

	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (minutes)	Estimated annual burden (hours)
Paper Submission .....	1,000,000	1	15	250,000

5. Function Report—Adult—Third Party—20 CFR 404.1512, 416.912—0960–0635. SSA needs the information collected on the SSA–3380–BK to make determinations on SSI and SSDI claims. This information is necessary for case development and adjudication, and DDS evaluators use it as an evidentiary source in the disability evaluation process. The respondents are third parties familiar with the functional limitations (or lack thereof) of claimants who apply for SSDI benefits and SSI payments.

*Type of Request:* Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,000,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 60 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,000,000 hours.

6. Function Report—Adult—20 CFR 404.1512 and 419.912—0960–0681. SSA uses Form SSA–3373 to collect information about a disability applicant's impairment-related limitations and ability to function. It documents the types of information specified in SSA regulations and provides disability interviewers with a convenient means to record information about how the claimant's condition affects his or her ability to function. This information, together with medical evidence, forms the evidentiary basis for the initial disability process. The respondents are SSDI and SSI applicants.

*Type of Request:* Revision to an OMB-approved information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,005,367.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 60 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 4,005,367 hours.

Dated: April 14, 2008.

**Elizabeth A. Davidson,**

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. E8–8358 Filed 4–18–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191–02–P

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA 2008–0023]

### Use of Master and Sub Accounts and Other Account Arrangements for the Payment of Benefits

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We are issuing this notice to obtain public input regarding an anticipated change to an Agency payment procedure that permits benefit payments to be deposited into a third-party's "master" account when the third party maintains separate "sub" accounts for individual beneficiaries. We anticipate changing our current procedure in light of concerns about how high-interest lenders are using this master/sub account procedure. We are also seeking comments on the practice that some beneficiaries follow of preauthorizing their banks to transfer their benefits to lenders immediately after the benefits are deposited into their accounts.

**DATES:** To be sure that your comments are considered, we must receive them by *June 20, 2008*.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any one of four methods—Internet, facsimile, regular mail, or hand-delivery. Commenters should not submit the same comments multiple times or by more than one method. Regardless of which of the following methods you choose, please state that your comments refer to Docket No. SSA–2008–0023 to ensure that we can associate your comments with the correct regulation:

1. Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. (This is the most expedient method for submitting your comments, and we strongly urge you to use it.) In the *Comment or Submission* section of the webpage, type "SSA–2008–0023", select "Go," and then click "Send a Comment or Submission." The Federal eRulemaking portal issues you a tracking number when you submit a comment.

2. Telefax to (410) 966–2830.

3. Letter to the Commissioner of Social Security, P.O. Box 17703, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–7703.

4. Deliver your comments to the Office of Regulations, Social Security

Administration, 922 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on regular business days.

All comments are posted on the Federal eRulemaking portal, although they may not appear for several days after receipt of the comment. You may also inspect the comments on regular business days by making arrangements with the contact person shown in this preamble.

**Caution:** All comments we receive from members of the public are available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, you should be careful to include in your comments only information that you wish to make publicly available on the Internet. We strongly urge you not to include any personal information, such as your Social Security number or medical information, in your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ashley Harder, Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235–6401, (410) 966–9483, for information about this notice. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free number, 1–800–772–1213 or TTY 1–800–325–0778, or visit our Internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Electronic Version

The electronic file of this document is available on the date of publication in the **Federal Register** at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

#### Authorities

Section 205(i) of the Social Security Act (the Act) directs the Commissioner of Social Security to certify to the Department of Treasury, the name and address of the beneficiary or his representative payee, the amount of the benefit payments, and the time at which such payments should be made. The Department of Treasury's Financial Management Service then makes payments in accordance with our certification. Section 207 of the Act prohibits transfer or assignment of the right of any person to any future benefit payments under the Act and protects

the benefits from levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, the Department of Treasury's regulations governing the Federal Government's use of the direct deposit system generally require that Federal benefit payments may be deposited only into accounts at a financial institution in the name of the recipient. 31 CFR 208.6, 210.5.

### Background

For many years we have permitted individuals to have their benefits paid by direct deposit into a master account, under which the master account holder maintains separate sub accounts for each individual beneficiary. We began to accept master/sub account arrangements in order to make direct deposits to beneficiaries' investment accounts. We expanded this payment process to nursing homes as a convenience to their residents, and later to religious orders whose members rely upon these arrangements to honor their vows of poverty. We allowed the use of the master/sub account arrangement as long as individual sub accounts were carefully maintained, beneficiaries had complete access to the funds in their accounts, and the arrangements were freely revocable by the beneficiaries. Our intent in accepting these arrangements was to allow individuals to make choices that are appropriate and convenient for their situations.

