

§ 28.30

(5) That failure to submit an answer within 30 days of receipt of the complaint may result in the imposition of the maximum amount of penalties and assessments sought without right of appeal.

(c) A copy of this part 28 and of 24 CFR part 26, subpart B shall be included with the complaint.

§ 28.30 Response.

(a) The respondent may submit a written response to HUD within 30 days of service of the complaint. The response shall be deemed to be a request for hearing. The response should include the admission or denial of each allegation of liability made in the complaint; any defense on which the respondent intends to rely; any reasons why the penalties and assessments should be less than the amount set forth in the complaint; and the name, address, and telephone number of the person who will act as the respondent's representative, if any.

(b) *Filing with the administrative law judges.* HUD shall file the complaint and response with the Chief Docket Clerk, Office of Administrative Law Judges, in accordance with §26.37 of this title. If no response is submitted, then HUD may file a motion for default judgment, together with a copy of the complaint, in accordance with §26.39 of this title.

§ 28.35 Disclosure of documents.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the respondent may, upon written request to the General Counsel or designee, review any relevant and material non-privileged documents, including any exculpatory documents, that relate to the allegations set out in the complaint. Exculpatory information that is contained in a privileged document must be disclosed.

§ 28.40 Hearings.

(a) *General.* Hearings under this part shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures in 24 CFR part 26, subpart B.

(b) *Factors to consider in determining amount of penalties and assessments.* In determining an appropriate amount of civil penalties and assessments, the administrative law judge (ALJ) and, upon

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appeal, the Secretary shall consider and state in their opinions any mitigating or aggravating circumstances. Because of the intangible costs of fraud, the expense of investigating fraudulent conduct, and the need for deterrence, ordinarily double damages and a significant civil penalty should be imposed. The ALJ and the Secretary shall consider the following factors in determining the amount of penalties and assessments to be imposed:

(1) The number of false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims or statements;

(2) The time period over which such claims or statements were made;

(3) The degree of the respondent's culpability with respect to the misconduct;

(4) The amount of money or the value of the property, services, or benefit falsely claimed;

(5) The value of the Government's actual loss as a result of the misconduct, including foreseeable consequential damages and the cost of investigation;

(6) The relationship of the civil penalties to the amount of the Government's loss;

(7) The potential or actual impact of the misconduct upon national defense, public health or safety, or public confidence in the management of Government programs and operations, including particularly the impact on the intended beneficiaries of such programs;

(8) Whether the respondent has engaged in a pattern of the same or similar misconduct;

(9) Whether the respondent attempted to conceal the misconduct;

(10) The degree to which the respondent has involved others in the misconduct or in concealing it;

(11) If the misconduct of employees or agents is imputed to the respondent, the extent to which the respondent's practices fostered or attempted to preclude the misconduct;

(12) Whether the respondent cooperated in or obstructed an investigation of the misconduct;

(13) Whether the respondent assisted in identifying and prosecuting other wrongdoers;

(14) The complexity of the program or transaction, and the degree of the respondent's sophistication with respect to it, including the extent of the