer to provide evidence of annual wage payments for agricultural work.)
- SSA-1372—Student's Statement Regarding School Attendance. (For use in connection with a request for payment of child's insurance benefits for a child who is age 18 through 21 and a full-time student.)
- SSA-1372A—Certification by School Official of Student's Full-time Attendance. (For use with requests for child's insurance benefits for students age 18 through 21.)
- SSA-1372A(F)—Statement to U.S. Social Security Administration by School Outside the United States About Student's Attendance. (For use in connection with a request for payment of child's insurance benefits for a child who is age 18 through 21 and a full-time student outside the United States.)
- SSA-1388—Report of Student Beneficiary at End of School Year. (For use in confirming continuing eligibility to benefits or indicating the need for suspension or termination action.)
- SSA-1442—Statement by Divorced Woman Regarding Contributions and Support From Her Former Husband.
- SSA-1724—Claim for Amounts Due in the Case of a Deceased Beneficiary. (For use in requesting amounts payable under title II to a deceased beneficiary.)
- SSA-4111—Certificate of Election for Reduced Widow(er)'s Benefits. (For use by applicants for certain reduced widow's or widower's benefits.)
- SSA-7156—Farm Self-Employment Questionnaire. (For use in connection with claims for benefits based on farm income to determine whether the income is covered under the Social Security Act.)
- SSA-7160—Employment Relationship Questionnaire. (For use by an individual and the alleged employer to determine the individual's employment status.)
- DDS-7163—Questionnaire About Employment or Self-Employment Outside United States. (To be completed by or on behalf of a beneficiary who is, was, or will be employed or self-employed outside the United States.)
- SSA-7203—Sick Pay and Plan or System Questionnaire. (To be completed by an employer for the purpose of determining the nature of special payments to an employee.)

[38 FR 11450, May 8, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 41952, Nov. 20, 1986; 55 FR 25826, June 25, 1990]

**§ 422.510 Applications and related forms used in the health insurance for the aged program.**

(a) *Application forms.* The following forms are prescribed for use in applying

for entitlement to benefits under the health insurance for the aged program:

SSA-18—Application for Hospital Insurance Entitlement. (For use by individuals who are not entitled to retirement benefits under title II of the Social Security Act or under the Railroad Retirement Act. This form may also be used for enrollment in the supplementary medical insurance benefits plan.)

SSA-40—Application for Enrollment in the Supplementary Medical Insurance Program. (This form is mailed directly to beneficiaries at the beginning of their initial enrollment period.)

SSA-40A—Application for Enrollment in Supplementary Medical Insurance. (For use by civil service employees who are not eligible for enrollment in the hospital insurance plan.)

SSA-40B—Application for Medical Insurance. (For general use in requesting medical insurance protection.)

SSA-40C—Application for Enrollment. (This form is mailed to beneficiaries as a follow-up on Form SSA-40 (Application for Enrollment in the Supplementary Medical Insurance Program).)

SSA-40F—Application for Medical Insurance. (For use by beneficiaries residing outside the United States.)

An individual who upon attainment of age 65 is entitled to a monthly benefit based on application OA-C1, SSA-2, OA-C7, OA-C10, SSA-10A, OA-C13, or SSA-14 is automatically entitled to hospital insurance protection. (For conditions of entitlement to hospital insurance benefits, see 42 CFR part 405, subpart A. For medical insurance protection, an applicant must request supplementary medical insurance coverage (see Forms SSA-40, SSA-40A, SSA-40B, SSA-40C, and SSA-40F under § 422.510(a)). (For conditions of entitlement to supplementary medical insurance benefits, see 42 CFR part 405, subpart B.)

(b) *Related forms.* The following are the prescribed forms for use in requesting payment for services under the hospital insurance benefits program and the supplementary medical insurance benefits program and other related forms:

SSA-1453—Inpatient Hospital and Extended Care Admission and Billing. (To be completed by hospital for payment of hospital expenses for treatment of patient confined in hospital.)

SSA-1483—Provider Billing for Medical and Other Health Services. (To be completed by hospital for payment of hospital expenses for treatment of patient who is not confined in the hospital.)

