

Social Security Administration

§ 410.692

§ 410.688 Disqualification or suspension of an individual from acting as a representative in proceedings before SSA.

Whenever it appears that an individual has violated any of the rules in § 410.687, or has been convicted of a violation under section 206 of the Social Security Act, or has otherwise refused to comply with the Commissioner's rules or regulations on representation of claimants, SSA may institute proceedings as herein provided to suspend or disqualify that individual from acting as a representative in proceedings before SSA.

[62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.689 Notice of charges.

The Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, will prepare a notice containing a statement of charges that constitutes the basis for the proceeding against the individual. This notice will be delivered to the individual charged, either by certified or registered mail to his last known address or by personal delivery, and will advise the individual charged to file an answer, within 30 days from the date the notice was mailed, or was delivered to him personally, indicating why he should not be suspended or disqualified from acting as a representative before the SSA. This 30-day period may be extended for good cause shown, by the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee. The answer must be in writing under oath (or affirmation) and filed with the Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235, within the prescribed time limitation. If an individual charged does not file an answer within the time prescribed, he shall not have the right to present evidence. However, see § 410.692(g) relating to statements with respect to sufficiency of the evidence upon which the charges are based or challenging the validity of the proceedings.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 17709, Aug. 30, 1972; 62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.690 Withdrawal of charges.

If an answer is filed or evidence is obtained that establishes, to the satisfaction of the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, that reasonable doubt exists about whether the individual charged should be suspended or disqualified from acting as a representative before the Administration, the charges may be withdrawn. The notice of withdrawal shall be mailed to the individual charged at his last known address.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.691 Referral to the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, for hearing and decision.

If action is not taken to withdraw the charges before the expiration of 15 days after the time within which an answer may be filed, the record of the evidence in support of the charges shall be referred to the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, with a request for a hearing and a decision on the charges.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.692 Hearing on charges.

(a) *Hearing officer.* Upon receipt of the notice of charges, the record, and the request for hearing (see § 410.691), the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, shall designate an Administrative Law Judge to act as a hearing officer to hold a hearing on the charges. No hearing officer shall conduct a hearing in a case in which he is prejudiced or partial with respect to any party or where he has any interest in the matter pending for decision before him. Notice of any objection which a party to the hearing may have to the hearing officer who has been designated to conduct the hearing shall be made at the earliest opportunity. The hearing officer shall consider the objection(s) and shall, in his discretion, either proceed with the hearing or withdraw. If the hearing officer withdraws, another hearing officer shall be designated as provided in this section to conduct the