

§ 353.71

31 CFR Ch. II (7-1-05 Edition)

must be supported by proof of death of the owner.

(2) *Beneficiary deceased.* If the beneficiary's death occurs before, or simultaneously with, that of the registered owner, payment or reissue will be made as though the bond were registered in the owner's name alone. Proof of death of the owner and beneficiary is required to establish the order of death.

(d) *Nonresident aliens.* If the person who becomes entitled to a bond because of the death of an owner is an alien who is a resident of an area with respect to which the Department of the Treasury restricts or regulates the delivery of checks drawn against funds of the United States or its agencies or instrumentalities, delivery of the redemption check will not be made so long as the restriction applies. See Department of the Treasury Circular No. 655, current revision (31 CFR part 211).

§ 353.71 Decedent's estate

(a) *Estate is being administered.* (1) Appropriate proof of appointment will be required for the legal representative of the estate. Letters of appointment must be dated within one year of submission.

(2) The bonds will be registered in the following form: "John Doe, SSN 123-45-6789, Legal Representative of the estate of James Doe, deceased, SSN 987-65-4321."

(3) The legal representative of the estate may request payment of bonds and held payments belonging to a decedent's estate, to the estate or to the person(s) entitled, or may have the bonds reissued to the person(s) entitled.

(b) *Estate has been settled previously.* If the estate has been previously settled through judicial proceedings, the person(s) entitled may request payment of bonds or may have the bonds reissued to the person(s) entitled. A certified copy of the court-approved final accounting for the estate, the court's decree of distribution, or other appropriate evidence will be required.

(c) *Summary administration procedures.* If there is no formal administration and no representative of the estate is to be appointed, the person(s) entitled under state law summary or small estates procedures may request payment

of bonds or may have the bonds reissued to the person(s) entitled. Appropriate evidence is required.

(d) *Survivors' order of precedence for payment or transfer.* Estates with bonds over \$100,000 redemption value must be administered. If there has been no administration, no administration is pending or contemplated, no summary or small estate procedures have been used, and the redemption value of the bonds is \$100,000 or less, then bonds may be paid or reissued to the persons named in the following order of precedence:

(1) There is a surviving spouse and no surviving child or descendant of a deceased child: to the surviving spouse.

(2) There is a surviving spouse and a child or children of the decedent, or descendants of deceased children: one-half to the surviving spouse and one-half to the child or children of the decedent, and the descendants of deceased children, by representation, or by agreement of all persons entitled in this class;

(3) There is no surviving spouse and there is a surviving child or descendant of deceased children: to the child or children of the decedent, and the descendants of deceased children, by representation.

(4) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child, and no surviving descendants of deceased children: to the parents of the decedent, one-half to each, or in full to the survivor.

(5) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, and no surviving parents: to the brothers and sisters and descendants of deceased brothers and sisters by representation.

(6) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, no surviving parents, and no brothers or sisters or descendants of deceased brothers and sisters: to other next of kin, as determined by the laws of the decedent's domicile at the time of death.

(7) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, no surviving parents, no brothers or sisters or descendants of deceased brothers and sisters, and no next of kin, as determined by the laws of the decedent's domicile

at the time of death: to persons related to the decedent by marriage, *i.e.*, heirs of a spouse of the last decedent where the spouse predeceased that registrant.

(8) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, no surviving parents, no brothers or sisters or descendants of deceased brothers and sisters, no next of kin, as determined by the laws of the decedent's domicile at the time of death, and no persons related to the decedent by marriage: to the person who paid the burial and funeral expenses, or a creditor of the decedent's estate, but payment may be made only to the extent that the person has not been reimbursed. Transfers are not permitted.

(9) Escheat according to the applicable state law.

(e) When we make payments or reissues according to paragraph (d) of this section, we will make the payments to either a person individually, or individually and on behalf of all other persons entitled. A person who receives payment of bond proceeds individually and on behalf of others warrants that he or she will make distribution of the proceeds to the persons entitled by the law of the decedent's domicile. The provisions of this section are for the convenience of the United States and do not determine ownership of the bonds or their proceeds. The Department of the Treasury may rely on information provided by the person who requests payment or transfer, and is not liable for any action taken in reliance on the information furnished.

[68 FR 24805, May 8, 2003]

**§ 353.72 [Reserved]**

**Subpart M—Fiduciaries**

**§ 353.75 Payment or reissue during the existence of the fiduciary estate.**

(a) *Payment or reissue before maturity*—(1) *Request from the fiduciary named in the registration.* A request for reissue or payment prior to maturity must be signed by all of the fiduciaries unless by statute, decree of court, or the terms of the governing instrument, any lesser number may properly execute the request. If the fiduciaries named in the registration are still act-

ing, no further evidence will be required. In other cases, evidence to support the request will be required, as specified:

(i) *Fiduciaries by title only.* If the bond is registered only in the titles, without the names, of fiduciaries not acting as a board, satisfactory evidence of their incumbency must be furnished, except in the case of bonds registered in the title of public officers as trustees.

(ii) *Boards, committees, commission, etc.* If a bond is registered in the name of a governing body which is empowered to act as a unit, and which holds title to the property of a religious, educational, charitable or nonprofit organization or a public corporation, the request should be signed in the name of the body by an authorized person. Ordinarily, a signed and certified request will be accepted without further evidence.

(iii) *Corporate fiduciaries.* If a bond is registered in the name of a public or private corporation or a governmental body as fiduciary, the request must be signed by an authorized officer in the name of the organization as fiduciary. Ordinarily, a signed and certified request will be accepted without further evidence.

(2) *Trustee of a common trust fund.* A bond held by a financial institution in a fiduciary capacity may be reissued in the name of the institution as trustee of its common trust fund to the extent that participation in the common trust fund is authorized by law or regulation. The request for reissue should be executed by the institution and any co-fiduciary.

(3) *Successor fiduciary.* If the fiduciary in whose name the bond is registered has been replaced by another fiduciary, satisfactory evidence of successorship must be furnished.

(b) *Payment at or after final maturity.* At or after final maturity, a request for payment signed by any one or more of the fiduciaries will be accepted. Payment will be made by check drawn as the bond is registered.

**§ 353.76 Payment or reissue after termination of the fiduciary estate.**

A bond registered in the name or title of a fiduciary may be paid or reissued to the person who has become