§ 1017.5 Former employee is unable to physically inspect the Government records, the agency will reproduce copies of the records and may charge for those copies;

(5) The opportunity to enter into a written agreement with the agency to establish a schedule for the voluntary repayment of the debt;

(6) The right to a hearing conducted by an impartial hearing official concerning the existence or amount of the debt and the repayment schedule, if it was not established by a written agreement between the former employee and the creditor agency;

(7) The method and time period for petitioning for a hearing;

(8) A statement that the timely filing of a petition for a hearing (on or before the 15th day following receipt of the written notice) will stay the commencement of collection proceedings, together with instructions on how and where to file a petition;

(9) A statement that a final decision on the hearing will be issued not later than 60 days after the filing of the petition requesting the hearing unless the former employee requests, and the hearing official grants, a delay in the proceedings;

(10) A statement that knowingly false or frivolous statements, representations, or evidence may subject the former employee to appropriate criminal penalties (i.e., for false certification, etc.);

(11) A statement of other rights and remedies available to the former employee under statutes or regulations governing the program for which the collection is being made; and

(12) Unless there are contractual or statutory provisions to the contrary, a statement that amounts paid on or deducted for the debt which are later waived or found not owed to the United States will be promptly refunded to the former employee.


§ 1017.6 Result if employee fails to meet deadlines.

An employee will not be granted a hearing and will have his/her disposable pay offset in accordance with the Board’s offset schedule if the employee:

(a) Fails to file a petition for a hearing in conformity with the requirements of §1017.4(b)(8) or §1017.4(c)(9) of this part, whichever is applicable, he/she shall set the time, date, and location for the hearing, paying due consideration to convenience to the employee.

(b) All significant matters discussed at the hearing shall be documented, although a verbatim transcript of the hearing shall not be made.

(c) The Administrative Law Judge may exclude any evidence he/she deems irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious.

(d) Any party to a hearing under these regulations is entitled to present his or her case or defense by oral or documentary evidence, and to conduct such cross-examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts.

(e) The Board has the initial burden of proof as to the existence and amount of the debt.

(f) The employee requesting the hearing shall bear the ultimate burden of proof.

(g) The evidence presented by the employee must prove that no debt exists or cast sufficient doubt that reasonable minds could differ as to the existence or amount of the debt.

(h) Where the employee files a petition for a hearing contesting the offset schedule imposed by the Board, the Administrative Law Judge shall take into consideration all relevant factors as to the employee’s financial situation in determining whether said offset schedule should be altered.

(i) Any party to a hearing under these regulations is entitled to be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel, as well as to appear in person or by or with counsel.

(j) The Administrative Law Judge shall issue a final written decision at the earliest practicable date, but not later than 60 days after the filing of the petition requesting the hearing, as stated in §1017.4(b)(10) or §1017.4(c)(9) of this part, whichever is applicable.
Surface Transportation Board, DOT

§ 1017.9 Coordinating offset with another Federal agency.

(a) The Board as creditor agency. When the Chief, Section of Financial Services, determines that an employee of another Federal agency owes a delinquent debt to the Board, he/she shall:

1. Arrange for a hearing upon proper petitioning by the employee;

2. Certify in writing to the other Federal agency that the employee owes the debt, the amount and basis of the debt, the date on which payment is due, the date the Government’s right to collect the debt accrued, that the Board’s regulations for administrative offset have been approved by the Office of Personnel Management, and that the provisions of 4 CFR 102.3(f) have been fully complied with;

3. If collection must be made in installments, advise the paying agency of the amount or percentage of disposable pay to be collected in each installment;

4. Advise the paying agency of any action taken under 5 U.S.C. 5514(a);

5. If the employee is in the process of separating, the Board must submit its debt claim to the paying agency as provided in this part. The paying agency must certify any amounts already collected, notify the employee, and send a copy of the certification and notice of the employee’s separation to the creditor agency—if the paying agency is aware that the employee is entitled to money from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, it must certify to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that:

i. The debtor owes the U.S. a debt, including the amount of that debt;

ii. The Board has complied with the applicable statutes, regulations, and procedures of OPM; and

iii. The Board has complied with the requirements of 4 CFR 102.3, including any hearing or review; and

6. If the employee has already separated and all payments due from the paying agency have been paid, the Chief, Section of Financial Services, may request from OPM, unless otherwise prohibited, that money payable to the employee from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund or other similar funds be collected by administrative offset and provide the certification described in paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(b) The Board as paying agency. (1) Upon receipt of a properly certified debt claim from another agency, deductions will be scheduled to begin at