

under this § 10.76, the practitioner may ask the Director to issue a complaint under § 10.54. The request must be made in writing within 2 years from the date on which the practitioner's suspension commences. The Director must issue a complaint requested under this paragraph within 30 calendar days of receiving the request.

[59 FR 31528, June 20, 1994]

Subpart D—Rules Applicable to Disqualification of Appraisers

SOURCE: 50 FR 42016, Oct. 17, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 10.77 Authority to disqualify; effect of disqualification.

(a) *Authority to disqualify.* Pursuant to section 156 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, 98 Stat. 695, amending 31 U.S.C. 330, the Secretary of the Treasury, after due notice and opportunity for hearing may disqualify any appraiser with respect to whom a penalty has been assessed after July 18, 1984, under section 6701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C. 6701(a)).

(b) *Effect of disqualification.* If any appraiser is disqualified pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 330 and this subpart:

(1) Appraisals by such appraiser shall not have any probative effect in any administrative proceeding before the Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service; and

(2) Such appraiser shall be barred from presenting evidence or testimony in any such administrative proceeding. Paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall apply to appraisals made by such appraiser after the effective date of disqualification, but shall not apply to appraisals made by the appraiser on or before such date. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, an appraisal otherwise barred from admission into evidence pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section may be admitted into evidence solely for the purpose of determining the taxpayer's reliance in good faith on such appraisal. Paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall apply to the presentation of testimony or evidence in any administrative proceeding after the date of such disqualification, re-

gardless of whether such testimony or evidence would pertain to an appraisal made prior to such date.

§ 10.78 Institution of proceeding.

(a) *In general.* Whenever the Director of Practice is advised or becomes aware that a penalty has been assessed against an appraiser under 26 U.S.C. 6701(a), he/she may reprimand such person or institute a proceeding for disqualification of such appraiser through the filing of a complaint. Irrespective of whether a proceeding for disqualification has been instituted against an appraiser, the Director of Practice may confer with an appraiser against whom such a penalty has been assessed concerning such penalty.

(b) *Voluntary disqualification.* In order to avoid the initiation or conclusion of a disqualification proceeding, an appraiser may offer his/her consent to disqualification. The Director of Practice, in his/her discretion, may disqualify an appraiser in accordance with the consent offered.

§ 10.79 Contents of complaint.

(a) *Charges.* A proceeding for disqualification of an appraiser shall be instituted through the filing of a complaint, which shall give a plain and concise description of the allegations that constitute the basis for the proceeding. A complaint shall be deemed sufficient if it refers to the penalty previously imposed on the respondent under section 6701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C. 6701(a)), and advises him/her of the institution of the proceeding.

(b) *Demand for answer.* In the complaint, or in a separate paper attached to the complaint, notification shall be given of the place and time within which the respondent shall file his/her answer, which time shall not be less than 15 days from the date of service of the complaint, and notice shall be given that a decision by default may be rendered against the respondent in the event there is failure to file an answer.

§ 10.80 Service of complaint and other papers.

(a) *Complaint.* The complaint or a copy thereof may be served upon the respondent by certified mail, or first-

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class mail as hereinafter provided, by delivering it to the respondent or his/her attorney or agent of record either in person or by leaving it at the office or place of business of the respondent, attorney or agent, or in any other manner that has been agreed to by the respondent. Where the service is by certified mail, the return post office receipt duly signed by or on behalf of the respondent shall be proof of service. If the certified mail is not claimed or accepted by the respondent and is returned undelivered, complete service may be made by mailing the complaint to the respondent by first-class mail, addressed to the respondent at the last address known to the Director of Practice. If service is made upon the respondent in person or by leaving the complaint at the office or place of business of the respondent, the verified return by the person making service, setting forth the manner of service, shall be proof of such service.

