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termination date the annuity will be terminated as scheduled on that date; and

(viii) That the annuitant or payee has the right to reconsideration of such decision as provided in § 260.3.

(4) When an initial decision would result in the termination of an annuity for which there are competing claims or as a result of the receipt by the Board of information from a source other than the annuitant or payee of an annuity, written notice of the proposed decision shall be mailed to the annuitant or payee of an annuity at such annuitant's or payee's last known address. Such notice shall inform the annuitant or payee of an annuity:

(i) Of the reason(s) for the annuity termination;

(ii) That the annuitant or payee has 30 calendar days from the date of the notice to submit to the Board any information in writing which such annuitant or payee desires to be considered by the Board in its review;

(iii) That payment of the annuity will either cease or a decision to continue payment of such annuity shall be made after the Board has considered any information in writing which may be submitted to the Board within 30 calendar days from the date of the notice;

(iv) That if no information in writing is received within 30 calendar days from the date of the notice, payment of the annuity will cease at the end of that 30-day period; and

(v) That the annuitant or payee has the right to reconsideration of such decision as provided in § 260.3.

(5) Whenever the Board receives any significant information in writing from an annuitant or payee of an annuity as a result of mailing the notice described in paragraph (d)(4) of this section, the Board shall forward a copy of such information to each of the individuals who has filed a competing claim for such annuity informing them that:

(i) The annuity will either be terminated at the specified time or a decision to continue payment of the annuity will be made by the Board; and

(ii) They may respond to such information and their response will be considered by the Board provided that it is received by the Board within a reason-

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able time. When the Board decision in such case is to continue payment of the annuity, the Board shall send notice of such initial decision to each of the competing claimants in accordance with paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(6) When an initial decision that an erroneous payment has been made to a beneficiary is made under paragraph (a)(7) of this section, written notice of that decision shall be mailed to the beneficiary or payee of the benefit at such beneficiary's or payee's last known address within 30 calendar days after such decision is made. Such notice shall inform the beneficiary or payee:

(i) Of the reason(s) for the decision;

(ii) Of the methods by which recovery may be made;

(iii) Of the possibility of waiver of recovery of the erroneous payment;

(iv) Of the conditions which must be met before waiver of recovery could be granted;

(v) That the beneficiary may request waiver of recovery of the erroneous payment and/or reconsideration of the erroneous payment decision as provided in § 260.4; and

(vi) Of the possibility of an oral hearing with respect to the issues of waiver of recovery and reconsideration of the erroneous payment decision.

[47 FR 36809, Aug. 24, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 39146, Sept. 25, 1990; 56 FR 13040, Mar. 28, 1991]

### **§ 260.2 Initial decisions by the Bureau of Research and Employment Accounts.**

Within 30 days after receipt of a timely request by an employee for an amendment with respect to the amount of compensation credited to the employee by the Board under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, the Director of Research and Employment Accounts shall appoint a qualified Board employee to make a determination with respect to such matter. The Board employee appointed by the director shall promptly render a decision. Written notice of such decision shall be communicated by the Director of Research and Employment Accounts to the employee within 30 days after such

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decision is made. Such notice shall include notification of the employee's right to reconsideration of the initial decision as provided in §260.3. For purposes of this section, a timely request to amend an employee's record of compensation maintained under the Railroad Retirement Act shall be filed within four years after the date on which the return of compensation was required to be made to the Board by the employee's employer. For purposes of this section, a timely request to amend an employee's record of compensation maintained under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be filed within 18 months after the date on which the last return of compensation was required to be made covering any portion of the calendar year which includes the period during which the challenged payment was made.

[47 FR 36809, Aug. 24, 1982, as amended at 48 FR 51448, Nov. 9, 1983]

### **§ 260.3 Request for reconsideration of initial decision of the Bureau of Disability and Medicare Operations, Bureau of Retirement Benefits, Bureau of Survivor Benefits, Office of Retirement and Survivor Programs, or Bureau of Research and Employment Accounts.**

(a) *Right to file requests for reconsideration.* Every claimant shall have the right to file a request for reconsideration of an initial decision of the Bureau of Disability and Medicare Operations, Bureau of Retirement Benefits, Bureau of Survivor Benefits or Office of Retirement and Survivor Programs described in §260.1(a) or an initial decision of the Bureau of Research and Employment Accounts described in §260.2. *Provided, however, That:*

(1) An individual under age 18 shall not have the right to reconsideration of a finding of incapacity to manage his or her annuity payments, but shall have the right to contest the finding that he or she is, in fact, under age 18;

(2) An individual who has been adjudged legally incompetent shall not have the right to reconsideration of a finding of incapacity to manage his or her annuity payments, but shall have the right to contest the fact of his or her having been adjudged legally incompetent; and

(3) An individual shall not have the right to reconsideration of a denial of his or her application to serve as representative payee on behalf of an annuitant. Such request for reconsideration shall be filed and disposed of in the manner prescribed in this section, except that a request for reconsideration of an initial erroneous payment decision under §260.1(a)(7) shall be filed and disposed of in the manner prescribed in §260.4.

(b) *Written request for reconsideration.* A written request for reconsideration must be filed with the appropriate bureau within 60 days from the date upon which notice of the initial decision is mailed to the claimant. The claimant shall state the basis for the reconsideration request and provide any additional evidence which is available. No hearing will be provided by the bureau conducting the reconsideration.

(c) *Right to further review of initial decision.* The right to further review of an initial decision of the Bureau of Disability and Medicare Operations, Bureau of Retirement Benefits, Bureau of Survivor Benefits, Office of Retirement and Survivor Programs or Bureau of Research and Employment Accounts shall be forfeited unless a written request for reconsideration is filed within the time period prescribed in this section or good cause is shown by the claimant for failing to file a timely request for reconsideration.

(d) *Timely request for reconsideration.* In determining whether the claimant has good cause for failure to file a timely request for reconsideration the bureau director shall consider the circumstances which kept the claimant from filing the request on time and if any action by the Board misled the claimant. Examples of circumstances where good cause may exist include, but are not limited to:

(1) A serious illness which prevented the claimant from contacting the Board in person, in writing, or through a friend, relative or other person;

(2) A death or serious illness in the claimant's immediate family which prevented him or her from filing;

(3) The destruction of important and relevant records;

(4) A failure to be notified of a decision; or