SSA-1484—Explanation of Accommodation Furnished. (To be completed by the hospital to explain accommodation of a patient in other than a semiprivate (two- to four-bed) room.)

SSA-1486—Inpatient Admission and Billing—Christian Science Sanatorium. (To be completed by a Christian Science sanatorium for payment for treatment of patients confined in the sanatorium.)

SSA-1487—Home Health Agency Report and Billing. (For use by an organization providing home health services.)

SSA-1490—Request for Medicare Payment. (For use by patient or physician to request payment for medical expenses.)

SSA-1554—Provider Billing for Patient Services by Physicians. (For use by hospital for payment for services provided by hospital-based physicians.)

SSA-1556—Prepayment Plan for Group Medical Practices Dealing Through a Carrier. (For use by organizations (which have been determined to be group practice prepayment plans for medicare purposes) for reimbursement for medical services provided to beneficiaries.)

SSA-1660—Request for Information—Medicare Payment For Services to a Patient Now Deceased. (For use in requesting amounts payable under title XVIII to a deceased beneficiary.)

SSA-1739—Request for Enrollment Card Information by Foreign Beneficiary. (Used to notify beneficiaries approaching age 65 who reside in foreign countries that they are eligible to enroll for SMI. They return this form if they wish additional information and an application, SSA-40F.)

SSA-1966—Health Insurance Card. (This card is issued to a person entitled to benefits under the health insurance for the aged program and designates whether he is entitled to hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits or both.)

SSA-1980—Carrier or Intermediary Request for SSA Assistance.

SSA-2384—Third Party Premium Billing Request. (For use by a nonbeneficiary enrollee who must pay premiums by direct remittance and is having his premium notices sent to a third party to assure continuance of supplementary medical insurance.)

[32 FR 18030, Dec. 16, 1967, as amended at 38 FR 11451, May 8, 1973; 44 FR 34943, June 18, 1979]

**§ 422.512 Applications and related forms used in the black lung benefits program.**

(a) *Application forms.* The following forms are prescribed for use in applying for entitlement to benefits under Part B of title IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended by the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1972:

SSA-46—Application for Benefits Under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as Amended (Coal Miner's Claim of Total Disability).

SSA-47—Application for Benefits Under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as Amended (Widow's Claim).

SSA-48—Application for Benefits Under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as Amended (Child's Claim).

SSA-49—Application for Benefits Under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as Amended (Parent's, Brother's and Sister's Claim).

(b) *Related forms.* The following are some related forms:

SSA-50—Request To Be Selected as Payee. (For use when the individual proposing to be substituted for current payee files application to receive payment of black lung benefits on behalf of himself, a disabled child or child under age 18, a student beneficiary, or an incompetent beneficiary.)

SSA-2179—Report by Person Entitled to Black Lung Benefits. (For use by person entitled to black lung benefits to report events which affect benefits.)

SAA-2210—Statement of Coal Mine Employment by United Mine Workers of America.

SSA-2325—Medical Report (Pneumoconiosis). [38 FR 11451, May 8, 1973]

**§ 422.515 Forms used for withdrawal, reconsideration and other appeals, and appointment of representative.**

The following is a list of forms prescribed by the Social Security Administration for use by the public to request a withdrawal of an application, a reconsideration of an initial determination, a hearing, a review of an administrative law judge's decision, or for use where a person is authorized to represent a claimant.

SSA-521—Request for Withdrawal of Application. (For use by an individual to cancel his application.)

SSA-561—Request for Reconsideration. (For use by an individual who disagrees with an initial determination concerning (a) entitlement to benefits or any other right

under title II of the Social Security Act, or (b) entitlement to hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits under title XVIII of the act, or (c) entitlement to black lung benefits under title IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act. See § 422.140 for a discussion of the reconsideration procedure.)

SSA-1696—Appointment of Representative. (For use by person other than an attorney authorized by a claimant to act for him in a claim or related matter.)

SSA-1763—Request for Termination of Supplementary Medical Insurance. (For use by an enrollee in requesting that his supplementary medical insurance coverage be terminated.)

