

**§ 117.27**

**25 CFR Ch. I (4-1-03 Edition)**

(a) Funeral expenses, including the cost of a funeral feast, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

(b) Necessary expenses in hearings before the Osage Agency involving the approval or disapproval of last wills and testaments.

(c) Expenses necessary to preserve restricted property.

**§ 117.27 Custody of funds pending administration of estates.**

(a) *Estates of Indians of less than one-half Indian blood and estates of Indians who had certificates of competency.* Upon the death of an Indian of less than one-half Indian blood or an Indian who had a certificate of competency, the superintendent shall pay to the executor or administrator of the estate all moneys and securities, other than segregated trust funds to the credit of the Indian and all funds which accrue pending administration of the estate.

(b) *Estates of Indians of one-half or more Indian blood who did not have certificates of competency.* Upon the death of an Indian of one-half or more Indian blood who did not have a certificate of competency at the time of his death, the following classes of funds, less any amount hypothecated for the payment of taxes as provided in § 117.2 shall be paid by the superintendent to the executor or administrator of the estate:

(1) Allowance funds to the credit of the Indian.

(2) Any quarterly payment authorized prior to the death of the Indian.

(3) Interest on segregated trust funds and deposits computed to the date of death.

(4) Rentals and income from restricted lands collected after the death of the Indian which were due and payable to the Indian prior to his death.

Except as provided in § 117.28, the superintendent shall not pay to the executor or administrator any surplus funds to the credit of the Indian or any funds, other than those listed in paragraphs (b) (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this section which accrue pending administration of the estate.

**§ 117.28 Payment of claims against estates.**

The superintendent may disburse to the executor or administrator of the

estate of a deceased Indian of one-half or more Indian blood who did not have a certificate of competency at the time of his death sufficient funds out of the estate to pay the following classes of claims approved by the court:

(a) Debts authorized by the superintendent during the lifetime of the Indian.

(b) Expenses incurred pending the qualifications of an executor or administrator under authority contained in § 117.26.

(c) Expenses of administration, including court costs, premium on bond of executor or administrator, transcript fees and appraiser fees.

(d) Living expenses incurred within 90 days immediately preceding the date of death of the Indian.

(e) Allowance for reasonable living expenses each month for 12 months to a surviving spouse who is entitled to participate in the distribution of the estate and who is in need of such support.

(f) Allowance for reasonable living expenses each month for 12 months for each child of the decedent under 21 years of age who is entitled to participate in the distribution of the estate and who is in need of such support.

(g) Insurance premiums and license fees on restricted property.

(h) Not to exceed \$1,000 for the preservation and upkeep of restricted property including the services of a caretaker when necessary.

(i) Debts incurred during the lifetime of the Indian but not authorized by the superintendent, if found by the Commissioner to be just and payable. The superintendent shall disburse no funds to an executor or administrator for the payment of the foregoing classes of claims unless the executor or administrator has no other funds in his hands available for the payment of such claims.

[22 FR 10554, Dec. 24, 1957, as amended at 35 FR 10005, June 18, 1970. Redesignated at 47 FR 13327, Mar. 30, 1982]

**§ 117.29 Sale of improvements.**

The superintendent may approve the sale of improvements on restricted Indian lands when such improvements are appraised at not more than \$500 and

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when the owner has submitted a written request that the sale be made and a statement that the improvements can no longer be used by him. The proceeds of all such sales shall be deposited to the credit of the Indian as surplus funds. Improvements consisting of buildings, etc., located on property within the Osage villages of Pawhuska, Hominy, and Grayhorse may, upon approval of the superintendent, be disposed of to other Osage Indians. The superintendent may disburse the surplus funds of the purchaser to consummate the transaction. Sale of such improvements to non-Indian or non-Osage Indians must be approved by the Commissioner.

**§ 117.30 Sale of personal property.**

The superintendent may approve the sale of restricted personal property other than livestock. The superintendent may also approve the sale of livestock when authorized so to do by special or general instructions from the Commissioner. The proceeds from the sale of personal property other than livestock shall be deposited to the credit of the Indian as surplus funds unless the surplus funds from which said property was purchased have been reimbursed from allowance funds, in which case the proceeds from such sale shall be disbursed as allowance funds. If partial reimbursement only has been made, such portion of the proceeds of sale as may be necessary to complete the reimbursable agreement shall be deposited to the credit of the Indian as surplus funds and the balance, if any, shall be disbursed as allowance funds. The proceeds from the sale of livestock shall be deposited in conformity with general or specific instructions from the Commissioner.

**§ 117.31 Removal of restrictions from personal property.**

The superintendent may relinquish title to personal property (other than livestock) held by the United States in trust for the Indian when to do so will enable the Indian to use the property as part payment in the purchase of other personal property and when the remainder of the purchase price is to be made from other than surplus funds of the Indian.

**§ 117.32 Funds of Indians of other tribes.**

The funds of restricted non-Osage Indians, both adults and minors, residing within the jurisdiction of the Osage Agency, derived from sources within the Osage Nation and collected through the Osage Agency, may be disbursed by the superintendent, subject to the condition that all payments to third persons, including taxes and insurance premiums, shall be made upon the written authorization of the individual whose funds are involved, if an adult, and upon the written authorization of the parent or guardian, if a minor. The funds of restricted non-Osage Indians who do not reside within the jurisdiction of the Osage Agency shall be transferred to the superintendent of the jurisdiction within which the Indian resides, to be disbursed under regulations of the receiving agency.

**§ 117.33 Signature of illiterates.**

An Indian who cannot write shall be required to endorse checks payable to his order and sign receipts or other documents by making an imprint of the ball of the right thumb (or the left, if he has lost his right) after his name. This imprint shall be clear and distinct, showing the central whorl and striations and witnessed by two reputable persons whose addresses shall be given opposite or following their names. An Indian may sign by marking "X" before two witnesses where he is unable to attach his thumb mark for physical reasons.

**§ 117.34 Financial status of Indians confidential.**

The financial status of Indians shall be regarded as confidential and shall not be disclosed except to the owner of the account or his authorized agent, unless authorized in advance by the Commissioner.

**§ 117.35 Appeals.**

Any decision by the superintendent may be appealed to the area director, any decision by the area director may be appealed to the Commissioner, and any decision by the Commissioner may be appealed to the Secretary.