

§ 410.687a

circular, letter, or advertisement, either oral or written, or any claimant or prospective claimant or beneficiary with respect to benefits or any other initial or continued right under the Act; or

(b) Knowingly charge or collect, or make any agreement to charge or collect, directly or indirectly, any fee in connection with any claim except under the circumstances prescribed in § 410.686b, or knowingly charge, demand, receive, or collect for services rendered before a Federal court in connection with a claim under part B of title IV of the Act, any amount in excess of that allowed by a court as described in § 410.686a(b).

(c) Knowingly make or participate in the making or presentation of any false statement, representation, or claim as to any material fact affecting the right of any person to benefits under part B of title IV of the Act, or as to the amount of any benefits; or

(d) Divulge, except as may be authorized by regulations now or hereafter prescribed by the Commissioner, any information furnished or disclosed to him by the Administration relating to the claim or prospective claim of another person (see § 410.120).

[37 FR 17709, Aug. 30, 1972, as amended at 62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.687a Effective date.

The provisions of §§ 410.686a, 410.686b, 410.686c, 410.686d, and 410.686e, shall be effective upon publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER (8-31-72), with respect to all claims processed thereafter, and shall apply to all legal services rendered in connection with those claims for which a fee has not been fully paid before this effective date, notwithstanding the fact that fee contracts for such services may have been entered into, or services rendered, before this effective date.

[37 FR 17709, Aug. 30, 1972]

§ 410.688 Disqualification or suspension of an individual from acting as a representative in proceedings before SSA.

Whenever it appears that an individual has violated any of the rules in § 410.687, or has been convicted of a violation under section 206 of the Social

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Security Act, or has otherwise refused to comply with the Commissioner's rules or regulations on representation of claimants, SSA may institute proceedings as herein provided to suspend or disqualify that individual from acting as a representative in proceedings before SSA.

[62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.689 Notice of charges.

The Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, will prepare a notice containing a statement of charges that constitutes the basis for the proceeding against the individual. This notice will be delivered to the individual charged, either by certified or registered mail to his last known address or by personal delivery, and will advise the individual charged to file an answer, within 30 days from the date the notice was mailed, or was delivered to him personally, indicating why he should not be suspended or disqualified from acting as a representative before the SSA. This 30-day period may be extended for good cause shown, by the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee. The answer must be in writing under oath (or affirmation) and filed with the Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235, within the prescribed time limitation. If an individual charged does not file an answer within the time prescribed, he shall not have the right to present evidence. However, see § 410.692(g) relating to statements with respect to sufficiency of the evidence upon which the charges are based or challenging the validity of the proceedings.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 17709, Aug. 30, 1972; 62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.690 Withdrawal of charges.

If an answer is filed or evidence is obtained that establishes, to the satisfaction of the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, that reasonable doubt exists about whether the individual charged should be suspended or disqualified from acting as a representative before the Administration, the charges may