

Department of Homeland Security

§ 274.20

§ 274.18 Provisions applicable to particular situations.

(a) A straw purchaser is a person who purchases in his own name a conveyance for another person, the real purchaser, who has a record or reputation. A lienholder-petitioner that knows, or has reason to believe, that a purchaser of a conveyance is a straw purchaser, must satisfy the requirements of § 274.15(a) of this part as to both the straw purchaser and the real purchaser to be eligible for a grant of remission of forfeiture. This provision applies where money is borrowed on the security of property held in the name of the straw purchaser for the real purchaser.

(b) A petitioner engaged in the business of leasing conveyances must satisfy the requirements of § 274.15(a) of this part as to all lessees and sublessees or other persons having any interest under a lease of the subject conveyance on the date of seizure of that conveyance to be eligible for a grant of remission of forfeiture.

(c) In the consideration of a petition for relief from forfeiture the mere existence of a community property interest without proof of financial contribution to the purchase of a conveyance will not be deemed to have been a property interest in a seized and forfeited conveyance.

(d) A petitioner that submits a petition for remission of forfeiture as a subrogee must satisfy the requirements of § 274.15(a) of this part as to all prior possessors of the subrogated interest in the seized and forfeited conveyance to be eligible for a grant of remission of forfeiture.

§ 274.19 Determinations on petitions; reconsideration.

(a) Upon consideration of a petition for relief from forfeiture and all of the facts and circumstances surrounding the seizure of a conveyance, the regional commissioner shall issue a written determination. In making that determination the regional commissioner shall presume that the evidence is sufficient to support forfeiture of the conveyance. No hearing shall be held on any petitions for relief from forfeiture under this part.

(b) The regional commissioner may deny relief from forfeiture when there

are unusual circumstances regarding a seizure which provide reasonable grounds for concluding that remission or mitigation of the forfeiture would be contrary to the interests of justice and would diminish the deterrent effect of section 274(b) of the Act, even if the petitioner has satisfactorily established compliance with the administrative conditions applicable to and eligibility for relief from forfeiture.

(c) Relief from forfeiture shall not be granted to any petitioner who has a subordinate property interest to another petitioner until the petition of the petitioner with the superior property interest has been finally adjudicated nor until any claim or petition of the owner has been finally adjudicated.

(d) The determination on a petition shall set forth either the conditions upon which relief has been granted and the procedures for obtaining possession of the forfeited conveyance or other relief granted; or the reasons for denial of relief from forfeiture and the procedures for requesting reconsideration. The determination on a petition shall be mailed to the petitioner or duly authorized counsel of the petitioner.

(e) Any request for reconsideration of a denial of relief from forfeiture must be submitted to the regional commissioner within 10 days of receipt of the determination on the petition. Such request for reconsideration can only be based on evidence recently developed or not previously considered.

(f) Only one request for reconsideration of a denial of relief from forfeiture shall be considered.

§ 274.20 Compromise of judicial forfeiture proceedings.

Judicial forfeiture proceedings commenced pursuant to section 274(b) of the Act and this part may be compromised by the United States Attorney only with the concurrence of the Director, Asset Forfeiture Office, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. In evaluating a compromise, the United States Attorney shall consider the probabilities for successfully prosecuting the judicial forfeiture proceedings and the terms of the compromise offer. The United States Attorney shall consult with the regional