

§ 1720.155

regard thereto as the circumstances may warrant.

§ 1720.155 Ex parte communications.

(a) No person shall communicate with an administrative law judge or an appeals officer either directly or indirectly concerning any pending proceeding unless prior to or simultaneously with such communication its contents are disclosed in detail to all persons interested in the proceeding; nor shall an administrative law judge or appeals officer request or consider any such unauthorized ex parte communication. This prohibition shall not apply to a simple request for information respecting the status of the proceeding, nor to any ex parte communication expressly authorized by these rules.

(b) Any administrative law judge or appeals officer, who receives an ex parte communication which the judge knows or has reason to believe is unauthorized, shall promptly place the communication, or its substance, in the public file and shall inform all persons interested in the proceeding of its existence and general contents. Facts or arguments so communicated shall not be taken into account in deciding any matter in issue unless such facts or arguments shall be brought properly before the administrative law judge.

(c) Opportunity to answer allegations or contentions contained in an unauthorized ex parte communication may be afforded any interested person upon motion for leave to do so, wherever such leave will operate to assure a fair hearing or decision.

§ 1720.160 Form and filing requirements.

(a) *Filing.* Except as otherwise permitted, an original and three copies of all documents shall be filed with the Docket Clerk for Administrative Proceedings, Room 10278, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410, on official work days between the hours of 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

(b) *Title.* Documents shall show clearly the title of the action, the docket number, and OILSR file number in connection with which they are filed.

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(c) *Form.* Except as otherwise permitted, all documents shall be printed, typewritten, or otherwise processed in clear legible form and on good unglazed paper.

§ 1720.165 Time computation.

Computation of any period of time prescribed or allowed by the rules and regulations in this part, or by order of the Secretary or of an administrative law judge, shall begin with the first business day following that on which the act, event, development or default initiating such period of time shall have occurred. When the last day of the period so computed is a Saturday, Sunday, or national holiday, or other day on which the Department of Housing and Urban Development is closed, the period shall run until the end of the next following business day. Except when any prescribed or allowed period of time is 7 days or less, each of the Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays shall be included in the computation of the prescribed or allowed period.

§ 1720.170 Service.

Notices, orders, processes, determinations and other documents required or permitted under these rules may be served as follows:

(a) *Upon the Secretary.* By personal delivery at the office, or by registered or certified mail addressed to the office of any of the following officials in the Office of Interstate Land Sales Registration: Administrator; Associate Administrator; Director, Office of Interstate Land Sales Registration: *Provided, however,* That during the pendency of a proceeding before the Secretary all pleadings, motions, notices or other documents shall be served in accordance with the terms of § 1720.160.

(b) *Upon any other person.* By delivery of a copy of the documents to the person to be served wherever the person may be found, or by leaving such copy at the person's office or place of business with a person apparently in charge thereof, or, if there is no one in charge or if the office is closed or if the person has no office, by leaving a copy at the person's residence with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein, or sending a

copy by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the person at the person's last known residence, or at the person's last known principal office or place of business. If the address of the residence, principal office, or place of business is unknown and cannot with due diligence be ascertained, service may be made by mail to any office at which the person to be served is known to be employed or by publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) *Service on corporations, partnerships, associations, other entities.* Service may be made upon any corporation, partnership, business association or other entity by serving any officer, director, partner, trustee, agent for service or managing agent thereof. A managing agent, within the meaning of this subsection, is an agent having the principal managerial responsibility in connection with the regular operation of a distinct office or activity of the enterprise.

(d) *Service through attorney.* When a person other than the Secretary and the Secretary's staff shall have appeared of record in a proceeding, generally or specially, by attorney, all subsequent services of notices, orders, processes, and other documents in connection with such proceeding may be made upon such person by serving the attorney, except that subpoenas and other orders by which such person may be brought in contempt shall be served upon the person by one of the methods described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. In any case, a copy of any document served on a client shall be sent to any attorney who has entered an appearance for that client. In such situations, it shall be sufficient proof of service to show that either the client or the attorney has received a copy of the document.

(e) *Proof of service.* Proof of service shall not be required unless the fact of service is reasonably put in issue by appropriate motion or objection on the part of the person allegedly served or other party. In such cases, service may be established by written admission signed by or on behalf of the person to be served, or may be established prima facie by affidavit or certificate of service or mailing, as appropriate. When

service is by registered or certified mail, it is complete upon delivery of the document by the post office.

§ 1720.175 Intervention by interested persons.

(a) The administrative law judge, upon timely petition in writing and for good cause shown, and if deemed to be in the public interest, may permit any person to participate by intervention in the proceeding. The petition shall state:

(1) The petitioner's relationship to and interest in the matters contained in the proceeding;

(2) The petitioner's position with respect to each specific issue upon which the petitioner proposes to intervene, and the facts which the petitioner proposes to adduce in support of each such position; and

(3) An assent to exercise of jurisdiction by the Department with respect to the petitioner.

(b) The administrative law judge shall determine the propriety of such intervention and the extent to which such intervenor may participate, basing such determination upon applicable law, the directness and substantiality of the petitioner's interest in the proceeding and the effect upon the proceeding of allowing such participation.

§ 1720.180 Settlements.

Parties may propose in writing, at any time during the course of a proceeding, offers of settlement which shall be submitted to the Secretary. If determined to be appropriate, the party making the offer may be given an opportunity to make an oral presentation in support of such offer. If an offer of settlement is rejected, the party making the offer shall be so notified and the offer shall be deemed withdrawn and shall not constitute a part of the record in the proceeding. Final acceptance by the Secretary of any offer of settlement will terminate any proceeding related thereto upon notification to the administrative law judge or the appeals officer.