(2) *At the Veterans Administration, Federal penal institutions, and United States Public Health Service hospitals.* Any officer in charge of a home, hospital, or other facility of the Veterans Administration, but only for the patients, or employees of the facility; any officer of a Federal penal institution or a United States Public Health Service hospital expressly authorized to certify by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designee, but only for the inmates, patients or employees of the institution involved. Officers of Veterans Administration facilities, Federal penal institutions, and Public Health Service hospitals must use the stamp or seal of the particular institution or service.

(c) *Authorized officers in foreign countries.* Any United States diplomatic or consular representative, or the officer of a foreign branch of a bank or trust company incorporated in the United States whose signature is attested by an imprint of the corporate seal or is certified to the Department of the Treasury. If none of these individuals is available, a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths may certify, but his or her official character and jurisdiction must be certified by a United States diplomatic or consular officer under seal of his or her office.

(d) *Authorized officers in particular localities.* The Governor and the Treasurer of Puerto Rico; the Governor and the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands; the Governor and the Director of Finance of Guam; the Governor and the Director of Administrative Services of American Samoa; or designated officers of the Panama Canal Commission.

(e) *Special provisions.* If no certifying officer is readily accessible, the Commissioner of the Public Debt, Deputy Commissioner, any Assistant Commissioner, or other designated official of the Bureau or of a Federal Reserve Bank or Branch is authorized to make special provision for any particular case.

§ 353.56 General instructions and liability.

(a) The certifying officer must: (1) Require the person presenting a bond, or an appropriate Public Debt transaction form, to establish his or her identity in accordance with Department of the Treasury instructions and identification guidelines;

(2) Place a notation on the back of the bond or on the appropriate Public Debt transaction form, or in a separate record, showing exactly how identification was established; and

(3) Affix, as part of the certification, his or her official signature, title, seal or issuing or paying agent's stamp, address, and the date of execution.

(b) The certifying officer and, if such person is an officer or an employee of an organization, the organization will be held fully responsible for the adequacy of the identification.

§ 353.57 When a certifying officer may not certify.

Certifying officers may not certify the requests for payment of bonds, or appropriate Public Debt transaction forms if, in their own right or in a representative capacity, they—

(a) Have an interest in the bonds, or

(b) Will, by virtue of the requests being certified, acquire an interest in the bonds.

§ 353.58 Forms to be certified.

When required in the instructions on a Public Debt transaction form, the form must be signed before an authorized certifying officer.

Subpart K—Minors, Incompetents, Aged Persons, Absentees, et al.

§ 353.60 Payment to representative of an estate.

(a) The representative of an estate of an owner who is a minor, an aged person, incompetent, absentee, et al., may receive payment upon request:

(1) If the registration shows the name and capacity of the representative;

(2) If the registration shows the capacity but not the name of the representative and the request is accompanied by appropriate evidence; or

(3) If the registration includes neither the name of the representative nor his or her capacity but the request is accompained by appropriate evidence.

(b) Appropriate evidence for paragraphs (a) (2) and (3) of this section includes a certified copy of the letters of

appointment or, if the representative is not appointed by a court, other proof of qualification. Except in the case of corporate fiduciaries, the evidence must show that the appointment is in full force and be dated not more than one year prior to the presentation of the bond for payment. The request for payment appearing on the back of a bond must be signed by the representative as such, for example, ''John S. Jones, guardian (committee) of the estate of Henry W. Smith, a minor (an incompetent)''.

§ 353.61 Payment after death.

After the death of the ward, and at any time prior to the representative's discharge, the representative of the estate will be entitled to obtain payment of a bond to which the ward was solely entitled.

§ 353.62 Payment to minors.

If the owner of a savings bond is a minor and the form of registration does not indicate that there is a representative of the minor's estate, payment will be made to the minor upon his or her request, provided the minor is of sufficient competency to sign the request for payment and to understand the nature of the transaction. In general, the fact that the request for payment has been signed by a minor and certified will be accepted as sufficient proof of competency and understanding.

§ 353.63 Payment to a parent or other person on behalf of a minor.

If the owner of a savings bond is a minor and the form of registration does not indicate that there is a representative of his or her estate, and if the minor is not of sufficient competency to sign the request for payment and to understand the nature of the transaction, payment will be made to either parent with whom the minor resides or to whom legal custody has been granted. If the minor does not reside with either parent, payment will be made to the person who furnishes the chief support for the minor. The request must appear on the back of the bond in one of the following forms:

(a) *Request by parent.*

I certify that I am the mother of John C. Jones (with whom he resides) (to whom legal custody has been granted). He is _____ years of age and is not of sufficient understanding to make this request.

Mary Jones on behalf of John C. Jones

(b) *Request by other person.*

I certify that John C. Jones does not reside with either parent and that I furnish his chief support. He is _____ years of age and is not of sufficient understanding to make this request.

Alice Brown, grandmother,

On behalf of John C. Jones

§ 353.64 Payment, reinvestment, or exchange—voluntary guardian of an incapacitated person.

(a) Payment of bonds. When an adult owner of bonds is incapable of requesting payment as a result of incapacity and there is no other person legally qualified to do so, the relative, or other person, responsible for the owner's care and support may submit an application for recognition as voluntary guardian for the purpose of redeeming the owner's bonds, if the total redemption value of all of the owner's bonds does not exceed $20,000. The redemption value of the bonds shall be determined as of the date the bonds are received, accompanied by an appropriate request for payment. If the total redemption value exceeds $20,000, a legal representative must be appointed, as set forth in § 315.60.

(b) Reinvestment of bonds. If the bonds have finally matured and it is desired to redeem them and reinvest the proceeds in other savings bonds, the new bonds must be registered in the name of the incapacitated person, followed by words showing that he or she is under voluntary guardianship; for example, ''John Jones 123–45–6789, under voluntary guardianship''. A living coowner or beneficiary named on the matured bonds must be designated on the new bonds, unless such person furnishes a certified statement consenting to omission of his or her name. If an amount insufficient to purchase an additional bond of any authorized denomination of either series remains after the reinvestment, the voluntary guardian may furnish additional funds sufficient to purchase another bond of