

Office of the Secretary, USDA**§ 1.214****Subpart K—Appearance of USDA Employees as Witnesses in Judicial or Administrative Proceedings**

SOURCE: 55 FR 42347, Oct. 19, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1.210 Purpose.

This subpart sets forth procedures governing the appearance of USDA employees as witnesses in order to testify or produce official documents in judicial or administrative proceedings when such appearance is in their official capacity or arises out of or is related to their employment with USDA. These regulations do not apply to appearances by USDA employees as witnesses in judicial or administrative proceedings which are purely personal or do not arise out of or relate to their employment with USDA. This subpart also does not apply to Congressional requests or subpoenas for testimony or documents.

§ 1.211 Definitions.

(a) *Administrative proceeding* means any proceeding pending before any federal, state, or local agency and undertaken for the purpose of the issuance of any regulations, orders, licenses, permits, or other rulings, or the adjudication of any matter, dispute, or controversy.

(b) *Appearance* means testimony or production of documents the request for which arises out of an employee's official duties with USDA or relates to his or her employment with USDA. For the purpose of this subpart, an appearance also includes an affidavit, deposition, interrogatory, or other required written submission.

(c) *Judicial proceeding* means any case or controversy pending before any federal, state, or local court.

(d) *Travel expenses* means the amount of money paid to a witness for reimbursement for transportation, lodging, meals, and other miscellaneous expenses in connection with attendance at a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(e) *USDA* means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(f) *USDA agency* means an organizational unit of USDA whose head reports to an official within the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(g) *Valid summons, subpoena, or other compulsory process* means an order that is served properly and within the legal authority and the jurisdictional boundaries of the court or administrative agency or official that has issued it.

(h) *Witness fees* means the amount of money paid to a witness as compensation for attendance at a judicial or administrative proceeding.

§ 1.212 General.

No USDA employee may provide testimony or produce documents in a judicial or administrative proceeding unless authorized in accordance with this subpart.

§ 1.213 Appearance as a witness on behalf of the United States.

An employee of USDA may appear as a witness on behalf of the United States in any judicial or administrative proceeding without the issuance of a summons, subpoena, or other compulsory process. Employees should obtain permission for such an appearance from their immediate supervisor unless the USDA agency or General Counsel has issued instructions providing otherwise.

§ 1.214 Appearance as a witness on behalf of a party other than the United States where the United States is not a party.

(a) An employee of USDA served with a valid summons, subpoena, or other compulsory process demanding his or her appearance, or otherwise requested to appear on behalf of a party other than the United States in a judicial or administrative proceeding in which the United States is not a party, shall promptly notify the head of his or her USDA agency of the existence and nature of the order compelling his or her appearance, or of the document requesting his or her attendance. He or she shall also specify, if that is known, the nature of the judicial or administrative proceeding and the nature of the testimony or documents requested.

(b)(1) An employee of USDA served with a valid summons, subpoena, or