(b) *Service of papers other than complaint.* Any paper other than the complaint may be served as provided in paragraph (a) of this section or by mailing the paper by first-class mail to the respondent at the last address known to the Director of Practice, or by mailing the paper by first-class mail to the respondent's attorney or agent of record. Such mailing shall constitute complete service. Notices may be served upon the respondent or his/her attorney or agent of record by telegraph.

(c) *Filing of papers.* Whenever the filing of a paper is required or permitted in connection with a disqualification proceeding under this subpart or by rule or order of the Administrative Law Judge, the paper shall be filed with the Director of Practice, Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC 29224. All papers shall be filed in duplicate.

§ 10.81 Answer.

(a) *Filing.* The respondent's answer shall be filed in writing within the time specified in the complaint or notice of institution of the proceeding, unless on application the time is extended by the Director of Practice or the Administrative Law Judge. The an-

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swer shall be filed in duplicate with the Director of Practice.

(b) *Contents.* The answer shall contain a statement of facts that constitute the grounds of defense, and it shall specifically admit or deny each allegation set forth in the complaint, except that the respondent shall not deny a material allegation in the complaint that he/she knows to be true, or state that he/she is without sufficient information to form a belief when in fact he/she possesses such information.

(c) *Failure to deny or answer allegations in the complaint.* Every allegation in the complaint which is not denied in the answer shall be deemed to be admitted and may be considered as proved, and no further evidence in respect of such allegation need be adduced at a hearing. Failure to file an answer within the time prescribed in the notice to the respondent, except as the time for answer is extended by the Director of Practice or the Administrative Law Judge, shall constitute an admission of the allegations of the complaint and a waiver of hearing, and the Administrative Law Judge may make his/her decision by default without a hearing or further procedure.

§ 10.82 Supplemental charges.

If it appears that the respondent in his/her answer, falsely and in bad faith, denies a material allegation of fact in the complaint or states that the respondent has no knowledge sufficient to form a belief, when he/she in fact possesses such information, or if it appears that the respondent has knowingly introduced false testimony during proceedings for his/her disqualification, the Director of Practice may thereupon file supplemental charges against the respondent. Such supplemental charges may be tried with other charges in the case, provided the respondent is given due notice thereof and is afforded an opportunity to prepare a defense thereto.

§ 10.83 Reply to answer.

No reply to the respondent's answer shall be required, and any new matter in the answer shall be deemed to be denied, but the Director of Practice may file a reply in his/her discretion or at

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the request of the Administrative Law Judge.

§ 10.84 Proof, variance, amendment of pleadings.

In the case of a variance between the allegations in a pleading and the evidence adduced in support of the pleading, the Administrative Law Judge may order or authorize amendment of the pleading to conform to the evidence; provided, that the party who would otherwise be prejudiced by the amendment is given reasonable opportunity to meet the allegations of the pleading as amended, and the Administrative Law Judge shall make findings on any issue presented by the pleadings as so amended.

§ 10.85 Motions and requests.

Motions and requests may be filed with the Director of Practice or with the Administrative Law Judge.

§ 10.86 Representation.

A respondent may appear in person or may be represented by counsel or other representative. The Director of Practice may be represented by an attorney or other employee of the Department of the Treasury.

§ 10.87 Administrative Law Judge.

(a) *Appointment.* An Administrative Law Judge appointed as provided by 5 U.S.C. 3105, shall conduct proceedings upon complaints for the disqualification of appraisers.

(b) *Powers of Administrative Law Judge.* Among other powers, the Administrative Law Judge shall have authority, in connection with any disqualification proceeding assigned or referred to him/her, to do the following:

- (1) Administer oaths and affirmations;
- (2) Make rulings upon motions and requests, which rulings may not be appealed from prior to the close of a hearing except at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge, in extraordinary circumstances;
- (3) Determine the time and place of hearing and regulate its course and conduct;
- (4) Adopt rules of procedure and modify the same from time to time as occa-

sion requires for the orderly disposition of proceedings;

(5) Rule upon offers of proof, receive relevant evidence, and examine witnesses;

(6) Take or authorize the taking of depositions;

(7) Receive and consider oral or written argument on facts or law;

(8) Hold or provide for the holding of conferences for the settlement or simplification of the issues by consent of the parties;

(9) Perform such acts and take such measures as are necessary or appropriate to the efficient conduct of any proceeding; and

(10) Make initial decisions.

