

§ 961.11 Ex parte communications.

Ex parte communications between a Hearing Official or his staff and a party shall not be made. This prohibition does not apply to procedural matters. A memorandum of any communication between the Hearing Official and a party will be transmitted to both parties.

PART 962—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE PROGRAM FRAUD CIVIL REMEDIES ACT

Sec.

- 962.1 Purpose.
- 962.2 Definitions.
- 962.3 Petition for hearing.
- 962.4 Referral of complaint.
- 962.5 Scope of hearing; evidentiary standard.
- 962.6 Notice of hearing.
- 962.7 Hearing location.
- 962.8 Rights of parties.
- 962.9 Responsibilities and authority of presiding officer.
- 962.10 Prehearing conferences.
- 962.11 Respondent access to information.
- 962.12 Depositions; interrogatories; admission of facts; production and inspection of documents.
- 962.13 Subpoenas.
- 962.14 Enforcement of subpoenas.
- 962.15 Sanctions.
- 962.16 Disqualification of reviewing official or presiding official.
- 962.17 Ex parte communications.
- 962.18 Post-hearing briefs.
- 962.19 Transcript of proceedings.
- 962.20 Initial decision.
- 962.21 Appeal of initial decision to judicial officer.
- 962.22 Form and filing of documents.
- 962.23 Service of notice of hearing, other documents.
- 962.24 Computation of time.
- 962.25 Continuances and extensions.
- 962.26 Settlement.
- 962.27 Limitations.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. Chapter 38; 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 52 FR 12904, Apr. 20, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 962.1 Purpose.

This part establishes the procedures governing the hearing and appeal rights of any person alleged to be liable for civil penalties and assessments under the Program Fraud Civil Rem-

edies Act of 1986 (codified at 31 U.S.C. 3801-3812).

§ 962.2 Definitions.

(a) *Attorney* refers to an individual authorized to practice law in any of the United States or the District of Columbia or a territory of the United States.

(b) *Complaint* refers to the administrative Complaint served by the Reviewing Official on a Respondent pursuant to § 273.8 of this title.

(c) *Initial Decision* refers to the written decision which the Presiding Officer is required by § 962.20 to render, and includes a revised initial decision issued following a remand.

(d) *Investigating Official* refers to the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service or any designee within the Office of the Inspector General.

(e) *Judicial Officer* refers to the Judicial Officer or Acting Judicial Officer of the United States Postal Service or for purposes other than specified in § 962.21 any designee within the Judicial Officer Department.

(f) *Party* refers to the Postal Service or the Respondent.

(g) *Person* refers to any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or private organization.

(h) *Postmaster General* refers to the Postmaster General of the United States or his designee.

(i) *Presiding Officer* refers to an Administrative Law Judge designated by the Judicial Officer to conduct a hearing authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3803.

(j) *Recorder* refers to the Recorder of the United States Postal Service, 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201-3078.

(k) *Representative* refers to an attorney or other advocate.

(l) *Respondent* refers to any person alleged to be liable for a civil penalty or assessment under 31 U.S.C. 3802.

(m) *Reviewing Official* refers to the General Counsel of the Postal Service or any designee within the Law Department who serves in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate payable under section 5376 of title 5 of the United States Code.

[52 FR 12904, Apr. 20, 1987, as amended at 63 FR 66053, Dec. 1, 1998; 67 FR 62179, Oct. 4, 2002]