

be made upon such attorney or representative in lieu of the actual party.

(d) *Proof of service.* A certificate of the person serving the document by personal delivery or by mail, setting forth the date, time and manner of service, shall be proof of service.

(e) *Computation of time.* (1) In computing any period of time under this part or in an order issued thereunder, the time begins with the day following the act, event, or default, and includes the last day of the period, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday observed by the Federal Government, in which event it includes the next business day.

(2) When a document has been served by mail, an additional five days will be added to the time permitted for any response.

(f) *Extensions of time.* Requests for extensions of time shall be submitted to the ALJ, Chief Judge or the Judicial Officer prior to the expiration of the original due date. The time for the filing of any document or paper required or authorized under the rules in this part may be extended by the ALJ, Chief Judge or the Judicial Officer, if, in the judgment of the ALJ, Chief Judge or the Judicial Officer, there is cause for the extension. In instances where the time permits notice of the request for extension, time shall be given to the other party to submit views concerning the request.

#### § 283.23 Procedural matters.

(a) *Communications from Hearing Clerk.* In order to expedite the appeal process, the Hearing Clerk may develop form letters and transmittal forms to be used for notices, service of papers, requests for information, and all other communications between the Hearing Clerk's Office and the parties.

(b) *Representation.* All parties may be represented by attorneys or by designated representatives. Attorneys or designated representatives appearing for the parties shall file formal notices of appearances and withdrawals with the Hearing Clerk.

### Subpart C—Summary Procedure for Appeals of QC Claims of Less Than \$50,000

#### § 283.24 Incorporation of procedures by reference.

Except as otherwise provided, the following procedures detailed in subpart B of this part shall apply to appeals of QC claims of less than \$50,000: §§ 283.5 *Motion to Dismiss*; 283.6 *Answer*; 283.8 *Rebuttal or Amendment of Appeal or Answer*; 283.9 *Withdrawal of Appeal*; 283.10 *Consent Decision*; 283.18 *Motions and Requests*; 283.19 *ALJ's*; 283.20 *Review by the Judicial Officer*; 283.21 *Ex Parte Communications*; 283.22 *Filings; Service; Extensions of Time; and Computations of Time*; and 283.23 *Procedural Matters*.

#### § 283.25 Filing appeals for QC claims of less than \$50,000.

(a) *Time.* A State agency may appeal the bill for collection from FNS for a QC claim of less than \$50,000 for a food stamp QC error rate in excess of the tolerance level. A State agency must file a written notice of appeal, in accordance with this section, within 10 days of receipt of the bill for collection from FNS for a QC claim of less than \$50,000. The State agency may request an extension to the 10-day filing requirement in accordance with § 283.22(f). FNS shall issue the bill for collection by certified mail or personal service.

(b) *Exhaustion of administrative remedies.* The State agency must appeal the bill for collection to the ALJ, pursuant to this subpart, and exhaust the available administrative remedies before filing suit in the Federal District Courts.

(c) *Filing.* The notice of appeal shall be filed with the Hearing Clerk.

(d) *Content of the notice of appeal.* (1) A notice of appeal, in order to be considered acceptable must contain the following information:

(i) A brief and clear statement that it is an appeal from a QC claim of less than \$50,000 identifying the period the claim covers, the date and amount of the bill for collection, and the date of receipt of the bill for collection;