

showing that he or she does not owe all or part of the amount of the debt or that we do not have the right to collect it; and

(7) The debtor may request an installment payment plan.

(c) *Disputing the information that we would send to consumer reporting agencies.* If a debtor believes that the information we propose to send to consumer reporting agencies is incorrect, the debtor may ask us to correct such information. If, within 60 calendar days from the date of our notice described in paragraph (b) of this section, the debtor notifies us that any information to be sent to consumer reporting agencies is incorrect, we will not send the information to consumer reporting agencies until we determine the correct information.

§ 422.306 Report of overdue administrative debts to credit reporting agencies.

(a) *Debts we will report.* We will report to credit reporting agencies all overdue administrative debts over \$25. Some examples of administrative debts are as follows: overpayments of pay and allowances paid to employees, debts for civil monetary penalties imposed under section 1140(b) of the Act, debts for unpaid fees for reimbursable services performed by SSA (e.g., disclosures of information), and contractor debts.

(b) *Notice to debtor.* Before we report any administrative debt to a credit reporting agency, we will send the debtor written notice of the following:

(1) We have determined that payment of the debt is overdue;

(2) We will refer the debt to a credit reporting agency at the expiration of not less than 60 calendar days after the date of the notice unless, within that 60-day period, the debtor pays the full amount of the debt or takes either of the actions described in paragraphs (b)(6) or (b)(7) of this section;

(3) The specific information we will provide to the credit reporting agency, including information that identifies the debtor (e.g., name, address, social security number, and employer identification number) and the amount, status, and history of the debt;

(4) The debtor has the right to a complete explanation of the debt;

(5) The debtor may dispute the accuracy of the information to be provided to the credit reporting agency;

(6) The debtor may request a review of the debt by giving us evidence showing that he or she does not owe all or part of the amount of the debt or that we do not have the right to collect it; and

(7) The debtor may request an installment payment plan.

§ 422.310 Collection of overdue debts by administrative offset.

(a) *Referral to the Department of the Treasury for offset.* We will recover overdue debts by offsetting Federal payments due the debtor through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP). TOP is a Governmentwide delinquent debt matching and payment offset process operated by the Department of the Treasury, whereby debts owed to the Federal Government are collected by offsetting them against Federal payments owed the debtor.

(b) *Debts we will refer.* We will refer for administrative offset all overdue debts over \$25.

(c) *Notice to debtor.* Before we refer any debt for collection by administrative offset, we will send the debtor written notice that:

(1) We have determined that payment of the debt is overdue;

(2) We will refer the debt for administrative offset at the expiration of not less than 60 calendar days after the date of the notice unless, within that 60-day period, the debtor pays the full amount of the debt or takes either of the actions described in paragraphs (c)(4) or (c)(5) of this section;

(3) The debtor may inspect or copy our records relating to the debt;

(4) The debtor may request a review of the debt by giving us evidence showing that the debtor does not owe all or part of the amount of the debt or that we do not have the right to collect it; and

(5) The debtor may request an installment payment plan.

§ 422.315 Review of our records related to the debt.

(a) *Notification by the debtor.* The debtor may request to inspect or copy our records related to the debt.

(b) *Our response.* In response to a request from the debtor described in paragraph (a) of this section, we will notify the debtor of the location and time at which the debtor may inspect or copy our records related to the debt. We may also, at our discretion, mail to the debtor copies of the records relating to the debt.

§ 422.317 Review of the debt.

(a) *Notification and presentation of evidence by the debtor.* A debtor who receives a notice described in § 422.305(b), § 422.306(b), or § 422.310(c) has a right to have us review the debt. To exercise this right, within 60 calendar days from the date of our notice, the debtor must notify us and give us evidence that he or she does not owe all or part of the debt or that we do not have the right to collect it. If

the debtor does not notify us and give us this evidence within the 60 calendar-day period, we may take the action described in our notice.

(b) *Review of the evidence.* If the debtor notifies us and presents evidence within the 60 calendar-day period described in paragraph (a) of this section, we will not take the action described in our notice unless and until we consider all of the evidence and send the debtor our findings that all or part of the debt is overdue and legally enforceable.

(c) *Findings by SSA.* Following our review of all of the evidence presented, we will issue written findings, including the supporting rationale for the findings. Issuance of these findings will be the final Agency action on the debtor's request for review. If we find that the debt is not overdue or we do not have the right to collect it, we will not send information about the debt to consumer or other credit reporting agencies or refer the debt to the Department of the Treasury for administrative offset.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

36 CFR Part 701

[Docket No. LOC 98-1]

Assignment of Special Research Facilities

AGENCY: Library of Congress.

ACTION: Final regulation.

