

§ 402.40

binding on all components of the Social Security Administration, except with respect to claims subject to the relitigation procedures established in 20 CFR 404.984, 410.610, and 416.1484. For a description of Social Security Acquiescence Rulings, see 20 CFR 404.984(b), 410.610c(b), and 416.1484(b) of this title.

(c) *Availability for inspection.* To the extent practicable and to further assist the public, we make available for inspection at the address specified in § 402.135 those materials which are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(1).

(d) *Availability by Telecommunications.* To the extent practicable, we will make available by means of computer telecommunications the indices and other records that are available for inspection.

[62 FR 4154, Jan. 29, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 35132, June 29, 1998; 65 FR 16813, Mar. 30, 2000]

§ 402.40 Publications for sale.

The following publications containing information pertaining to the program, organization, functions, and procedures of the Social Security Administration may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402:

(a) Title 20, parts 400–499 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) FEDERAL REGISTER issues.

(c) Compilation of the Social Security Laws.

(d) Social Security Rulings.

(e) Social Security Handbook. The information in the Handbook is not of precedent or interpretative force.

(f) Social Security Bulletin.

(g) Social Security Acquiescence Rulings.

(h) SSA Publications on CD-ROM.

[62 FR 4154, Jan. 29, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 35132, June 29, 1998]

§ 402.45 Availability of records.

(a) *What records are available.* 5 U.S.C. 552, also known as the FOIA, permits any person to see, and get a copy of, any Federal agency's records unless the material is exempt from mandatory disclosure as described in § 402.70 of this part.

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(b) *FOIA.* Under the FOIA, we are also required to make available to the public the instructional manuals issued to our employees, general statements of policy, and other materials which are used in processing claims and which are not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and an index of these manuals and materials.

(c) *Record citation as precedent.* We will not use or cite any record described in paragraph (b) of this section as a precedent for an action against a person unless we have indexed the record and published it or made it available, or unless the person has timely notice of the record.

(d) *Electronic Reading Room.* We will prepare an index of records which have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests. The index, and, to the extent practicable, the records will be made available on the Internet or by other computer telecommunications means.

[62 FR 4154, Jan. 29, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 35132, June 29, 1998]

§ 402.50 Availability of administrative staff manuals.

All administrative staff manuals of the Social Security Administration and instructions to staff personnel which contain policies, procedures, or interpretations that affect the public are available for inspection and copying. A complete listing of such materials is published in the Index of Administrative Staff Manuals and Instructions. These manuals are generally not printed in a sufficient quantity to permit sale or other general distribution to the public. Selected material is maintained at district offices and field offices and may be inspected there. See §§ 402.55 and 402.60 for a listing of this material.

§ 402.55 Materials available at district offices and branch offices.

(a) *Materials available for inspection.* The following are available or will be made available for inspection at the district offices and branch offices:

(1) Compilation of the Social Security Laws.