

## § 70.23

the summons and to produce such books, papers, records, or other data, and to give such testimony, under oath, as may be relevant or material to such inquiry; and take such testimony of the person concerned, under oath, as may be relevant or material to such inquiry. Such ATF officer may designate an appropriate ATF officer as the individual before whom a person summoned pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 7602 shall appear. Any such officer, when so designated in a summons, is authorized to take testimony under oath of the person summoned and to receive and examine books, papers, records, or other data produced in compliance with the summons. The authority to issue a summons may not be redelegated. See § 70.302 of this part for rules concerning payments to certain persons who are summoned to give information to the Bureau under 26 U.S.C. 7602 and this section.

(Aug. 16, 1954, Chapter 736, 68A Stat. 901; (26 U.S.C. 7602))

[T.D. ATF-6, 38 FR 32445, Nov. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. ATF-42, 42 FR 8367, Feb. 10, 1977; T.D. ATF-301, 55 FR 47608, Nov. 14, 1990; T.D. ATF-331, 57 FR 40328, Sept. 3, 1992; T.D. ATF-450, 66 FR 29023, May 29, 2001]

### § 70.23 Service of summonses.

(a) *In general.* A summons issued under 26 U.S.C. 7602 shall be served by an attested copy delivered in hand to the person to whom it is directed, or left at his last and usual place of abode. The certificate of service signed by the person serving the summons shall be evidence of the facts it states on the hearing of an application for the enforcement of the summons. When the summons requires the production of books, papers, records, or other data, it shall be sufficient if such books, papers, records, or other data are described with reasonable certainty.

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(b) *Persons who may serve summonses.* Any appropriate ATF officer may serve a summons issued under 26 U.S.C. 7602.

(68A Stat. 902, as amended (26 U.S.C. 7603); 26 U.S.C. 7805 (68A Stat. 917), 27 U.S.C. 205 (49 Stat. 981 as amended), 18 U.S.C. 926 (82 Stat. 959), and sec. 38, Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778, 90 Stat. 744), 27 U.S.C. 205, 22 U.S.C. 2778, 26 U.S.C. 7602, and 5 U.S.C. 301)

[T.D. ATF-6, 38 FR 32445, Nov. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. ATF-48, 43 FR 13531, Mar. 31, 1978; T.D. ATF-201, 50 FR 12533, Mar. 29, 1985; T.D. ATF-249, 52 FR 5961, Feb. 27, 1987; T.D. ATF-301, 55 FR 47608, Nov. 14, 1990; T.D. ATF-450, 66 FR 29023, May 29, 2001]

### § 70.24 Enforcement of summonses.

(a) *In general.* Whenever any person summoned under 26 U.S.C. 7602 neglects or refuses to obey such summons, or to produce books, papers, records, or other data, or to give testimony, as required, application may be made to the judge of the district court or to a U.S. magistrate for the district within which the person so summoned resides or is found for an attachment against him as for a contempt.

(b) *Persons who may apply for an attachment.* Appropriate ATF officers are authorized to apply for an attachment as provided in paragraph (a) of this section. The authority to apply for an attachment for the enforcement of a summons may not be redelegated.

(68A Stat. 902, as amended (26 U.S.C. 7604))

[T.D. ATF-6, 38 FR 32445, Nov. 26, 1973; 38 FR 33767, Dec. 7, 1973, as amended by T.D. ATF-450, 66 FR 29023, May 29, 2001]

### § 70.25 Special procedures for third-party summonses.

(a) When the Bureau summons the records of persons defined by 26 U.S.C. 7609(a)(3) as “third-party record-keepers”, the person about whom information is being gathered must be notified in advance, except when:

(1) The summons is served on the person about whom information is being gathered, or any officer or employee of such person, or

(2) The summons is served to determine whether or not records of the business transactions or affairs of an identified person have been made or kept, or

(3) The summons does not identify the person with respect to whose liability the summons is issued (a “John Doe” summons issued under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. 7609(f)), or

(4) The appropriate ATF officer petitions, and the court determines, on the basis of the facts and circumstances alleged, that there is reasonable cause to believe the giving of notice may lead to attempts to conceal, destroy, or alter records relevant to the examination, to prevent the communication of information from other persons through intimidation, bribery, or collusion, or to flee to avoid prosecution, testifying or production of records.

(b) Within 3 days of the day on which the summons was served, the notice required by paragraph (a) of this section shall be served upon the person entitled to notice, or mailed by certified or registered mail to the last known address of such person, or, in the absence of a last known address, left with the person summoned. No examination of any records required to be produced under a summons as to which notice is required under paragraph (a) of this section may be made:

(1) Before the close of the 23rd day after the day notice with respect to the summons is given in the manner provided in this paragraph, or

(2) Where a proceeding under paragraph (c) of this section was begun within the 20-day period referred to in that paragraph and the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section have been met, except in accordance with an order of the court having jurisdiction of such proceeding or with the consent of the person beginning the proceeding to quash.

(c) If the person about whom information is being gathered has been given notice, that person has the right to institute, until and including the 20th day following the day such notice was served on or mailed, by certified or registered mail, to such notified person, a proceeding to quash the summons. During the time the validity of the summons is being litigated, the statutes of limitation are suspended under 26 U.S.C. 7609(e). Title 26 U.S.C. 7609 does not restrict the authority under 26 U.S.C. 7602 (or under any other provision of law) to examine records

and witnesses without serving a summons and without giving notice of an examination.

(26 U.S.C. 7609)

[T.D. ATF-301, 55 FR 47608, Nov. 14, 1990]

#### § 70.26 Third-party recordkeepers.

(a) *Definitions*—(1) *Accountant*. A person is an “accountant” under 26 U.S.C. 7609(a)(3)(F) for purposes of determining whether that person is a third-party recordkeeper if the person is registered, licensed, or certified under State law as an accountant.

(2) *Attorney*. A person is an “attorney” under 26 U.S.C. 7609(a)(3)(E) for purposes of determining whether that person is a third-party recordkeeper if the person is admitted to the bar of a State or the District of Columbia.

(3) *Credit cards*—(i) *Person extending credit through credit cards*. The term “person extending credit through credit cards or similar devices” under 26 U.S.C. 7609(a)(3)(C) generally includes any person who issues a credit card. It does not include a seller of goods or services that honors credit cards issued by other parties but does not extend credit on the basis of credit cards or similar devices issued by itself.

(ii) [Reserved]

(iii) *Similar devices to credit cards*. An object is a “similar device” to a credit card under 26 U.S.C. 7609(a)(3)(C) only if it is physical in nature, such as a coupon book, a charge plate, or a letter of credit. Thus, a person who extends credit by requiring credit customers to sign sales slips without requiring use of physical objects issued by that person is not a third-party recordkeeper under 26 U.S.C. 7609(a)(3)(C).

(b) *When third-party recordkeeper status arises*. A person is a “third-party recordkeeper” with respect to a given set of records only if the person made or kept the records in the person’s capacity as a third-party recordkeeper. Thus, for instance, an accountant is not a third-party recordkeeper (by reason of being an accountant) with respect to the accountant’s records of a sale of property by the accountant to another person. Similarly, a credit card issuer is not a third-party recordkeeper (by reason of being a person extending credit through the use of credit