

(d) Unless the prior approval of the Secretary has been obtained, any extension or reamortization agreed to by a holder which relieves any obligor from liability will release the liability of the Secretary under the guaranty or insurance on the entire loan. However, if such release of liability of an obligor results through operation of law by reason of an extension or other act of forbearance, the liability of the Secretary as guarantor or insurer will not be affected thereby, provided the required lien is maintained and the title holder is and will remain liable for the payment of the indebtedness: *And further provided*, That if such extension or act of forbearance will result in the release of the veteran, all delinquent installments, plus any foreclosure expenses which may have been incurred, shall have been fully paid.

(e) The holder shall promptly forward to the Secretary an advice of the terms of any agreement effecting a reamortization or extension of a guaranteed or insured loan, together with a copy(ies) of the credit report(s) obtained on the debtor(s).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3703(c)(1))

[13 FR 7276, Nov. 27, 1948, as amended at 19 FR 4002, July 1, 1954; 24 FR 2653, Apr. 7, 1959; 53 FR 34296, Sept. 6, 1988]

§ 36.4315 Notice of default and acceptability of partial payments.

(a) *Reporting of defaults.* The holder of any guaranteed or insured loan shall give notice to the Secretary within 45 days after any debtor:

(1) Is in default by reason of nonpayment of any installment for a period of 60 days from the date of first uncured default (see § 36.4301(f)); or

(2) Is in default by failing to comply with any other covenant or obligation of such guaranteed or insured loan which failure persists for a continuing period of 90 days after demand for compliance therewith has been made, except that if the default is due to nonpayment of real estate taxes, the notice shall not be required until the failure to pay when due has persisted for a continuing period of 180 days.

(b) *Partial payments.* A partial payment is a remittance on a loan in default (as defined in § 36.4301(g)) of any

amount less than the full amount due under the terms of the loan and security instruments at the time the remittance is tendered.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, or upon the express waiver of the Secretary, the mortgage holder shall accept any partial payment and either apply it to the mortgagor's account or identify it with the mortgagor's account and hold it in a special account pending disposition. When partial payments held for disposition aggregate a full monthly installment, including escrow, they shall be applied to the mortgagor's account.

(2) A partial payment may be returned to the mortgagor, within 10 calendar days from date of receipt of such payment, with a letter of explanation only if one or more of the following conditions exist:

(i) The property is wholly or partially tenant-occupied and rental payments are not being remitted to the holder for application to the loan account;

(ii) The payment is less than one full monthly installment, including escrows and late charge, if applicable, unless the lesser payment amount has been agreed to under a written repayment plan;

(iii) The payment is less than 50 percent of the total amount then due, unless the lesser payment amount has been agreed to under a written repayment plan;

(iv) The payment is less than the amount agreed to in a written repayment plan;

(v) The amount tendered is in the form of a personal check and the holder has previously notified the mortgagor in writing that only cash or certified remittances are acceptable;

(vi) A delinquency of any amount has continued for at least 6 months since the account first became delinquent and no written repayment plan has been arranged;

(vii) Foreclosure has been commenced by the taking of the first action required for foreclosure under local law;

(viii) The holder's lien position would be jeopardized by acceptance of the partial payment.

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(3) A failure by the holder to comply with the provisions of this paragraph may result in a partial or total loss of guaranty or insurance pursuant to § 36.4325(b), but such failure shall not constitute a defense to any legal action to terminate the loan.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3703(c)(1))
[45 FR 31065, May 12, 1980]

§ 36.4316 Continued default.

(a) In the event any failure of the debtor to discharge the debtor's obligations under the loan continues for a period of 3 months, or for more than 1 month on an extended loan or on a term loan, the holder may at the holder's option then or thereafter give the notice prescribed in § 36.4317.

(b) The notice prescribed in § 36.4317 may be submitted prior to the time prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section in any case where any material prejudice to the rights of the holder or to the Secretary or hazard to the security warrants more prompt action.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3732)
(The information collection requirements contained in paragraph (c) were approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2900-0480)
[13 FR 7276, Nov. 27, 1948, as amended at 45 FR 31065, May 12, 1980; 53 FR 34296, Sept. 6, 1988; 61 FR 28058, June 4, 1996]

§ 36.4317 Notice of intention to foreclose.

(See also § 36.4319.) Except upon the express waiver of the Secretary, a holder shall not begin proceedings in court or give notice of sale under power of sale, or otherwise take steps to terminate the debtor's rights in the security until the expiration of 30 days after delivery by registered mail to the Secretary of a notice of intention to take such action: Provided, That

(a) Immediate action as required under 38 CFR 36.4346 (i), may be taken if the property to be affected thereby has been abandoned by the debtor or has been or may be otherwise subjected to extraordinary waste or hazard, or if there exist conditions justifying the appointment of a receiver for the property (without reference to any contractual provisions for such appointment);

(b) Any right of a holder to repossess personal property may be exercised without prior notice to the Secretary; but notice of any such action taken shall be given by certified mail to the Secretary within ten days thereafter; and

(c) The notice required under this paragraph shall also be provided to the original veteran-borrower and any other liable obligors by certified mail within 30 days after such notice is provided to the Secretary in all cases in which the current owner of the property is not the original veteran-borrower. A failure by the holder to make a good faith effort to comply with the provisions of this subparagraph may result in a partial or total loss of guaranty or insurance pursuant to VA Regulation 36.4325(b), but such failure shall not constitute a defense to any legal action to terminate the loan. A good faith effort will include, but is not limited to:

- (1) A search of the holder's automated and physical loan record systems to identify the name and current or last known address of the original veteran and any other liable obligors;
- (2) A search of the holder's automated and physical loan record systems to identify sufficient information (e.g., Social Security Number) to perform a routine trace inquiry through a major consumer credit bureau;
- (3) Conducting the trace inquiry using an in-house credit reporting terminal;
- (4) Obtaining the results of the inquiry;
- (5) Mailing the required notices and concurrently providing the Secretary with the names and addresses of all obligors identified and sent notice; and,
- (6) Documentation of the holder's records.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number 2900-0530)
[58 FR 29116, May 19, 1993]

§ 36.4318 Refunding of loans in default.

(a) Upon receiving a notice of default or a notice under § 36.4317, the Secretary may within 30 days thereafter require the holder upon penalty of otherwise losing the guaranty or insurance to transfer and assign the loan