SSA-1965—Request for Hearing—Part B Medicare Claim. (For use by an individual enrollee or his assignee to obtain a hearing before a hearing officer designated by the carrier concerning benefits payable under part B of title XVIII.)

HA-501—Request for Hearing. (For use by an individual or institution to obtain a hearing on a claim for title II benefits before an administrative law judge of the Social Security Administration.)

NOTE.— This form is also used to request a hearing regarding entitlement to hospital insurance benefits or supplementary medical insurance benefits under title XVIII of the act. (See § 422.203 for a discussion of the hearing procedure.)

HA-501.1—Request for Hearing—Part A Health Insurance. (For use by an individual or institution to obtain a hearing before an administrative law judge of the Social Security Administration concerning the amount of hospital insurance benefits under title XVIII.)

HA-512.1—Notice by Attorney of Appointment as Representative. (For use by an attorney authorized by a claimant to act for him in a claim or related matter.)

HA-520—Request for Review of Hearing Examiner's Action. (For use by an individual or institution to obtain a review of a decision by an administrative law judge of the Social Security Administration.)

[38 FR 11452, May 8, 1973]

**§ 422.520 Forms related to maintenance of earnings records.**

The following forms are used by the Social Security Administration and by the public in connection with the maintenance of earnings records of wage-earners and self-employed persons:

SS-4—Application for Employer Identification Number.

SS-4A—Agricultural Employer's Application. (For use by employers of agricultural

workers to request an employer identification number under the FICA.)

SS-5—Application for a Social Security Number (or Replacement of Lost Card).

SS-15—Certificate Waiving Exemption From Taxes Under the FICA. (For use by certain nonprofit organizations requesting coverage of its employees.)

SS-15a—List of Concurring Employees. (To be signed by each employee who concurs in the filing of the Certificate Waiving Exemption From Taxes Under the FICA, Form SS-15.)

SSI-21—Social Security and Your Household Employee. (For use by employers of household workers to request information from the Internal Revenue Service Center regarding filing employee tax returns.)

OA-702—Social Security Number Card.

Form 2031—Waiver Certificate To Elect Social Security Coverage for Use by Ministers, Certain Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners.

Form 4029—Application for Exemption from Tax on Self-Employment Income and Waiver of Benefits. (To be completed by self-employed individuals who are members of certain recognized religious sects (or division thereof) and do not wish to pay FICA taxes or participate in the programs provided under titles II and XVIII.)

Form 4361—Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners.

Form 4415—Election To Exempt From Self-Employment Coverage Fees Received by Certain Public Officers and Employees of a State or Political Subdivision Thereof.

OAAN-5028—Evidence of Application for Social Security Number Card.

OAAN-7003—Request for Change in Social Security Records. (For use by an individual to change information given on original application for a social security number.)

OAR-7004—Request for Statement of Earnings. (For use by worker to obtain a statement of earnings recorded in his earnings record.)

OAR-7008—Request for Correction of Earnings Record. (For use by an individual who wishes to have his earnings record revised.)

SSA-7011—Statement of Employer. (For use by an employer to provide evidence of wage payments in cases of a wage discrepancy in an individual's earnings record.)

[38 FR 11452, May 8, 1973]

**§ 422.525 Where applications and other forms are available.**

All applications and related forms prescribed for use in the programs administered by the Social Security Administration pursuant to the provi-

sions of titles II and XVIII of the act, and Part B of title IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 are printed under the specifications of the Administration and distributed free of charge to the public, institutions, or organizations for the purposes described therein. All prescribed forms can be obtained upon request from any social security district office or branch office (see § 422.5). Forms appropriate for use in requesting payment for services provided under the health insurance for the aged and disabled programs can also be obtained from the intermediaries or carriers (organizations under contract with the Social Security Administration to make payment for such services) without charge. Form 2031 (Waiver Certificate to Elect Social Security Coverage for Use by Ministers, Certain Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners), Form 4029 (Application for Exemption From Tax on Self-Employment Income and Waiver of Benefits), Form 4361 (Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners), Form 4415 (Election to Exempt From Self-Employment Coverage Fees Received by Certain Public Officers and Employees of a State or a Political Subdivision Thereof), Form SS-4 (Application for Employer Identification Number), Form SS-4A (Agricultural Employer's Application for Identification Number), Form SS-5 (Application for a Social Security Number (or Replacement of Lost Card)), Form SS-15 (Certificate Waiving Exemption From Taxes Under the FICA), and Form SS-15a (List of Concurring Employees) can also be obtained without charge from offices of the Internal Revenue Service. For other offices where applications and certain other forms can be obtained, see subparts B and C of this part 422.

