passage of mail, or any carrier or conveyance carrying the mail.

Workers’ Compensation Fraud, $10,000. De-
draughting the Workers’ Compensation Pro-
gram by any current or former postal em-
ployee.

Related Offenses
The United States Postal Service also of-
fers rewards as stated above for information and
services leading to the arrest and convict-
ton of any person: (1) For being an accessory
to any of the above crimes; (2) for receiving
or having unlawful possession of any mail,
money or property secured through the
above crimes; and (3) for conspiracy to com-
mit any of the above crimes.

General Provisions
1. The Postal Inspection Service inves-
tigates the above described crimes. Informa-
tion concerning the violations, requests for
applications for rewards, and written claims
for rewards should be furnished to the near-
est Postal Inspector. The written claim for
reward payment must be submitted within
six months from the date of conviction of the
offender, or the date of formally deferred
prosecution or the date of the offender’s
death, if killed in committing a crime or re-
sisting lawful arrest for one of the above of-
fenses.

2. The amount of any reward will be based
on the significance of services rendered,
character of the offender, risks and hazards
involved, time spent, and expenses incurred.
Amounts of rewards shown above are the
maximum amounts which will be paid.

3. The term “custodian” as used herein in-
cludes any person having lawful charge, con-
trol, or custody of any mail matter, or any
money or other property of the United
States under the control and jurisdiction of
the United States Postal Service.

4. The Postal Service reserves the right to
reject a claim for reward where there has been
theft, criminal involvement, or improper
methods have been used to effect an
arrest or to secure a conviction. It has the
right to allow only one reward when several
persons were convicted of the same offense,
or one person was convicted of several of the
above offenses. Postal employees are not eli-
gible to receive a reward for the offenses list-
ed above, other than Workers’ Compensation
fraud. Employees assigned to the Postal In-
spection Service, the General Counsel’s of-

do not establish a contractual right to re-
cieve any reward. The reward shall not
exceed one-half of the amount col-
clected by the Postal Service as a result
of civil or criminal proceedings to re-
cover losses or penalties as a result of
false or fraudulent claims or state-
ments submitted to the Postal Service.

Postal employees assigned to the Post-
al Inspection Service or the Law De-
partment are not eligible to receive a
reward under this section for informa-
tion obtained while so employed. The
Chief Postal Inspector may establish such pro-
cedures and forms as may be desirable
to give effect to this section including
procedures to protect the identity of
persons claiming rewards under this
section.

United States Postal Service

§ 233.3

Mail covers.

(a) Policy. The U.S. Postal Service
maintains rigid control and supervision
with respect to the use of mail covers as
an investigative technique for law en-
forcement or the protection of na-
tional security.

(b) Scope. These regulations con-
stitute the sole authority and proce-
dure for initiating a mail cover, and for
processing, using and disclosing infor-
mation obtained from mail covers.

(c) Definitions. For purpose of these
regulations, the following terms are
hereby defined.

(1) Mail cover is the process by which
a nonconsensual record is made of any
data appearing on the outside cover of
any sealed or unsealed class of mail
matter, or by which a record is made of the
contents of any unsealed class of
mail matter as allowed by law, to obtain information in order to:

(i) Protect national security,
(ii) Locate a fugitive,
(iii) Obtain evidence of commission or attempted commission of a crime,
(iv) Obtain evidence of a violation or attempted violation of a postal statute, or
(v) Assist in the identification of property, proceeds or assets forfeitable under law.

(2) For the purposes of §233.3 record is a transcription, photograph, photocopy or any other facsimile of the image of the outside cover, envelope, wrapper, or contents of any class of mail.

(3) Sealed mail is mail which under postal laws and regulations is included within a class of mail maintained by the Postal Service for the transmission of letters sealed against inspection. Sealed mail includes: First-Class Mail; Priority Mail; Express Mail; Express Mail International; Global Express Guaranteed items containing only documents; Priority Mail International flat-rate envelopes and small flat-rate boxes; International Priority Airmail, except M-bags; International Surface Air Lift, except M-bags; First-Class Mail International; Global Bulk Economy, except M-bags; certain Global Direct mail as specified by customer contract; and International Transit Mail.

(4) Unsealed mail is mail which under postal laws or regulations is not included within a class of mail maintained by the Postal Service for the transmission of letters sealed against inspection. Unsealed mail includes: Periodicals; Standard Mail; Package Services; incidental First-Class Mail attachments and enclosures; Global Express Guaranteed items containing non-documents; Priority Mail International, except flat-rate envelopes and small flat-rate boxes; International Direct Sacks—M-bags; certain Global Direct mail as specified by customer contract; and all items sent via “Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped” under 39 U.S.C. 3403-06 and International Mail Manual 270.

(5) Fugitive is any person who has fled from the United States or any State, the District of Columbia, territory or possession of the United States, to avoid prosecution for a crime, or to avoid giving testimony in a criminal proceeding.

(6) Crime, for the purposes of this section, is any commission of an act or the attempted commission of an act that is punishable by law by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

(7) Postal statute refers to a statute describing criminal activity, regardless of the term of imprisonment, for which the Postal Service has investigative authority, or which is directed against the Postal Service, its operations, programs, or revenues.

(8) Law enforcement agency is any authority of the Federal Government or any authority of a State or local government, one of whose functions is to:

(i) Investigate the commission or attempted commission of acts constituting a crime, or
(ii) Protect the national security.