§ 10.88 Hearings.

(a) *In general.* The Administrative Law Judge shall preside at the hearing on a complaint for the disqualification of an appraiser. Hearings shall be stenographically recorded and transcribed and the testimony of witnesses shall be taken under oath or affirmation. Hearings will be conducted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 556.

(b) *Failure to appear.* If either party to the proceeding fails to appear at the hearing after due notice thereof has been sent to him/her, the right to a hearing shall be deemed to have been waived and the Administrative Law Judge may make a decision by default against the absent party.

§ 10.89 Evidence.

(a) *In general.* The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law and equity are not controlling in hearings on complaints for the disqualification of appraisers. However, the Administrative Law Judge shall exclude evidence which is irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious.

(b) *Depositions.* The deposition of any witness taken pursuant to § 10.90 may be admitted.

(c) *Proof of documents.* Official documents, records, and papers of the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of the Treasury shall be admissible in evidence without the production of an officer or employee to authenticate them. Any such documents, records, and papers may be evidenced by a copy attested or identified by an officer or

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employee of the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of the Treasury, as the case may be.

(d) *Exhibits.* If any document, record, or other paper is introduced in evidence as an exhibit, the Administrative Law Judge may authorize the withdrawal of the exhibit subject to any conditions which he/she deems proper.

(e) *Objections.* Objections to evidence shall be in short form, stating the grounds of objection relied upon, and the record shall not include argument thereon, except as ordered by the Administrative Law Judge. Rulings on such objections shall be a part of the record. No exception to the ruling is necessary to preserve the rights of the parties.

§ 10.90 Depositions.

Depositions for use at a hearing may, with the written approval of the Administrative Law Judge, be taken either by the Director of Practice or the respondent or their duly authorized representatives. Depositions may be taken upon oral or written interrogatories, upon not less than 10 days' written notice to the other party before any officer duly authorized to administer an oath for general purposes or before an officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service who is authorized to administer an oath in internal revenue matters. Such notice shall state the names of the witnesses and the time and place where the depositions are to be taken. The requirement of 10 days' notice may be waived by the parties in writing, and depositions may then be taken from the persons and at the times and places mutually agreed to by the parties. When a deposition is taken upon written interrogatories, any cross-examination shall be upon written interrogatories. Copies of such written interrogatories shall be served upon the other party with the notice, and copies of any written cross-interrogation shall be mailed or delivered to the opposing party at least 5 days before the date of taking the depositions, unless the parties mutually agree otherwise. A party upon whose behalf a deposition is taken must file it with the Administrative Law Judge and serve one copy upon the opposing party. Expenses in the reporting of

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depositions shall be borne by the party at whose instance the deposition is taken.

§ 10.91 Transcript.

In cases where the hearing is stenographically reported by a Government contract reporter, copies of the transcript may be obtained from the reporter at rates not to exceed the maximum rates fixed by contract between the Government and the reporter. Where a hearing is stenographically reported by a regular employee of the Internal Revenue Service, a copy thereof will be supplied to the respondent either without charge or upon the payment of a reasonable fee. Copies of exhibits introduced at the hearing or at the taking of depositions will be supplied to the parties upon the payment of a reasonable fee (Sec. 501, Pub. L. 82-137, 65 Stat. 290 (31 U.S.C. 483a)).

§ 10.92 Proposed findings and conclusions.

Except in cases where the respondent has failed to answer the complaint or where a party has failed to appear at the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge, prior to making a decision, shall afford the parties a reasonable opportunity to submit proposed findings and conclusions and supporting reasons therefor.