[38 FR 11452, May 8, 1973]

**§ 422.527 Private printing and modification of prescribed applications and other forms.**

Any person, institution, or organization wishing to reproduce, duplicate, or privately print any application or

other form prescribed by the Administration should obtain the prior approval of the Administration. Requests for approval to so reproduce any prescribed form must be in writing and include the reason or need for such reproduction, the intended user of the form, the proposed modifications, if any, the proposed format, with printing or other specifications, the type of automatic data processing machinery (e.g., printer, burster, mail handling), if any, for which the form is being designed, estimated printing quantity, estimated cost per thousand, estimated annual usage, and such other pertinent information as may be required by the Administration. All requests are to be forwarded to: Social Security Administration, Printing and Records Management Branch, Baltimore, MD 21235.

[33 FR 11281, Aug. 8, 1968]

### Subpart G—Administrative Review Process Under the Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act of 1992

AUTHORITY: 26 U.S.C. 9701-9708.

SOURCE: 58 FR 52916, Oct. 13, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 422.601 Scope and purpose.

The regulations in this subpart describe how the Social Security Administration (SSA) will conduct reviews of assignments it makes under provisions of the Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act of 1992 (the Coal Act). Under the Coal Act, certain retired coal miners and their eligible family members (beneficiaries) are assigned to particular coal operators (or related persons). These operators are then responsible for paying the annual health and death benefit premiums for these beneficiaries as well as the annual premiums for certain unassigned coal miners and eligible members of their families. We will notify the assigned operators of these assignments and give each operator an opportunity to request detailed information about an assignment and to request review of an assignment. We also inform the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Combined Benefit Fund Trustees of each assignment made and the unas-

signed beneficiaries so they can assess appropriate annual premiums against the assigned operators. This subpart explains how assigned operators may request such additional information, how they may request review of an assignment, and how reviews will be conducted.

#### § 422.602 Terms used in this subpart.

*Assignment* means our selection of the coal operator or related person to be charged with the responsibility of paying the annual health and death benefit premiums of certain coal miners and their eligible family members.

*Beneficiary* means either a coal industry retiree who, on July 20, 1992, was eligible to receive, and receiving, benefits as an eligible individual under the 1950 or the 1974 UMWA Benefit Plan, or an individual who was eligible to receive, and receiving, benefits on July 20, 1992 as an eligible relative of a coal industry retiree.

*Evidence of a prima facie case of error* means documentary evidence, records, and written statements submitted to us by the assigned operator (or related person) that, standing alone, shows our assignment was in error. The evidence submitted must, when considered by itself without reference to other contradictory evidence that may be in our possession, be sufficient to persuade a reasonable person that the assignment was erroneous. Examples of evidence that may establish a prima facie case of error include copies of Federal, State, or local government tax records; legal documents such as business incorporation, merger, and bankruptcy papers; health and safety reports filed with Federal or State agencies that regulate mining activities; payroll and other employment business records; and information provided in trade journals and newspapers.

*A related person to a signatory operator* means a person or entity which as of July 20, 1992, or, if earlier, the time immediately before the coal operator ceased to be in business, was a member of a controlled group of corporations which included the signatory operator, or was a trade or business which was under common control with a signatory operator, or had a partnership interest (other than as a limited partner)

or joint venture with a signatory operator in a business within the coal industry which employed eligible beneficiaries, or is a successor in interest to a person who was a related person.

*We* or *us* refers to the Social Security Administration, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary's delegate, as appropriate.

