

assets may be transferred to a foreign government pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 981(i)(1), 19 U.S.C. 1616a(c)(2), or 21 U.S.C. 881(e)(1)(E).

(vi) *Filing by attorneys.* (A) A petition for remission or mitigation may be filed by a petitioner or by his or her attorney or legal guardian. If an attorney files on behalf of the petitioner, the petition must include a signed and sworn statement by the client-petitioner stating that:

(1) The attorney has the authority to represent the petitioner in this proceeding;

(2) The petitioner has fully reviewed the petition; and

(3) The petition is truthful and accurate in every respect.

(B) Verbal notification of representation is not acceptable. Responses and notification of rulings shall not be sent to an attorney claiming to represent a petitioner unless a written notice of representation is filed. No extensions of time shall be granted due to delays in submission of the notice of representation.

(viii) *Consolidated petitions.* At the discretion of the Ruling Official in individual cases, a petition may be filed by one petitioner on behalf of other petitioners, provided the petitions are based on similar underlying facts, and the petitioner who files the petition has written authority to do so on behalf of the other petitioners. This authority must be either expressed in documents giving the petitioner the authority to file petitions for remission, or reasonably implied from documents giving the petitioner express authority to file claims or lawsuits related to the course of conduct in question on behalf of these other petitioners. An insurer or an administrator of an employee benefit plan, for example, which itself has standing to file a petition as a "victim" within the meaning of paragraph (j)(2)(xxi) of this section, may also file a petition on behalf of all its insured or plan beneficiaries for any claims they may have based on co-payments made to the perpetrator of the offense underlying the forfeiture or the perpetrator of a "related offense" within the meaning of paragraph (j)(2)(xviii) of this section, if the authority to file claims or lawsuits

is contained in the document or documents establishing the plan. Where such a petition is filed, any amounts granted as a remission must be transferred to the other petitioners, not the party filing the petition; although, in his or her discretion, the Ruling Official may use the actual petitioner as an intermediary for transferring the amounts authorized as a remission to the other petitioners.

[52 FR 4497, Feb. 12, 1987; 52 FR 5765, Feb. 26, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 47520, Nov. 15, 1989; 56 FR 20361, May 3, 1991; 57 FR 32726, July 23, 1992; 59 FR 31154, June 17, 1994; 59 FR 35852, July 14, 1994; 60 FR 5581, Jan. 30, 1995; 60 FR 8306, Feb. 14, 1995; 62 FR 31726, June 11, 1997]

§ 233.8 Expedited forfeiture proceedings for property seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the following terms have the meanings specified:

(1) *Appraised Value* means the estimated domestic price at the time of seizure at which such or similar property is freely offered for sale.

(2) *Controlled Substance* has the meaning given in 21 U.S.C. 802.

(3) *Legal and Factual Basis of the Seizure* means a statement of the applicable law under which the property is seized, and a written statement of the circumstances of the seizure sufficiently precise to enable an owner or other interested party to identify the date, place, and use or acquisition which makes the property subject to forfeiture.

(4) *Owner* means one having a legal and possessory interest in the property seized for forfeiture. Even though one may hold primary and direct title to the property seized, such person may not have sufficient actual beneficial interest in the property to support a petition as owner if the facts indicate that another person had dominion and control over the property.

(5) *Personal Use Quantities* means possession of a controlled substance in circumstances where there is not other evidence of an intent to distribute, or to facilitate the manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivering, importing, or exporting of any controlled substance. Evidence of personal

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use quantities does not include sweepings or other evidence of possession of quantities of a controlled substance for other than personal use.

(i) Such other evidence includes:

(A) Evidence, such as drug scales, drug distribution paraphernalia, drug records, drug packaging material, method of drug packaging, drug "cutting" agents and other equipment, that indicates an intent to process, package or distribute a controlled substance;

(B) Information from reliable sources indicating possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute;

(C) The arrest and/or conviction record of the person or persons in actual or constructive possession of the controlled substance for offenses under Federal, State or local law that indicates an intent to distribute a controlled substance;

(D) Relationship of the controlled substance to large amounts of cash or any amount of prerecorded government funds;

(E) Possession of the controlled substance under circumstances that indicate the substance is a sample intended for distribution in anticipation of a transaction involving large quantities, or is part of a larger delivery; or

(F) Statements by the possessor, or otherwise attributable to the possessor, including statements of conspirators, that indicate possession with intent to distribute.

