

§ 11.18 Final denial of claim.

(a) Final denial of an administrative claim under this part shall be in writing and sent to the claimant, his or her attorney, or legal representative by certified or registered mail. The notification of final denial may include a statement of the reasons for the denial and shall include a statement that, if the claimant is dissatisfied with the FEMA action, he or she may file suit in an appropriate U.S. District Court not later than 6 months after the date of mailing of the notification.

(b) Prior to the commencement of suit and prior to the expiration of the 6-month period provided in 28 U.S.C. 2401(b), a claimant, his or her duly authorized agent, or legal representative, may file a written request with FEMA for reconsideration of a final denial of a claim under paragraph (a) of this section. Upon the timely filing of a request for reconsideration the FEMA shall have 6 months from the date of filing in which to make a final FEMA disposition of the claim and the claimant's option under 28 U.S.C. 2675(a) shall not accrue until 6 months after the filing of a request for reconsideration. Final FEMA action on a request for reconsideration shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 11.19 Action on approved claim.

(a) Payment of a claim approved under this part is contingent on claimant's execution of (1) a "Claim for Damage or Injury," Standard Form 95, or a claims settlement agreement, and (2) a "Voucher for Payment," Standard Form 1145, as appropriate. When a claimant is represented by an attorney, the voucher for payment shall designate both the claimant and his or her attorney as payees, and the check shall be delivered to the attorney, whose address shall appear on the voucher.

(b) Acceptance by the claimant, his or her agent, or legal representative, of an award, compromise, or settlement made under section 2672 or 2677 of title 28, United States Code, is final and conclusive on the claimant, his or her agent or legal representative, and any other person on whose behalf or for whose benefit the claim has been presented, and constitutes a complete re-

lease of any claim against the United States and against any employee of the Government whose act or omission gave rise to the claim, by reason of the same subject matter.

Subpart C—Collection of Debts by the Government Under the Debt Collection Act of 1982

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 3711 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 49 FR 38267, Sept. 28, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 11.30 Scope of regulations.

(a) *Scope.* This regulation implements policies used by FEMA to collect debts under the Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 3701 *et seq.* As amended, this Act:

(1) Requires the Director or designee to attempt collection of all debts owed to the United States for money or property arising out of activities of the Agency; and

(2) Authorizes the Director or his designee, for debts not exceeding \$100,000 or such higher limit prescribed by the Attorney General of the United States, under the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3711(a)(2), exclusive of interest, penalty, and administrative charges, to compromise such debts or terminate collection action where it appears that no person is liable on such debt or has the present or prospective financial ability to pay a significant sum thereon or that the cost of collecting such debt is likely to exceed the amount of the recovery.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Office* means any of the following:

(i) United States Fire Administration.

(ii) Federal Insurance Administration.

(iii) National Preparedness Directorate.

(iv) State & Local Programs & Support Directorate.

(v) U.S. Fire Academy/National Emergency Training Center.

(vi) Office of Financial Management, which for purposes of this subpart shall include all FEMA Headquarters elements not included in paragraphs

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(b)(1)(ii) through (b)(1)(iv) of this section.

(vii) FEMA Special Facility.

(2) *Employee* means those persons defined in 5 U.S.C. 2104, members of and retirees from the uniformed services of the United States and employees of and retirees from the United States Postal Service and the Postal Rate Commission.

[57 FR 54714, Nov. 20, 1992]

§ 11.31 Adoption of joint standards.

All administrative actions to collect debts arising out of activities of the Agency shall be performed in accordance with the applicable standards prescribed either in 4 CFR parts 101 through 105 or any standards promulgated jointly by the Attorney General and the Comptroller General. Such standards are adopted as a part of this subpart and are supplemented in this subpart. Additional guidance will be found in the GAO Policy and Procedures Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies and in the Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual.

§ 11.32 Subdivision and joining of debts.

(a) A debtor's liability arising from a particular transaction or contract shall be considered as a single debt in determining whether the debt is one not exceeding \$100,000 or such higher limit prescribed by the Attorney General in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(a)(2) exclusive of interest for the purpose of compromise or termination of collection action. Such a debt may not be subdivided to avoid the monetary ceiling established by the Act.

(b) Joining of two or more single debts in a demand upon a particular debtor for payment totaling more than \$100,000 or such higher limit prescribed by the Attorney General in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(a)(2) does not preclude compromise or termination of collection action with respect to any one of such debts that do not exceed \$100,000 or such higher limit prescribed by the Attorney General in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(a)(2) exclusive of interest.

[49 FR 38267, Sept. 28, 1984, as amended at 57 FR 54714, Nov. 20, 1992]

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§ 11.33 Authority of offices to attempt collection of debts.

The head of each office and each regional director shall designate a debt collections officer (DCO) who shall attempt to collect in full all debts of the Agency for money or property arising out of the activities of such office. Each DCO shall establish and currently maintain a file with regard to each debt for which collection activities are undertaken. Insofar as it is feasible, debt collection personnel shall have personal interviews or telephone contact with the debtor.

§ 11.34 Referral of debts to the Chief Financial Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(a) Authority of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(1) The Chief Financial Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, is designated as the Agency Collections Officer (ACO). In this capacity he or she shall exercise such powers and perform duties of the Director in collecting debts owed FEMA. In this regard, the ACO may, after consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, compromise, suspend or terminate collection action on the debts owed the Agency, not exceeding \$100,000, or such higher limit prescribed by the Attorney General in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(a)(2), exclusive of interest, except as provided in § 11.35 and paragraph (b) of this section. In addition, the CFO is delegated all authority which may be exercised by the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency in relation to:

(i) Disclosure to a consumer reporting agency in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(f),

(ii) Instituting salary offset procedures in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5514(a),

(iii) Instituting administrative offset procedures in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3716,

(iv) Charging of interest and penalties in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717,

(v) Entering into contracts for collection of debts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718, except that the execution and administration of such contracts is