

§ 1956.111

(a) Individual settlement offers from joint debtors can be accepted and processed only as a joint offer. A separate Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1 will be completed by each debtor unless the debtors are members of the same family and all necessary financial information on each debtor can be shown clearly on a single application.

(b) If one of the joint debtors is deceased or has received a discharge of the debt in bankruptcy, or if the whereabouts of one of the debtors is unknown, or it is otherwise impossible or impractical to obtain the signature of the debtor, the application for settlement may be accepted without that debtor's signature if it contains adequate information on each of the debtors to justify settlement of the debt as to each of the debtors. The name of the debtor requesting settlement will be shown at the top of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1 followed by name and status of the other debtor. For example, "John Doe, joint debtor with Jane Doe, deceased."

(c) Joint debtors must be advised in writing that all debtors will remain liable for the balance of the debt until any payment(s) due under the joint offer have been made.

§ 1956.111 Debtors in bankruptcy.

FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 personnel will process reorganization plans of debtors filing under Chapter 9, Chapter 11, or Chapter 13 as follows:

(a) Plans submitted by debtors under Chapters 9, 11, and 13 must be sent by the servicing official to the State Director who will recommend either acceptance or rejection of the plans and refer them to the United States Attorney through OGC. When the plan calls for the adjustment of a debt to FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354, the State Director will obtain the advice of the Administrator before providing OGC with a recommendation on acceptance or rejection of this plan.

(b) The United States Attorney will advise the State Director, through OGC, as to approval or rejection of the debtor's reorganization plan. The State

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Director will then notify the Finance Office by memorandum of the terms and conditions of the bankruptcy reorganization plan, including any adjustment of the debt.

§ 1956.112 Debts ineligible for settlement.

Debts will not be settled:

(a) If referral to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and/or to the OGC is contemplated or pending because of suspected criminal violation, or

(b) If civil action to protect the interests of the Government is contemplated or pending, or

(c) If an investigation for suspected fiscal irregularity is contemplated or pending, or

(d) When a claim has been referred to or a judgment has been obtained by the United States Attorney and the debtor requests settlement, the servicing official will explain to the debtor that the United States Attorney has exclusive jurisdiction over the claim or judgment, and therefore, FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 has no authority to agree to a settlement offer. If the debtor wishes to make a settlement offer, it must be submitted with any related payment directly to the United States Attorney for consideration.

§§ 1956.113-1956.117 [Reserved]

§ 1956.118 Approval authority.

District Directors cannot approve debt settlement actions. Therefore, they will make no statements to a debtor concerning the action that may be taken upon a debtor's application. Subject to this subpart, the compromise, adjustment, cancellation, or chargeoff of debts will be approved or rejected:

(a) By the State Director when the outstanding balance of the indebtedness involved in the settlement is less than \$50,000, including principal, interest, and other charges.

(b) By the Administrator or his designee when the outstanding balance of the indebtedness involved in the settlement is \$50,000 or more, including principal, interest, and other charges.