

## § 22.6

amount of any fee is determinable only after initiation of the performance of a service, or if incidental costs are involved, the total fee and incidental costs shall be carefully estimated and an advance deposit required, subject to refund of any unused balance to the person making the deposit.

### § 22.6 Refund of fees.

(a) Fees which have been collected for deposit in the Treasury are refundable:

(1) As specifically authorized by law (See 22 U.S.C. 214a concerning passport fees erroneously charged persons excused from payment and 46 U.S.C. 8 concerning fees improperly imposed on vessels and seamen);

(2) When the principal officer at the consular post where the fee was collected (or the officer in charge of the consular section at a combined diplomatic/consular post) finds upon review of the facts that the collection was erroneous under applicable law; and

(3) Where determination is made by the Department of State with a view to payment of a refund in the United States in cases which it is impracticable to have the facts reviewed and refund effected by and at the direction of the responsible consular office. See § 13.1 of this chapter concerning refunds of fees improperly exacted by consular officers who have neglected to return the same.

(b) Refunds of \$5.00 or less will not be paid to the remitter unless a claim is specifically filed at the time of payment for the excess amount. An automatic refund on overpayments due to misinformation or mistakes on the part of the Department of State will be made.

[52 FR 29515, Aug. 10, 1987, as amended at 65 FR 14212, Mar. 16, 2000]

### § 22.7 Collection and return of fees.

No fees other than those prescribed in the Schedule of Fees, § 22.1, or by or pursuant to an act of Congress, shall be charged or collected by officers of the Foreign Service for official services performed abroad (22 U.S.C. 1201). All fees received by any officer of the Foreign Service for services rendered in connection with the duties of office or as a consular officer shall be accounted

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for and paid into the Treasury of the United States (22 U.S.C. 99 and 812). For receipt, registry, and numbering provisions, see § 22.5(b). Collections for transportation and other expenses necessary for performance of services or for Interested Party toll telephone calls shall be refunded to post allotment accounts and made available for meeting such expenses.

## PART 23—FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Sec.

23.1 Remittances made payable to the Department of State.

23.2 Endorsing remittances for deposit in the Treasury.

23.3 Refunds.

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23.5 Claims for settlement by Department of State or General Accounting Office.

AUTHORITY: 22 U.S.C. 2651a.

SOURCE: 22 FR 10793, Dec. 27, 1957, unless otherwise noted.

### § 23.1 Remittances made payable to the Department of State.

Except as otherwise specified in this title, remittances of moneys shall be drawn payable to the Department of State and sent to the Department for action and deposit. (See §§ 21.2, 22.2, and 51.40 of this chapter.)

### § 23.2 Endorsing remittances for deposit in the Treasury.

The Office of Finance—Cashier Unit, the Authentication Office, the Passport Office or Passport Agency, American Embassy, American Legation, American consular office, or other office or unit of the Department of State authorized and required to deposit funds in the Treasury of the United States, is hereby authorized to endorse, or to have endorsed, to the order of the Treasurer of the United States by appropriate stamp, checks, drafts, money orders, or other forms of remittance, regardless of how drawn, which are for payment to the Department of State for deposit in the Treasury of the United States, including those payable to the Secretary of State.

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### § 23.3 Refunds.

(a) *Rectifications and readjustments.* See § 22.6 of this chapter for outline of circumstances under which fees which have been collected for deposit in the Treasury may be refunded.

(b) *Refund of wrongful exactions.* See § 13.1 of this chapter concerning recovery from consular officers of amounts wrongfully exacted and withheld by them.

[22 FR 10793, Dec. 27, 1957, as amended at 65 FR 14212, Mar. 16, 2000]

### § 23.4 Representative value in exchange.

Representative value in exchange for the collection of a fee means foreign currency equivalent to the prescribed United States dollar fee at the current rate of exchange at the time and place of payment of the fee. "Current rate" of exchange for this purpose means the bank selling rate at which the foreign bank will sell the number of United States dollars required to liquidate the obligation to the United States for the Foreign Service fee.

### § 23.5 Claims for settlement by Department of State or General Accounting Office.

Claims for settlement by the Department of State or by the General Ac-

counting Office shall be submitted to the Department in duplicate over the handwritten signature, together with the post office address of the claimant, and with appropriate recommendations of the officer of the Foreign Service, for items such as:

(a) Refunds of amounts representing payroll deductions such as for any retirement and disability fund;

(b) Amounts due deceased, incompetent, or insolvent persons including payees or bona fide holders of unpaid Government checks;

(c) Amounts claimed from the Government when questions of fact affect either the amount payable or the terms of payment, when for any reason settlement cannot or should not be affected at the Foreign Service office; and

(d) Amounts of checks, owned by living payees or bona fide holders, which have been covered into outstanding liabilities. The Foreign Service post or the Department of State shall be consulted before preparing the claim to ascertain whether any special form is required to be used. Claims for unpaid compensation of deceased alien employees shall be forwarded to the respective Foreign Service post.