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§ 831.1404 Financial hardship.

Financial hardship may be deemed to exist in—but not limited to—those situations where the annuitant from whom collection is sought needs substantially all of his/her current income and liquid assets to meet current ordinary and necessary living expenses and liabilities.

(a) *Considerations.* Some pertinent considerations in determining whether recovery would cause financial hardship are as follows:

(1) The individual's financial ability to pay *at the time collection is scheduled to be made.*

(2) Income to other family member(s), if such member's ordinary and necessary living expenses are included in expenses reported by the annuitant.

(b) *Exemptions.* Assets exempt from execution under State law should not be considered in determining an individual's ability to repay the indebtedness, rather primary emphasis shall be placed upon the annuitant's liquid assets and current income in making such determinations.

§ 831.1405 Ordinary and necessary living expenses.

An individual's ordinary and necessary living expenses include rent, mortgage payments, utilities, maintenance, food, clothing, insurance (life, health and accident), taxes, installment payments, medical expenses, support expenses when the annuitant is legally responsible, and other miscellaneous expenses which the individual can establish as being ordinary and necessary.

§ 831.1406 Waiver precluded.

(a) *When not granted.* Waiver of an overpayment cannot be granted when—

(1) The overpayment was obtained by fraud; or

(2) The overpayment was made to an estate.

§ 831.1407 Burdens of proof.

(a) *Burden of OPM.* The Associate Director for Compensation must establish by the preponderance of the evidence that an overpayment occurred.

(b) *Burden of annuitant.* The recipient of an overpayment must establish by substantial evidence that he/she is eligible for waiver or an adjustment.

Subpart O—Allotments From Civil Service Annuities

SOURCE: 42 FR 52373, Sept. 30, 1977; 42 FR 61240, Dec. 2, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

§ 831.1501 Definitions.

(a) *Allotment* means a specified deduction from the annuity payments due an annuitant voluntarily authorized by the annuitant to be paid to an allottee.

(b) *Allottee* means the institution or organization to which the allotment is paid.

(c) *Allotter* means the annuitant from whose annuity payments an allotment is deducted.

(d) *Annuity Payments* means the net monthly annuity payment due an annuitant after all authorized deductions (such as those for health benefits, Federal income tax, overpayment of annuity, payment of a government claim, etc. have been made.

§ 831.1511 Authorized allottees.

(a) An annuitant may make an allotment to the national office or headquarters of any of the following organizations:

(1) A labor organization recognized under Executive Order 11491, as amended;

(2) An employee organization recognized under 5 U.S.C. 8901(8);

(3) Other lawful organizations which:

(i) Are national in scope,

(ii) Are nonprofit and noncommercial, existing primarily for the purpose of representing employee or annuitant interests in their dealings with employing agencies or OPM,

(iii) Consist primarily of Federal employees and/or annuitants, and

(iv) Existed as of December 23, 1975.

(b) OPM, in its sole discretion, may approve the individual organizations which may receive allotments only after the organization has collected, in accordance with procedures prescribed by OPM, a minimum of two thousand (2,000) allotment authorizations from civil service annuitants.

(c) OPM shall permit an annuitant to make an allotment to an organization only when:

(1) The organization has been approved as an allottee by OPM, and

(2) The organization has agreed in writing to solicit and process allotments in accordance with requirements prescribed by OPM.

§831.1521 Limitations.

(a) The amount of any allotment may not be less than one dollar ($1) and, in the absence of compelling circumstances, shall be in whole dollars.

(b) The total amount of any allotment(s) may not exceed the net monthly annuity due the allotter.

(c) An annuitant may make only one allotment payable to the same allottee at the same time and may make no more than a total of two allotments.

(d) Payment of an allotment shall be discontinued when the allotter's annuity payments are terminated or suspended by OPM.

(e) Allotments shall be disbursed on one of the regularly designated paydays of the allotter in accordance with OPM's agreement with the allottee.

(f) Allotters shall agree that OPM shall be held harmless for any authorized allotment request made by an allottee in accordance with the allottee's agreement with OPM.

(g) Allotters shall agree that disputes regarding any authorized allotment shall be a matter between the allotter and the allottee.

(h) The total number of allottees shall be limited to twenty (20), with first preference given to those organizations participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Thereafter, preference shall be based on the date of application and the number of annuitants who have completed allotment authorizations.

(i) OPM, in its discretion, shall recover from the allottee, the incremental costs of making allotments.

(j) OPM, in its sole discretion, may terminate an allottee's participation in the allotment program described by this subpart at any time in accordance with its agreement with the allottee.

Subparts P–Q—[Reserved]

Subpart R—Agency Requests to OPM for Recovery of a Debt from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund

SOURCE: 51 FR 45443, Dec. 19, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§831.1801 Purpose.

This subpart prescribes the procedures to be followed by a Federal agency when it requests the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to recover a debt owed to the United States by administrative offset against money due and payable to the debtor from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (the Fund). This subpart also prescribes the procedures that OPM must follow to make these administrative offsets.

§831.1802 Scope.

This subpart applies to agencies, employees, and Members, as defined by §831.1803.

§831.1803 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, terms are defined as follows—

Act means the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and implemented by 4 CFR 101.1 *et seq.*, the Federal Claims Collection Standards (FCCS).

Administrative offset means withholding money payable from the Fund to satisfy a debt to the United States under 31 U.S.C. 3716.

Agency means (a) an Executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, including the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Postal Rate Commission; (b) a military department, as defined in section 102 of title 5, United States Code; (c) an agency or court in the judicial branch, including a court as defined in section 610 of title 28, United States Code, the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation; (d) an agency of the legislative branch, including the