*You* as used in this subpart refers to the coal operator (or related person) assigned premium responsibility for a specific beneficiary under the Coal Act.

**§ 422.603 Overview of the review process.**

Our notice of assignment will inform you as the assigned operator (or related person) which beneficiaries have been assigned to you, the reason for the assignment, and the dates of employment on which the assignment was based. The notice will explain that, if you disagree with the assignment for any beneficiary listed in the notice of assignment, you may request from us detailed information as to the work history of the miner and the basis for the assignment. Such request must be filed with us within 30 days after you receive the notice of assignment, as explained in § 422.604. The notice will also explain that if you still disagree with the assignment after you have received the detailed information, you may submit evidence that shows there is a prima facie case of error in that assignment and request review. Such request must be filed with us within 30 days after you receive the detailed information, as explained in § 422.605. Alternatively, you may request review within 30 days after you receive the notice of assignment, even if you have not first requested the detailed information. In that case, you still may request the detailed information within that 30-day period. (See § 422.606(c) for further details.)

**§ 422.604 Request for detailed information.**

(a) *General.* After you receive our notice of assignment listing the beneficiaries for whom you have premium responsibility, you may request detailed information as to the work histories of any of the listed miners and

the basis for the assignment. Your request for detailed information must:

- (1) Be in writing;
- (2) Be filed with us within 30 days of receipt of that notice of assignment. Unless you submit evidence showing a later receipt of the notice, we will assume the notice was received by you within 5 days of the date appearing on the notice. We will consider the request to be filed as of the date we receive it. However, if we receive the request after the 30-day period, the postmark date on the envelope may be used as the filing date. If there is no postmark or the postmark is illegible, the filing date will be deemed to be the fifth day prior to the day we received the request; and
- (3) Identify the individual miners about whom you are requesting the detailed information.

(b) *The detailed information we will provide.* We will send you detailed information as to the work history and the basis for the assignment for each miner about whom you requested such information. This information will include the name and address of each employer for whom the miner has worked since 1978 or since 1946 (whichever period is appropriate), the amount of wages paid by each employer and the period for which the wages were reported. We will send you the detailed information with a notice informing you that you have 30 days from the date you receive the information to submit to SSA evidence of a prima facie case of error (as defined in § 422.602) and request review of the assignment if you have not already requested review. The notice will also inform you that, if you are seeking evidence to make a case of prima facie error, you may include with a timely filed request for review a written request for additional time to obtain and submit such evidence to us. Under these circumstances, you will have 90 days from the date of your request to submit the evidence before we determine whether we will review the assignment.

**§ 422.605 Request for review.**

We will review an assignment if you request review and show that there is a prima facie case of error regarding the assignment. This review is a review on

the record and will not entail a face-to-face hearing. We will review an assignment if:

(a) You are an assigned operator (or related person);

(b) Your request is in writing and states your reasons for believing the assignment is erroneous;

(c) Your request is filed with us no later than 30 days from the date you received the detailed information described in § 422.604, or no later than 30 days from the date you received the notice of assignment if you choose not to request detailed information. Unless you submit evidence showing a later receipt of the notice, we will assume you received the detailed information or the notice of assignment within 5 days of the date shown thereon. We will consider the request to be filed as of the date we receive it. However, if we receive the request after the 30-day period, the postmark date on the envelope may be used as the filing date. If there is no postmark or the postmark is illegible, the filing date will be deemed to be the fifth day prior to the day we received the request; and

(d) Your request is accompanied by evidence establishing a prima facie case of error regarding the assignment. If your request for review includes a request for additional time to submit such evidence, we will give you an additional 90 days from the date of your request for review to submit such evidence to us.

