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set forth in §§13.1 through 13.111 inclusive, are to be performed under the direction of, and authority vested in, the Director of the field facility.

[40 FR 54247, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.2 Field examinations.

(a) *Authority to conduct; generally.* Field personnel in the Veterans Service Center and other employees who are qualified and designated by the field facility Director are authorized, when assigned, to conduct investigations (field examinations) and examine witnesses upon any matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to take affidavits, to administer oaths and affirmations, to certify copies of public or private documents and to aid claimants in the preparation of claims.

(b) *Scope of field examinations; fiduciary activities.* Field examinations include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Matters involving the administration of estates and the welfare of beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are under legal disability or in need of supervision by the Veterans Service Center Manager.

(2) Matters involving the welfare and needs of dependents of incompetent beneficiaries.

(3) Recovery of amounts due the Government or General Post Fund under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[40 FR 54247, Nov. 21, 1975, as amended at 67 FR 46869, July 17, 2002]

§ 13.3 State legislation.

Field facility Directors are authorized to cooperate with the affiliated organizations, legislative committees, and through the General Counsel with local and State bar associations, to the end that deficiencies of the State laws relating to Department of Veterans Affairs operations may be removed. No action to commit the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding any proposed legislation relating to fiduciary matters will be taken without the approval of the Under Secretary for Benefits or designee.

[40 FR 54247, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.55 Veterans Service Center Manager to select and appoint or recommend for appointment the person or legal entity to receive Department of Veterans Affairs benefits in a fiduciary capacity.

(a) *Authority.* The Veterans Service Center Manager is authorized to select and appoint (or in the case of a court-appointed fiduciary, to recommend for appointment) the person or legal entity best suited to receive Department of Veterans Affairs benefits in a fiduciary capacity for a beneficiary who is mentally ill (incompetent) or under legal disability by reason of minority or court action, and beneficiary's dependents.

(b) *Payees.* Authorized payees include:

(1) The beneficiary (§13.56(c));

(2) The beneficiary under supervision (supervised direct payment) (§13.56 (a) and (b));

(3) The wife or husband of an incompetent veteran (§13.57);

(4) The legal custodian of a beneficiary's Department of Veterans Affairs benefits (§13.58);

(5) A court-appointed fiduciary of a beneficiary (§13.59);

(6) The chief officer of the institution in which the veteran is receiving care and treatment (§13.61);

(7) The bonded officer of an Indian reservation (§13.62);

(8) A custodian-in-fact of the beneficiary (§13.63);

(9) Dependents of the veteran by an apportioned award (§13.70).

(c) *Certification.* The Veterans Service Center Manager's certification is authority to make payments to the designated payee.

[40 FR 54247, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.56 Direct payment.

(a) *Veterans.* Department of Veterans Affairs benefits payable to a veteran rated incompetent may be paid directly to the veteran in such amount as the Veterans Service Center Manager determines the veteran is able to manage with continuing supervision by the Veterans Service Center Manager, provided a fiduciary is not otherwise required. If it is determined that an amount less than the full entitlement is to be paid, such payment shall be for