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the United States when such appearance is in his or her official capacity or arises out of or relates to his or her employment with USDA is required to collect the authorized fees for such service and remit such fees to his or her USDA agency.

§ 1.218 Penalty.

An employee who testifies or produces records in a judicial or administrative proceeding in violation of the provisions of this regulation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

§ 1.219 Delegations.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c), or (d) of this section, the head of a USDA agency may delegate his or her responsibilities under this subpart, including the requirement to be notified of the receipt of a subpoena as provided in §§1.214(a) and 1.216(a) of this part, to employees of his or her agency as follows:

(1) In the National office of the agency, to a level no lower than two levels below the agency head;

(2) In a field component of an agency, to a level no lower than the official who heads a state office.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, the Chief of the Forest Service may delegate his responsibilities under this subpart as follows:

(1) In the National office of the Forest Service, to a level no lower than a Deputy Chief of the Forest Service;

(2) In a field component of the Forest Service, to a level no lower than a Regional Forester or Station Director.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, the General Counsel may delegate his responsibilities under this subpart as follows:

(1) In the National office of the Office of the General Counsel, to a level no lower than an Assistant General Counsel;

(2) In the field component of the Office of the General Counsel, to Regional Attorneys who may redelegate their responsibilities to Associate Regional Attorneys and Assistant Regional Attorneys who report to them.

(d) The responsibilities assigned to heads of agencies and to Assistant and

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Under Secretaries in §1.214(b)(2) of this part may not be redelegated.

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Subpart L—Procedures Related to Administrative Hearings Under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 3801-3812.

SOURCE: 56 FR 9582, Mar. 7, 1991, unless otherwise noted. Correctly designated at 57 FR 3909, Feb. 3, 1992.

§ 1.301 Basis, purpose and scope.

(a) *Basis.* This subpart implements the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, Public Law No. 99-509, Sections 6101-6104, 100 Stat. 1874 (1986). This statute added 31 U.S.C. 3801-3812. Section 3809 of Title 31, United States Code, requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the statute.

(b) *Purpose.* This subpart—

(1) Establishes administrative procedures for imposing civil penalties and assessments against persons who make, submit, or present, or cause to be made, submitted, or presented, false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims or written statements to authorities or to their agents, and

(2) Specifies the hearing and appeal rights of persons subject to allegations of liability for such penalties and assessments.

(c) *Scope.* The procedures for imposing civil penalties and assessments established by this subpart are intended to enhance existing administrative enforcement efforts against fraud and to provide an additional remedy against false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims and statements in the programs administered by this Department.

§ 1.302 Definitions.

(a) *Agency* means a constituent organizational unit of the USDA.

(b) *Agency Fraud Claims Officer*—(AFCO) means an officer or employee of an agency who is designated by the head of that agency to receive the reports of the investigating official, evaluate evidence, and make a recommendation to the reviewing official