

a registration for a conveyance is not the owner if such person does not have sufficient actual beneficial interest in the conveyance. In the consideration of a petition for relief from forfeiture the mere existence of a community property interest without proof of financial contribution to the purchase of a conveyance will not be deemed a property interest. Ownership is the interest that an owner has in a conveyance.

(l) The term *person* means an individual, partnership, corporation, joint business enterprise, or other entity capable of owning a conveyance.

(m) The term *petitioner* means a person filing a petition for relief from forfeiture of a seized conveyance.

(n) The term *property interest* means ownership, lien, or other legally cognizable interest in or legal entitlement to possession of a conveyance existing on the date of seizure of the conveyance. A person who has complied with the state formalities of a title or a registration for a conveyance may not have sufficient actual beneficial interest or other legally cognizable interest in a conveyance. In the consideration of a petition for relief from forfeiture the mere existence of a community property interest without proof of financial contribution to the purchase of a conveyance will not be deemed a property interest.

(o) The term *record* means an arrest for a related crime followed by a conviction, except that a single arrest and conviction and the expiration of any sentence imposed as a result of the conviction, all of which occurred more than ten years prior to the date a claimant acquired a property interest in the seized or forfeited conveyance, is not considered a record; *provided* that two convictions of related crimes shall always be considered a record regardless of when the convictions occurred; *and provided* that the regional commissioner may consider as constituting a record an arrest for a related crime or series of arrests for related crimes in which the charge or charges were subsequently dismissed for reasons other than acquittal or lack of evidence.

(p) The term *regional commissioner* means the Regional Commissioner of the Service for the region in which a

conveyance is seized, or the designee of that Regional Commissioner.

(q) The term *related crime* means any crime similar in nature to or related to the illegal bringing in, harboring, transportation, entry, reentry, or importation of aliens.

(r) The term *reputation* means repute for related crimes with a law enforcement agency or among law enforcement officers or in the community generally, including any pertinent neighborhood or other area.

(s) The term *seizure* means the act of taking a conveyance into the custody of the Service for the express purpose of considering forfeiture pursuant to section 274(b) of the Act and this part.

(t) The term *state* means any state or any like political division of any geographical territory defined in section 101(a)(38) of the Act as being part of the United States or any state or any like political division of any geographical territory of any other nation or territory, unless otherwise limited in this part.

(u) The term *sufficient actual beneficial interest* means the interest in a conveyance of a beneficial owner.

(v) The term *violator* means a person whose use of or actions with regard to a conveyance in violation of the law subjected the conveyance to seizure pursuant to section 274(b) of the Act and this part.

§274.2 Officers authorized to seize conveyances.

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 274(b) of the Act and this part, any immigration officer is authorized and designated by the Commissioner to seize a conveyance.

§274.3 Custody and duties of custodian.

Any conveyance seized pursuant to section 274(b) of the Act and this part shall be stored in a location designated by the custodian. The custodian is to receive and maintain in storage all conveyances seized and all conveyances forfeited pursuant to section 274(b) of the Act and this part. After the custodian is notified that all proceedings, administrative or judicial, have been completed and that all petitions for relief from forfeiture have been finally