(9) Protection of the national security means to protect the United States from any of the following actual or potential threats to its security by a foreign power or its agents:

(i) An attack or other grave, hostile act;
(ii) Sabotage, or international terrorism; or
(iii) Clandestine intelligence activities, including commercial espionage.

(10) Emergency situation refers to circumstances which require the immediate release of information to prevent the loss of evidence or in which there is a potential for immediate physical harm to persons or property.

(d) Authorizations—Chief Postal Inspector. (1) The Chief Postal Inspector is the principal officer of the Postal Service in the administration of all matters governing mail covers. The Chief Postal Inspector may delegate any or all authority in this regard to not more than two designees at Inspector Service Headquarters.

(2) Except for national security mail covers, the Chief Postal Inspector may also delegate any or all authority to the Manager, Inspector Service Operations Support Group, and, for emergency situations, to Inspectors in Charge. The Manager, Inspector Service Operations Support Group, may delegate this authority to no more than
two designees at each Operations Support Group.

(3) All such delegations of authority shall be issued through official, written directives. Except for delegations at Inspection Service Headquarters, such delegations shall only apply to the geographic areas served by the Manager, Inspection Service Operations Support Group, or designee.

(e) The Chief Postal Inspector, or his designee, may order mail covers under the following circumstances:

(1) When a written request is received from a postal inspector that states reason to believe a mail cover will produce evidence relating to the violation of a postal statute.

(2) When a written request is received from any law enforcement agency in which the requesting authority specifies the reasonable grounds to demonstrate the mail cover is necessary to:
   (i) Protect the national security,
   (ii) Locate a fugitive,
   (iii) Obtain information regarding the commission or attempted commission of a crime, or
   (iv) Assist in the identification of property, proceeds or assets forfeitable because of a violation of criminal law.

(3) When time is of the essence, the Chief Postal Inspector, or designee, may act upon an oral request to be confirmed by the requesting authority in writing within three calendar days. Information may be released by the Chief Postal Inspector or designee, only when the releasing official is satisfied that an emergency situation exists.

(f)(1) Exceptions. A postal inspector, or a postal employee acting at the direction of a postal inspector, may record the information appearing on the envelope or outer wrapping, of mail without obtaining a mail cover order, only under the circumstances in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

(2) The mail must be:
   (i) Undelivered mail found abandoned or in the possession of a person reasonably believed to have stolen or embezzled such mail,
   (ii) Damaged or rifled, undelivered mail, or
   (iii) An immediate threat to persons or property.

(g) Limitations. (1) No person in the Postal Service except those employed for that purpose in dead-mail offices, may open, or inspect the contents of, or permit the opening or inspection of sealed mail without a federal search warrant, even though it may contain criminal or otherwise nonmailable matter, or furnish evidence of the commission of a crime, or the violation of a postal statute.

(2) No employee of the Postal Service shall open or inspect the contents of any unsealed mail, except for the purpose of determining:
   (i) Payment of proper postage, or
   (ii) Mailability.

(3) No mail cover shall include matter mailed between the mail cover subject and the subject’s known attorney.

(4) No officer or employee of the Postal Service other than the Chief Postal Inspector, Manager, Inspection Service Operations Support Group, and their designees, are authorized to order mail covers. Under no circumstances may a postmaster or postal employee furnish information as defined in §233.3(c)(1) to any person, except as authorized by a mail cover order issued by the Chief Postal Inspector or designee, or as directed by a postal inspector under the circumstances described in §233.3(f).

(5) Except for mail covers ordered upon fugitives or subjects engaged, or suspected to be engaged, in any activity against the national security, no mail cover order shall remain in effect for more than 30 days, unless adequate justification is provided by the requesting authority. At the expiration of the mail cover order period, or prior thereto, the requesting authority may be granted additional 30-day periods under the same conditions and procedures applicable to the original request. The requesting authority must provide a statement of the investigative benefit of the mail cover and anticipated benefits to be derived from its extension.

(6) No mail cover shall remain in force longer than 120 continuous days unless personally approved for further extension by the Chief Postal Inspector or designees at National Headquarters.

(7) Except for fugitive cases, no mail cover shall remain in force when an information has been filed or the subject
§ 233.4 Withdrawal of mail privileges.

(a) False representation and lottery orders—

(1) Issuance. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3005, the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service, acting upon a satisfactory evidentiary basis, may issue a mail-stop order against anyone seeking mailed remittance of money or property by means of a false-representation or lottery scheme. Such orders provide for return of mail and refund of postal money orders to remitters.

(2) Enforcement. Notice of these orders, including any necessary instructions on enforcement responsibilities and procedures, is published in the Postal Bulletin. Generally, an order against a domestic enterprise is enforced only by the post office designated in the order. All personnel processing mail for dispatch abroad assist in enforcing orders against foreign enterprises by forwarding mail addressed to such enterprises to designated post offices.

(b) Fictitious name or address and not residents of the place of address orders—

(1) Issuance. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3003, 3004, when there is satisfactory evidence that mail is addressed to a fictitious name, title, or address used for any unlawful business, and no one has established a right to have the mail delivered to him, or that mail is addressed to places not the residence or regular business address of the person for whom they are intended to enable the person to escape identification, the Judicial Officer may, pursuant to Part...