§ 10.93 Decision of the Administrative Law Judge.

As soon as practicable after the conclusion of a hearing and the receipt of any proposed findings and conclusions timely submitted by the parties, the Administrative Law Judge shall make the initial decision in the case. The decision shall include (a) a statement of findings and conclusions, as well as the reasons or basis therefor, upon all the material issues of fact, law, or discretion presented on the record, and (b) an order of disqualification or an order of dismissal of the complaint. The Administrative Law Judge shall file the decision with the Director of Practice and shall transmit a copy thereof to the respondent or his attorney of record. In the absence of an appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury, or review of the decision upon motion of the Secretary, the decision of the Administrative Law

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Judge shall without further proceedings become the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury 30 days from the date of the Administrative Law Judge's decision.

§ 10.94 Appeal to the Secretary.

Within 30 days from the date of the Administrative Law Judge's decision, either party may appeal such decision to the Secretary of the Treasury. If an appeal is by the respondent, the appeal shall be filed with the Director of Practice in duplicate and shall include exceptions to the decision of the Administrative Law Judge and supporting reasons for such exceptions. If an appeal is filed by the Director of Practice, a copy thereof shall be transmitted to the respondent. Within 30 days after receipt of an appeal or copy thereof, the other party may file a reply brief in duplicate with the Director of Practice. If the reply brief is filed by the Director, a copy shall be transmitted to the respondent. Upon the filing of an appeal and a reply brief, if any, the Director of Practice shall transmit the entire record to the Secretary of the Treasury.

§ 10.95 Decision of the Secretary.

On appeal from or review of the initial decision of the Administrative Law Judge, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make the agency decision. In making such decision, the Secretary of the Treasury will review the record or such portions thereof as may be cited by the parties. A copy of the Secretary's decision shall be transmitted to the respondent by the Director of Practice.

§ 10.96 Final order.

Upon the issuance of a final order disqualifying an appraiser, the Director of Practice shall give notice thereof to appropriate officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service and to interested departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

§ 10.97 Petition for reinstatement.

The Director of Practice may entertain a petition for reinstatement from any disqualified appraiser after the expiration of 5 years following such disqualification. Reinstatement may not

be granted unless the Director of Practice is satisfied that the petitioner, thereafter, is not likely to conduct himself/herself contrary to 26 U.S.C. 6701(a), and that granting such reinstatement would not be contrary to the public interest.

Subpart E—General Provisions

§ 10.98 Records.

(a) *Availability.* There are made available to public inspection at the Office of Director of Practice the roster of all persons enrolled to practice, the roster of all persons disbarred or suspended from practice, and the roster of all disqualified appraisers. Other records may be disclosed upon specific request, in accordance with the disclosure regulations of the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department.

(b) *Disciplinary procedures.* A request by a practitioner that a hearing in a disciplinary proceeding concerning him be public, and that the record thereof be made available for inspection by interested persons may be granted if agreement is reached by stipulation in advance to protect from disclosure tax information which is confidential, in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations.

[31 FR 10773, Aug. 13, 1966. Redesignated at 50 FR 42016, Oct. 17, 1985, and amended at 50 FR 42018, Oct. 17, 1985]

§ 10.100 Saving clause.

Any proceeding for the disbarment or suspension of an attorney, certified public accountant, or enrolled agent, instituted but not closed prior to the effective date of these revised regulations, shall not be affected by such regulations. Any proceeding under this part based on conduct engaged in prior to the effective date of these regulations may be instituted subsequent to such effective date.

[50 FR 42019, Oct. 17, 1985]

§ 10.101 Special orders.

The Secretary of the Treasury reserves the power to issue such special orders as he may deem proper in any cases within the purview of this part.

[31 FR 10773, Aug. 13, 1966. Redesignated at 50 FR 42016, Oct. 17, 1985]