

Federal Communications Commission

§ 1.1911

Justice (DOJ) as only the DOJ has authority to compromise, suspend, or terminate collection action on such claims.

(d) Tax claims are also excluded from the coverage of this regulation.

§ 1.1903 Use of procedures.

Procedures authorized by this regulation (including, but not limited to, disclosure to a consumer reporting agency, contracting for collection services, administrative offset and salary offset) may be used singly or in combination, so long as the requirements of applicable law and regulation are satisfied.

§ 1.1904 Conformance to law and regulations.

The requirements of applicable law (31 U.S.C. 3701-3719, as amended by Pub. L. 97-365, 96 Stat. 1749) have been implemented in government wide standards:

(a) The Regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (5 CFR part 550) and

(b) The Federal Claims Collection Standards issued jointly by the General Accounting Office and the Department of Justice (4 CFR parts 101-105).

Not every item in the above described standards has been incorporated or referenced in this regulation. To the extent, however, that circumstances arise which are not covered by the terms stated in these regulations, the Commission will proceed in any actions taken in accordance with applicable requirements found in the standards referred to in this section.

§ 1.1905 Other procedures; collection of forfeiture penalties.

Nothing contained in these regulations is intended to require the Commission to duplicate administrative or other proceedings required by contract or other laws or regulations, nor do these regulations supercede procedures required by other statutes or regulations. In particular, the assessment and collection of monetary forfeiture penalties imposed by the Commission will be governed initially by the procedures prescribed by 47 U.S.C. 503, 504 and 47 CFR 1.80. After compliance with those procedures, the Commission may determine that the collection of a mon-

etary forfeiture under the collection alternatives prescribed by this subpart is appropriate but need not duplicate administrative or other proceedings.

§ 1.1906 Informal action.

Nothing contained in these regulations is intended to preclude utilization of informal administrative actions or remedies which may be available.

§ 1.1907 Return of property.

Nothing contained in this regulation is intended to deter the Commission from demanding the return of specific property or from demanding, in the alternative, either the return of property or the payment of its value.

§ 1.1908 Omissions not a defense.

The failure of the Commission to comply with any provision in this regulation shall not serve as a defense to the debt.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET—CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES—CONTRACTING FOR COLLECTION

§ 1.1911 Demand for payment.

(a) Written demands for payment shall be made promptly upon a debtor in terms which inform the debtor of the consequences of failure to cooperate. A total of three progressively stronger written demands at not more than 30-day intervals will normally be made unless a response to the first or second demand indicates that a further demand would be futile and the debtor's response does not require rebuttal. In determining the timing of demand letters, the Commission will give due regard to the need to act promptly so that, as a general rule, if it becomes necessary to refer the debt to the Department of Justice for litigation, such referral can be made within one year of the agency's final determination of the fact and the amount of the debt. When necessary to protect the Government's interest (for example, to prevent the statute of limitations, 28 U.S.C. 2415, from expiring), written demand may be preceded by other appropriate actions under this chapter, including immediate referral for litigation.

§ 1.1912

47 CFR Ch. I (10–1–00 Edition)

(b) The initial demand letter will inform the debtor of:

(1) The basis for the indebtedness and the right of the debtor to request review within the agency;

(2) The applicable standards for assessing interest, penalties, and administrative costs (§§ 1.1940 and 1.1941 of this subpart) and;

(3) The date by which payment is to be made, which normally should not be more than 30 days from the date that the initial demand letter was mailed or hand-delivered.

(c) As appropriate to the circumstances, the Commission may include either in the initial demand letter or in subsequent letters, matters relating to alternative methods of payment, policies with respect to use of consumer reporting agencies and collection services, the agency's intentions with respect to referral of the debt to the Department of Justice for litigation, and, depending on applicable statutory authority, the debtor's entitlement to consideration of waiver.

(d) The Commission will respond promptly to communications from the debtor, within 30 days whenever feasible, and will advise debtors who dispute the debt that they must furnish available evidence to support their contentions.

(e) If, either prior to the initiation of, at any time during, or after completion of the demand cycle, the Commission determines to pursue administrative offset, then the procedures specified in §§ 1.1912 and 1.1913 as applicable, will be followed. The availability of funds for offset and the agency's determination to pursue that remedy, release the agency from the necessity of further compliance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section. If the agency has not already sent the first demand letter, the agency's written notification of its intent to offset must give the debtor the opportunity to make voluntary payment, a requirement which will be satisfied by compliance with the notice requirements of §§ 1.1912 and 1.1913 as applicable.

§ 1.1912 Collection by administrative offset.

(a) Collection by administrative offset will be undertaken in accordance

with these regulations on all claims which are liquidated or certain in amount, in every instance in which such collection is determined to be feasible and not otherwise prohibited.

(1) Whether collection by administrative offset is feasible is a determination to be made by the agency on a case-by-case basis, in the exercise of sound discretion. The Commission will consider not only whether administrative offset can be accomplished practically, but also whether offset is best suited to further and protect all of the Government's interest. In appropriate circumstances, the Commission may give due consideration to the debtor's financial condition and is not required to use offset in every instance in which there is an available source of funds. The Commission may also consider whether offset would tend to substantially interfere with or defeat the purposes of the program authorizing the payments against which offset is contemplated. For example, under a grant program in which payments are made in advance of the grantee's performance, offset will normally be inappropriate. This concept generally does not apply, however, where payment is in the form of reimbursement.

(2) [Reserved]

(b) Before the offset is made, a debtor shall be provided with the following: Written notice of the nature and amount of the debt, and the agency's intention to collect by offset; opportunity to inspect and copy agency records pertaining to the debt; opportunity to obtain review within the agency of the determination of indebtedness; and opportunity to enter into a written agreement with the agency to repay the debt.

(1) The Commission will exercise sound judgment in determining whether to accept a repayment agreement in lieu of offset. The determination will weigh the Government's interest in collecting the debt against fairness to the debtor. If the debt is delinquent and the debtor has not disputed its existence or amount, the Commission will normally accept a repayment agreement in lieu of offset only if the debtor is able to establish that offset