(ii) Possession of a controlled substance is presumed to be for personal use when there are no indicia of illicit drug trafficking or distribution such as, but not limited to, the factors listed in § 233.8(a)(5)(i), and the amounts do not exceed the following quantities:

(A) One gram of a mixture of substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

(B) One gram of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:

(1) Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and derivations of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;

(2) Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;

(3) Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or

(4) Any compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances referred to in § 233.8(a)(5)(ii)(B)(1)-(3);

(5) 1/10th gram of a mixture or substance described in § 233.8(a)(5)(ii) which contains cocaine base;

(6) 1/10 gram of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of phencyclidine (PCP);

(7) 500 micrograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD);

(8) One ounce of a mixture of substance containing a detectable amount of marihuana;

(9) One gram of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers, or one gram of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomer.

(iii) The possession of a narcotic, a depressant, a stimulant, a hallucinogen or cannabis-controlled substance will be considered in excess of personal use quantities if the dosage unit amount possessed provides the same or greater equivalent efficacy as described in § 233.8(a)(5)(ii).

(6) *Property* means property subject to forfeiture under title 21, U.S.C., Sections 881(a)(4), (6), and (7).

(7) *Statutory Rights or Defenses to the Forfeiture* means all legal and equitable rights and remedies available to a claimant of property seized for forfeiture.

(8) *Sworn to* as used in § 233.8(b)(4)(ii) refers to the oath as provided by 28 U.S.C. 1746.

(b) *Petition for expedited release in an administrative forfeiture action.* (1) Where property is seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities, the owner may petition the Postal Inspection Service for expedited release of the property.

(2) The owner filing the petition for expedited release must establish the following:

(i) The owner has a valid, good faith interest in the seized property as owner or otherwise;

(ii) The owner reasonably attempted to ascertain the use of the property in a normal and customary manner; and

(iii) The owner did not know or consent to the illegal use of the property, or in the event that the owner knew or should have known of the illegal use, the owner did what reasonably could be expected to prevent the violation.

(3) In addition to those factors listed in §233.8(b)(2), if an owner can demonstrate that he has other statutory rights or defenses that would cause him to prevail on the issue of forfeiture, such factors must also be considered in ruling on the petition for expedited release.

(4) A petition for expedited release must be:

(i) Filed in a timely manner to be considered; in order to be filed in a timely manner, the petition must be received by the Postal Inspection Service within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice of seizure.

(ii) Executed and sworn to by the owner and both the envelope and the request must be clearly marked "PETITION FOR EXPEDITED RELEASE";

(iii) Filed in accordance with the notice of seizure; and

(iv) Addressed to the Chief Postal Inspector, Postal Inspection Service.

(5) The petition must include the following:

(i) A complete description of the property, including identification numbers, if any, and the date and place of seizure;

(ii) The petitioner's interest in the property, which must be supported by title documentation, bills of sale, contracts, mortgages, or other satisfactory documentary evidence; and

(iii) A statement of the facts and circumstances, to be established by satisfactory proof, relied upon by the petitioner to justify expedited release of the seized property.

(c) *Ruling on petition for expedited release in an administrative forfeiture action involving personal use quantities of a controlled substance.* (1) Upon receipt of a petition for expedited release filed pursuant to §233.8(b), the Postal Inspection Service must determine first whether a final administrative determination of the case, without regard to the provisions of this section, can be made within 21 days of the seizure. If such a final administrative determina-

tion is made within 21 days, no further action need be taken under this section.

(2) If no such final administrative determination is made within 21 days of the seizure, the following procedure applies:

(i) The Postal Inspection Service, within 20 days after the receipt of the petition for expedited release, determines whether the petition filed by the owner has established the factors listed in §233.8(b)(2); and

(ii) If the Postal Inspection Service determines that those factors have been established, it terminates the administrative proceedings and returns the property to the owner except where it is evidence of a violation of law; or

(iii) If the Postal Inspection Service determines that those factors have not been established, it proceeds with the administrative forfeiture.

(d) *Posting of substitute res.* (1) Where property is seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities, the owner may obtain release of the property by posting a substitute res with the Postal Service. The property will be released to the owner upon the payment of an amount equal to the appraised value of the property if it is not evidence of a violation of law or has design or other characteristics that particularly suit it for use in illegal activities. This payment must be in the form of a traveler's check, a money order, a cashier's check or an irrevocable letter of credit made payable to the Postal Service. A bond in the form of a cashier's check will be considered as paid once the check has been accepted for payment by the financial institution which issued the check.

(2) If a substitute res is posted and the property is administratively forfeited, the Postal Inspection Service will forfeit the substitute res in lieu of the property.

[54 FR 47520, Nov. 15, 1989]

§233.9 Expedited release of conveyances being forfeited in a judicial forfeiture proceeding for a drug-related offense.

(a) *Petition for expedited release of conveyance.* Where a conveyance has been