

GAO STUDY REGARDING THE FEE PAYMENT PROCESS  
FOR CLAIMANT REPRESENTATIVES

Pub. L. 108-203, title III, §304, Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 523, directed the Comptroller General of the United States to study and evaluate the appointment and payment of attorney and non-attorney claimant representatives appearing before the Commissioner of Social Security in connection with benefit claims under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.) and to report to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 3 years after the date of the submission by the Commissioner of Social Security to Congress pursuant to section 303(d) of Pub. L. 108-203 (set out above) of written notice of completion of full implementation of the requirements for operation of the demonstration project under section 303 of Pub. L. 108-203.

GAO STUDY AND REPORT

Pub. L. 106-170, title IV, §406(c), Dec. 17, 1999, 113 Stat. 1912, directed the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study, and to submit a report on the study's results to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 1 year after Dec. 17, 1999, that examined the costs incurred by the Social Security Administration in administering 42 U.S.C. 406(a)(4), (b)(1) and itemized the components of such costs; identified efficiencies that the Administration could implement to reduce such costs; examined the feasibility and advisability of linking the payment of, or the amount of, the assessment under 42 U.S.C. 406(d) to the timeliness of the payment of the fee to the attorney as certified by the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 406(a)(4), (b)(1); determined whether 42 U.S.C. 406(a)(4), (b)(1) should be applied to claimants under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.); determined the feasibility and advisability of stating fees under 42 U.S.C. 406(d) in terms of a fixed dollar amount as opposed to a percentage; determined whether the dollar limit specified in 42 U.S.C. 406(a)(2)(A)(ii)(II) should be raised; and determined whether the assessment on attorneys required under 42 U.S.C. 406(d) impaired access to legal representation for claimants.

**§ 407. Assignment of benefits**

**(a) In general**

The right of any person to any future payment under this subchapter shall not be transferable or assignable, at law or in equity, and none of the moneys paid or payable or rights existing under this subchapter shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law.

**(b) Amendment of section**

No other provision of law, enacted before, on, or after April 20, 1983, may be construed to limit, supersede, or otherwise modify the provisions of this section except to the extent that it does so by express reference to this section.

**(c) Withholding of taxes**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit withholding taxes from any benefit under this subchapter, if such withholding is done pursuant to a request made in accordance with section 3402(p)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by the person entitled to such benefit or such person's representative payee.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title II, §207, 49 Stat. 624; Aug. 10, 1939, ch. 666, title II, §201, 53 Stat. 1362, 1372; Pub. L. 98-21, title III, §335(a), Apr. 20, 1983, 97 Stat. 130; Pub. L. 105-277, div. J, title IV, §4005(a), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-911.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to in subsec. (c), is classified generally to Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (b), "April 20, 1983" substituted for "the date of the enactment of this section", which was translated as meaning the date of enactment of this subsection, as the probable intent of Congress.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-277 added subsec. (c).

1983—Pub. L. 98-21 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

1939—Act Aug. 10, 1939, amended section generally, incorporating provisions of former section 408 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Section 335(c) of Pub. L. 98-21 provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply only with respect to benefits payable or rights existing under the Social Security Act [this chapter] on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Apr. 20, 1983]."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1939 AMENDMENT

Section 201 of act Aug. 10, 1939, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Jan. 1, 1940.

**§ 408. Penalties**

**(a) In general**

Whoever—

(1) for the purpose of causing an increase in any payment authorized to be made under this subchapter, or for the purpose of causing any payment to be made where no payment is authorized under this subchapter, shall make or cause to be made any false statement or representation (including any false statement or representation in connection with any matter arising under subchapter E of chapter 1, or subchapter A or E of chapter 9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, or chapter 2 or 21 or subtitle F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954) as to—

(A) whether wages were paid or received for employment (as said terms are defined in this subchapter and the Internal Revenue Code), or the amount of wages or the period during which paid or the person to whom paid; or

(B) whether net earnings from self-employment (as such term is defined in this subchapter and in the Internal Revenue Code) were derived, or as to the amount of such net earnings or the period during which or the person by whom derived; or

(C) whether a person entitled to benefits under this subchapter had earnings in or for a particular period (as determined under section 403(f) of this title for purposes of deductions from benefits), or as to the amount thereof; or

(2) makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact in any application for any payment or for a disability determination under this subchapter; or

(3) at any time makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a ma-