In 1997, the Department of Treasury considered this payment process when it proposed rules to address account requirements for Federal payments made by electronic funds transfer. The proposed rules set forth a general rule requiring all Federal payments to be deposited into an account in the name of the recipient at a financial institution and proposed two exceptions for situations that involve an authorized payment agency, such as a representative payee, or an investment account established through a registered securities broker or dealer. 62 FR 48714, Sep. 16, 1997. There was some expectation that the exceptions would be revised to cover the existing master/sub accounts. However, rather than expanding the exceptions, Treasury decided that the payment-certifying agencies should address such additional situations by determining who is authorized to receive payment on behalf of a beneficiary. 63 FR 51490, 51500, Sep. 25, 1998.

The issue of master/sub accounts has recently come to our attention again in the context of "payday lenders" who solicit social security beneficiaries to take out high-interest loans. Based on

the loan agreement between the beneficiary and the loan company, we may authorize the deposit of benefits directly into the loan company's master account. The loan company then deducts the loan principal, fees, and interest before depositing the remaining benefits into the beneficiary's sub account. We are also aware of check-cashing services that set up a master account at a financial institution, with sub accounts in beneficiaries' names. When a beneficiary wants to withdraw his benefits from the sub account, the check-cashing service prints a check payable to the beneficiary who can cash the check at the check-cashing service for an additional fee.

In addition, some beneficiaries preauthorize their banks to transfer funds from their accounts to their lender. Some lenders who utilize these arrangements attempt to exercise too much control over the beneficiaries' payments. They may require the use of specified banks and provide in the loan agreement that the beneficiary cannot discontinue this arrangement until the loan is repaid.

### Request for Comments

We anticipate changing our current procedure in light of our concerns about how the high-interest lenders are using this master/sub account arrangement. We invite your comments about the current uses of master/sub accounts and the resulting effect on beneficiaries. We are also interested in hearing about beneficiaries who have been disadvantaged by authorizing the lender or bank to transfer their benefit payments to the lender as soon as benefits are deposited.

We recognize that merely eliminating our current master/sub account procedure may not solve all problems associated with payday lender activity. We are particularly concerned about high-interest payday lenders directing beneficiaries to set up accounts in their own name and authorizing the bank to transfer benefits to the loan company to pay back the loan and any associated interest and fees. Moreover, we are troubled by provisions in beneficiaries' loan agreements that are designed to prevent the beneficiaries from terminating direct deposit arrangements or pre-authorized transfers, and thus dissuade beneficiaries from taking actions that they may have the lawful right to take.

We expect that by obtaining information about these arrangements from beneficiaries, lenders, advocates, and other members of the public, we can revise our payment procedures to help beneficiaries avoid some of the

unfortunate outcomes that may result when they enter into agreements with some payday lenders. We also would like to offer other payment alternatives that meet our statutory and regulatory obligations.

Please provide us with any comments and suggestions you have about these practices. The following questions raise issues that you may wish to consider. Feel free to raise other questions, thoughts, or comments.

- Have master/sub account arrangements disadvantaged any of our beneficiaries, and if so, in what way?
- To what extent will the elimination of the procedure allowing benefits to be deposited into master/sub accounts create significant costs and burdens on beneficiaries or organizations that currently utilize this account arrangement?
- Are there alternative payment procedures that we could offer to ensure that beneficiaries receive their benefits and have control over them?
- The Act allows us to select representative payees to receive benefits on behalf of beneficiaries when we determine the interest of the beneficiary will be served. Generally, a payee is appointed if we determine that the beneficiary is not able to manage or direct management of benefit payments. Would nursing homes and religious orders that handle monies for both incapable beneficiaries, who need a representative payee, and capable beneficiaries be able to receive and manage benefit payments without the use of master/sub accounts?
- Without master/sub account arrangements, would creditors instead require beneficiaries to preauthorize the transfer of their benefits to the creditor when they are deposited into the beneficiary's account?
- Do beneficiaries have sufficient control over their benefits when they have elected to automatically transfer their benefits into the accounts of creditors after the benefits are deposited into the beneficiary's own account?
- How can we address the situation where the lender will not allow the beneficiary to terminate a direct deposit arrangement or a pre-authorized transfer of benefits?

