

§ 19.14

in installments (see § 19.6 of this Part). At least thirty (30) days prior to initiating an administrative wage garnishment, Commerce entities will send notice to the debtor in accordance with the requirements of § 19.4 of this Part, including the requirements of § 19.4(a)(10) of this Part. For Commerce debts referred to the Financial Management Service under § 19.9 of this Part, Commerce entities may authorize the Financial Management Service to send a notice informing the debtor that administrative wage garnishment will be initiated and how the debtor may request a hearing as described in § 19.4(a)(10) of this Part. If a debtor makes a timely request for a hearing, administrative wage garnishment will not begin until a hearing is held and a decision is sent to the debtor. See 31 CFR 285.11(f)(4). Even if a debtor's hearing request is not timely, Commerce entities may suspend collection by administrative wage garnishment in accordance with the provisions of 31 CFR 285.11(f)(5). All travel expenses incurred by the debtor in connection with an in-person hearing will be borne by the debtor.

(b) This section does not apply to Federal salary offset, the process by which Commerce entities collect Commerce debts from the salaries of Federal employees (see § 19.12 of this Part).

§ 19.14 How will Commerce entities report Commerce debts to credit bureaus?

Commerce entities shall report delinquent Commerce debts to credit bureaus in accordance with the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3711(e), 31 CFR 901.4, and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-129, "Policies for Federal Credit Programs and Non-tax Receivables." For additional information, see Financial Management Service's "Guide to the Federal Credit Bureau Program," which currently may be found at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/debt>. At least sixty (60) days prior to reporting a delinquent Commerce debt to a consumer reporting agency, Commerce entities will send notice to the debtor in accordance with the requirements of § 19.4 of this Part. Commerce entities may authorize the Financial Management Service to report to credit bu-

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reaus those delinquent Commerce debts that have been transferred to the Financial Management Service under § 19.9 of this Part.

§ 19.15 How will Commerce entities refer Commerce debts to private collection agencies?

Commerce entities will transfer delinquent Commerce debts to the Financial Management Service to obtain debt collection services provided by private collection agencies. See § 19.9 of this Part.

§ 19.16 When will Commerce entities refer Commerce debts to the Department of Justice?

(a) *Compromise or suspension or termination of collection activity.* Commerce entities shall refer Commerce debts having a principal balance over \$100,000, or such higher amount as authorized by the Attorney General, to the Department of Justice for approval of any compromise of a Commerce debt or suspension or termination of collection activity. See §§ 19.7 and 19.8 of this Part; 31 CFR 902.1; 31 CFR 903.1.

(b) *Litigation.* Commerce entities shall promptly refer to the Department of Justice for litigation delinquent Commerce debts on which aggressive collection activity has been taken in accordance with this Part and that should not be compromised, and on which collection activity should not be suspended or terminated. See 31 CFR part 904. Commerce entities may authorize the Financial Management Service to refer to the Department of Justice for litigation those delinquent Commerce debts that have been transferred to the Financial Management Service under § 19.9 of this Part.

§ 19.17 Will a debtor who owes a Commerce or other Federal agency debt, and persons controlled by or controlling such debtors, be ineligible for Federal loan assistance, grants, cooperative agreements, or other sources of Federal funds or for Federal licenses, permits or privileges?

(a) Delinquent debtors are ineligible for and barred from obtaining Federal loans or loan insurance or guaranties. As required by 31 U.S.C. 3720B and 31 CFR 901.6, Commerce entities will not