**§ 422.606 Processing the request for review.**

Upon receipt of your written request for review of an assignment and where relevant, the expiration of any additional times allowed under §§ 422.605(d) and 422.606(c), we will take the following action:

(a) *Request not timely filed.* If your request is not filed within the time limits set out in § 422.605(c), we will deny your request for review on that basis and send you a notice explaining that we have taken this action;

(b) *Lack of evidence.* If your request is timely filed under § 422.605(c) but you have not provided evidence constituting a prima facie case of error, we will deny your request for review on that

basis and send you a notice explaining that we have taken this action;

(c) *Request for review without requesting detailed information.* If your request is filed within 30 days after you received the notice of assignment and you have not requested detailed information, we will not process your request until at least 30 days after the date you received the notice of assignment. You may still request detailed information within that 30-day period, in which case we will not process your request for review until at least 30 days after you received the detailed information, so that you may submit additional evidence if you wish;

(d) *Reviewing the evidence.* If your request meets the filing requirements of § 422.605 and is accompanied by evidence constituting a prima facie case of error, we will review the assignment. We will review all evidence submitted with your request for review, together with the evidence used in making the assignment. An SSA employee who was not involved in the original assignment will perform the review. The review will be a review on the record and will not involve a face-to-face hearing.

(e) *Original decision correct.* If, following this review of the evidence you have submitted and the evidence in our file, we make a determination that the assignment is correct, we will send you a notice explaining the basis for our decision. We will not review the decision again, except as provided in § 422.607.

(f) *Original decision erroneous.* If, following this review of the evidence you have submitted and the evidence in our file, we make a determination that the assignment is erroneous, we will send you a notice to this effect. We will then determine who the correct operator is and assign the affected beneficiary(s) to that coal operator (or related person). If no assigned operator can be identified, the affected beneficiary(s) will be treated as "unassigned." We will notify the UMWA Combined Benefit Fund Trustees of the review decision so that any premium liability of the initial assigned operator can be adjusted.

**§ 422.607 Limited reopening of assignments.**

On our own initiative, we may reopen and revise an assignment, whether or not it has been reviewed as described in this subpart, under the following conditions:

(a) The assignment reflects an error on the face of our records or the assignment was based upon fraud; and

(b) We sent to the assigned operator (or related person) notice of the assignment within 12 months of the time we decided to reopen that assignment.

**PART 423—SERVICE OF PROCESS**

Sec.

423.1 Suits against the Social Security Administration and its employees in their official capacities.

423.3 Other process directed to the Social Security Administration or the Commissioner.

423.5 Process against Social Security Administration officials in their individual capacities.

423.7 Acknowledgment of mailed process.

423.9 Effect of regulations in this part.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 701 and 702(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 901 and 902(a)(5)).

SOURCE: 60 FR 18992, Apr. 14, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 423.1 Suits against the Social Security Administration and its employees in their official capacities.**

Summonses and complaints to be served by mail on the Social Security Administration, the Commissioner of Social Security, or other employees of the Social Security Administration in their official capacities should be sent to the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, Room 611, Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235.

**§ 423.3 Other process directed to the Social Security Administration or the Commissioner.**

Subpoenas and other process (other than summonses and complaints) that are required to be served on the Social Security Administration or the Commissioner of Social Security in his or

her official capacity should be served as follows:

(a) If authorized by law to be served by mail, any mailed process should be sent to the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, Room 611, Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235.

(b) If served by an individual, the process should be delivered to the mail room staff in the Office of the General Counsel, Room 611, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235 or, in the absence of that staff, to any Deputy General Counsel or secretary to any Deputy General Counsel of the Social Security Administration.

**§ 423.5 Process against Social Security Administration officials in their individual capacities.**

Process to be served on Social Security Administration officials in their individual capacities must be served in compliance with the requirements for service of process on individuals who are not governmental officials. The Office of the General Counsel is authorized but not required to accept process to be served on Social Security Administration officials in their individual capacities if the suit relates to an employee's official duties.

**§ 423.7 Acknowledgment of mailed process.**

The Social Security Administration will not provide a receipt or other acknowledgment of process received, except for a return receipt associated with certified mail and, where required, the acknowledgment described in rule 4(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 U.S.C. App. 4(e)).

**§ 423.9 Effect of regulations in this part.**

The regulations in this part are intended solely to identify Social Security Administration officials who are authorized to accept service of process. Litigants must comply with all requirements pertaining to service of process that are established by statute and court rule even though they are not repeated in this part.