### How We Will Use Your Comments

We will not respond directly to comments you send us because of this notice. After we consider your comments in response to this notice, we will decide how to proceed with an anticipated change in the procedure we use for the payment of benefits.

Dated: April 16, 2008.

**Michael J. Astrue,**

*Commissioner of Social Security.*

[FR Doc. E8-8576 Filed 4-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Delegation of Authority No. 312]

#### **Delegation by the Secretary of State to the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs of Authority to Make Certain Determinations Regarding Assistance Related to the Dayton Accords**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Secretary of State, including the authority of section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2651(a)), I hereby delegate to the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs all authorities and functions vested in the Secretary of State under section 658(e) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Div. J, Pub. L. 110-161) to make determinations that international financial institution projects involving the extension of any financial or technical assistance to Serbia directly support the implementation of the Dayton Accords.

Notwithstanding this delegation of authority, the Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of State may exercise any authority or function delegated by this delegation.

This delegation of authority shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 27, 2008.

**Condoleezza Rice,**

*Secretary of State.*

[FR Doc. E8-8594 Filed 4-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-23-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 6194]

#### **Determination With Respect to Countries and Entities Failing To Take Measures To Apprehend and Transfer All Indicted War Criminals**

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 658 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Div. J, Pub. L. 110-161), I hereby determine that Serbia has failed to take necessary and significant steps to implement its international legal obligations to apprehend and transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for

the Former Yugoslavia all persons in its territory who have been indicted by the Tribunal.

In addition, I hereby waive the application of Section 658 of the SFOAA with regard to certain U.S. bilateral assistance programs in Serbia and determine that such assistance directly supports the implementation of the Dayton Accords. I also hereby waive the application of section 658 of the SFOAA with regard to U.S. support for International Financial Institution projects in Serbia that directly support the implementation of the Dayton Accords as decided by the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs and in accordance with 658(c) and (d).

This Determination shall be reported to the Congress and published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 27, 2008.

**Condoleezza Rice,**

*Secretary of State.*

[FR Doc. E8-8592 Filed 4-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-23-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 6193]

#### **Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law: Notice of Study Group Meeting**

The Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law's (ACPIL) Study Group on The 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children ("the Protection of Children's Convention" or "the 1996 Convention") will be holding a public meeting on Monday, April 28, 2008.

This meeting is a follow up to a December 7, 2007 ACPIL Study Group meeting on the same Convention. Whereas the December meeting focused on Chapters I-IV of the Convention (Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, and Recognition and Enforcement), this meeting will focus on Chapters I and V of the Convention (Cooperation). The purpose of the meeting is to explain what the Convention, and in particular Chapters I and V, are intended to accomplish, what obligations they would impose on the United States if ratified, how they would benefit U.S. families, what specific children's issues they addresses, how they could be implemented in the United States, which state and/or federal laws would be affected, and which state and/or

federal authorities could provide assistance in cooperating with particular requests under Chapters I and V.

Useful documents to read prior to the meeting include: (1) The text of the Convention and its Explanatory Report, available at <http://hcch.e-vision.nl/upload/exp134.pdf>; and (2) the analysis of the Convention contained in the Autumn 2005 issue of the Hague Conference's Judges Newsletter, available at <http://hcch.e-vision.nl/upload/autumn2005.pdf>.

*Time:* The public meeting will take place at the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs/Office of Overseas Citizens Services offices, located at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., (4th floor), Washington, DC 20520. The meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2008, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. If you are unable to attend the public meeting and you would like to participate by teleconferencing, please contact Corrin Ferber at [Ferbercm@state.gov](mailto:Ferbercm@state.gov) or 202-736-9172 no later than Monday, April 21, 2008 to receive the conference call in number.

*Public Participation:* Advisory Committee Study Group meetings are open to the public up to the capacity of the room. Advance registration is requested. Persons wishing to attend should contact Corrin Ferber at [Ferbercm@state.gov](mailto:Ferbercm@state.gov) or 202-736-9172 no later than Monday, April 21, 2008 and provide her with your full name, affiliation and e-mail address. You may be asked to present a government-issued identity card (e.g., driver's license) to gain admission.

If there are individuals or entities that you believe the Department would be interested in hearing from concerning this Convention, please send their contact information to Corrin Ferber.

Dated: April 11, 2008.

**Mary Helen Carlson,**

*Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, Office of Private International Law, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. E8-8593 Filed 4-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

## TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as Amended by Public Law 104-13; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Tennessee Valley Authority.

**ACTION:** Proposed Collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management