

## § 1951.708

(1) Specify in detail the reason(s) the assistance was determined to be unauthorized;

(2) State the amount of unauthorized assistance, including any accrued interest to be repaid; and

(3) Establish an appointment for the recipient to discuss with the servicing official the basis for FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's claim; and give the recipient an opportunity to provide facts, figures, written records or other information which might alter FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's determination that the assistance received was unauthorized.

(b) If the recipient meets with the servicing official, the servicing official will outline to the recipient why the assistance was determined to be unauthorized. The recipient will be given an opportunity to provide information to refute FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's findings. When requested by the recipient, the servicing official may grant additional time for the recipient to assemble documentation. When an extension is granted, the servicing official will specify a definite number of days to be allowed and establish the follow up necessary to assure that servicing of the case continues without undue delay.

### § 1951.708 Decision on servicing actions.

When the servicing official is the same individual who approved the unauthorized assistance, the next-higher supervisory official must review the case before further actions are taken by the servicing official.

(a) *Payment in full.* If the recipient agrees with FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's determination or will pay the amount in question, the servicing official may allow a reasonable period of time (usually not to exceed 90 days) for the recipient to arrange for repayment. The amount due will be determined according to §1951.711(a). the servicing official will remit collections to the Finance Office according to the Forms Manual Insert (FMI) for Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-

## 7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-01 Edition)

354 451-2, "Schedule of Remittances," as follows:

(1) In the case of a loan, for application to the borrower's account as an extra payment.

(2) In the case of a grant, as a "Miscellaneous Collection for Application to the General Fund."

(3) In the case of a loan or grant which was identified in an OIG audit, the servicing official will report the repayment as outlined in §1951.711(b)(2) or 1951.715 as applicable.

(b) *Continuation with recipient.* If the recipient agrees with FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's determination or is willing to pay the amount in question but cannot repay the unauthorized assistance within a reasonable period of time, continuation is authorized and servicing actions outlined in §1951.711 will be taken provided all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The recipient did not provide false information as defined in §1951.702(d);

(2) It would be highly inequitable to require prompt repayment of the unauthorized assistance; and

(3) Failure to collect the unauthorized assistance in full will not adversely affect FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's financial interests.

(c) *Notice of determination when agreement is not reached.* If the recipient does not agree with FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's determination, or if the recipient fails to respond to the initial letter prescribed in §1951.707 within 30 days, the servicing official will notify the recipient by letter substantially similar to exhibit B of this subpart (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office) (sent by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested), with a copy to the State Director, and for a case identified in an OIG audit report, a copy to the OIG office which conducted the audit and the Planning and Analysis Staff of the National Office. This letter will include:

(1) The amount of assistance finally determined by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to be unauthorized including any accrued interest.

(2) A statement of further actions to be taken by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 as outlined in paragraph (e)(1) or (e)(2) of this section; and

(3) The appeal rights as prescribed in exhibit B of this subpart (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office).

(d) *Appeals.* Appeals resulting from the letter prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section will be handled according to subpart B of part 1900 of this chapter. All appeal provisions will be concluded before proceeding with further actions. If the recipient does not prevail in an appeal, or when an appeal is not made during the time allowed, the servicing official will document the facts in the case file and submit to State Director, if the servicing official is other than State Director, who will proceed with the actions outlined in paragraph (e) of this section, as applicable. If during the course of appeal the appellant decides to agree with FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's findings or is willing to repay the unauthorized assistance, the servicing official will proceed with the actions outlined in paragraph (a), (b), or (e) of this section.

(e) *Liquidation of loan(s) or legal action to enforce collection.* When a case cannot be handled according to the provisions of paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, or if the recipient refuses to execute the documents necessary to establish an obligation to repay the unauthorized assistance as provided in §1951.711, one of the following actions will be taken:

(1) *Active borrower with a secured loan.*

(i) The servicing official will attempt to have the recipient liquidate voluntarily. If the recipient agrees to liquidate voluntarily, this will be documented in the case file. Where real property is involved, a letter will be prepared by the servicing official and signed by the recipient agreeing to voluntary liquidation. A resolution of the governing body may be required. If the recipient does not agree to voluntary liquidation, or agrees but it cannot be accomplished within a reasonable period of time (usually not more than 90 days), forced liquidation action will be initiated in accordance with applicable

provisions of subpart A of part 1955 of this chapter unless:

(A) The amount of unauthorized assistance outstanding, including principal, accrued interest, and any recoverable costs charged to the account, is less than \$1,000; or

(B) It can be clearly documented that it would not be in the best financial interest of the Government to force liquidation. If the servicing official wishes to make an exception to forced liquidation under paragraph (e)(1)(i)(B) of this section, a request for an exception under §951.716 will be made.

(ii) When all of the conditions of paragraph (a) or (b) of this section are met, but the recipient does not repay or refuses to execute documents to effect necessary account adjustments according to the provisions of §1951.711, liquidation action will be initiated as provided in paragraph (e)(1)(i) of this section.

(iii) When forced liquidation would be initiated except that the loan is being handled under paragraph (e)(1)(i)(A) or (e)(1)(i)(B) of this section, continuation with the loan on existing terms will be provided. In these cases, the recipient will be notified by letter of the actions taken.

(2) *Grantee, inactive borrower, or active borrower with unsecured loan (such as collection-only, or unsatisfied balance after liquidation).* The servicing official will document the facts in the case file and submit it to the State Director, if the servicing official is other than the State Director, who will request the advice of the OGC on pursuing legal action to effect collection. The case file, recommendation of State Director and OGC comments will be forwarded to the National Office for review and authorization to implement recommended servicing actions. The State Director will tell OGC what assets, if any, are available from which to collect.

#### §§ 1951.709-1951.710 [Reserved]

#### § 1951.711 Servicing options in lieu of liquidation or legal action to collect.

When the conditions outlined in §1951.708(b) are met, the servicing options outlined in this section will be