SUMMARY: The Library of Congress issues this final regulation to revise Library of Congress Regulation 815-3. The revised regulation will reflect the change in availability for assignment of study shelves, study desks and study rooms, the renaming of the responsible division from General Reading Rooms Division to Humanities and Social Sciences Division and to the Congressional Relations Office for study rooms for Congressional use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 5, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lana Kay Jones, Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540-1050. Telephone No. (202) 707-6316.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Regulation states the Library's policy regarding the assignment of special research facilities, including study shelves, desks, and other facilities designed for the use of scholars

involved in extensive research using materials from the Library's collections.

List of Subjects in 36 CFR Part 701

Libraries, Seals and insignias.

Regulation

In consideration of the foregoing the Library of Congress amends 36 CFR part 701 to read as follows:

PART 701—PROCEDURES AND SERVICES

1. The authority citation for part 701 will continue to read as follows:

Authority: 2 U.S.C. 136.

2. Section 701.8 is revised to read as follows:

§ 701.8 Assignment of Special Research Facilities.

(a) *Study Shelves.* Individually-assigned reserve shelves are available adjacent to several reading rooms for the use of researchers whose work requires access to the same materials over an extended period of time. Shelves are assigned to applicants for a specific period through the Research Facilities Office, Humanities and Social Sciences Division. Shelves must be renewed at designated intervals.

(b) *Study desks.* A limited number of study desks are available for the use of researchers engaged in full-time research projects involving extensive use of materials requiring larger amounts of material drawn from the Library's collections, more work space, greater physical security, and/or a more private environment than might be possible in a reading room. Study desk areas shall not be used as a primary office from which the project undertaken is operated, nor as a business location. Study desks are initially assigned for a period not to exceed one year, with the assignment and termination dates determined by the Head of the Main Reading Room Section, Humanities and Social Sciences Division. The assignment of a study desk beyond the first year may be made by the Chief of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division for a maximum of two years from the first assignment when there is a demonstrated need for the continuation of the assignment. Assignments beyond two years require an exception to this part and shall be specifically authorized by the Associate Librarian for Library Services. Any researcher who demonstrates a continuing need for a facility beyond an expiration date may reapply, but priority will be given to applicants on the waiting list who meet the specific criteria.

(c) *Congressional use of study rooms.* Rooms 225A–225E in the James Madison Building are available for the exclusive use of Members of Congress and Committees for official research that requires use of the Library's collections or files in the Congressional Research Service. Assignment of study rooms shall be made in accordance with the Resolution of the Joint Committee on the Library of September 12, 1959, which states: “* * * occupancy of study rooms assigned to Members should not be delegated to others than members of their own office staff who are paid no less than 20 hours per week from U.S. Government funds and at a rate of not less than the minimum salary of a GS–3 clerk-typist * * *, and that Members should not request assignments of rooms for themselves merely for the purpose of sponsoring the work of private individuals and non-Government groups. * * *” Rooms are assigned for one year or the life of the project, whichever is less, with the assignment and termination dates determined by the Director of the Congressional Relations Office.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

James H. Billington,

The Librarian of Congress.

[FR Doc. 97–31752 Filed 12–4–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1410–04–P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Parts 262 and 265

Records and Information Management Definitions and Release of Information

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Interim rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is amending its regulations relating to the availability of records to the public. This rule is made necessary by amendments to the Freedom of Information Act, made by Public Law 104–231, the “Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996.” The amendments address the availability of electronic records, the creation of a new electronic reading room, and procedural aspects, such as time limits, expedited processing, denial specifications, and reporting requirements.

DATES: The interim regulations take effect on December 5, 1997. Comments must be received on or before January 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be mailed or delivered to Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer,

United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 8800, Washington, DC 20260–5243.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betty Sheriff, (202) 268–2608.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) was amended on October 2, 1996, by Public Law 104–231, the “Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996.” Consistent with the amended law, the interim regulations:

a. Add a new category of reading room records consisting of any records processed and disclosed in response to a FOIA request that the Postal Service determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records. These and other reading room records created on or after November 1, 1996 also will be made available through the Postal Service's world wide web home page after November 1, 1997.

b. Define the term “record” to include electronic records; provide that the requester may choose the form or format in which to receive records; and state that the Postal Service will make reasonable efforts to search for records in electronic form or format unless such efforts would significantly interfere with the operation of its computer systems.

c. Extend the period for response from 10 to 20 working days as of October 2, 1997; provide for notification of the requester when that period cannot be met to arrange for an alternative time frame or a modified request; and establish a new procedure for handling requests for expedited processing.

d. Require the custodian to indicate on the released portion of a record the amount of information deleted and to include in a written response an estimate of the volume of any records withheld in full.

e. Change the annual reporting period from a calendar year to the fiscal year that, for most of the Executive branch, begins on October 1, and provide that those reports will be made available to the Attorney General and on the Postal Service's world wide web page.

Other interim changes update organizational titles and the schedule of fees for searching for records by computer.

The Postal Service has determined to place the amendments immediately into effect on an interim basis, because many of the key provisions implement statutory changes that take effect by force of law on October 2, 1997. Nonetheless, the Postal Service invites interested persons to submit written comments concerning the interim rule.