

sole discretion, direct that any reinstatement proceeding be limited to written submissions. The removal, suspension, or debarment shall continue until the Board of Directors, for good cause shown, has reinstated the applicant or until the suspension period has expired. The filing of an application for reinstatement will not stay the effectiveness of the removal, suspension, or debarment of an accountant or firm.

PART 309—DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552; 12 U.S.C. 1819 “Seventh” and “Tenth.”

SOURCE: 60 FR 61465, Nov. 30, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 309.1 Purpose and scope.

This part sets forth the basic policies of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regarding information it maintains and the procedures for obtaining access to such information. Section 309.2 sets forth definitions applicable to this part 309. Section 309.3 describes the types of information and documents typically published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Section 309.4 explains how to access public records maintained on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s World Wide Web page and in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s Public Information Center or “PIC”, and describes the categories of records generally found there. Section 309.5 implements the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). Section 309.6 authorizes the discretionary disclosure of exempt records under certain limited circumstances. Section 309.7 outlines procedures for serving a subpoena or other legal process to obtain information maintained by the FDIC.

[63 FR 16404, Apr. 3, 1998]

§ 309.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) The term *depository institution*, as used in §309.6, includes depository institutions that have applied to the Corporation for federal deposit insurance, closed depository institutions, presently operating federally insured depository institutions, foreign banks, branches of foreign banks, and all affiliates of any of the foregoing.

(b) The terms *Corporation* or *FDIC* mean the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(c) The words *disclose* or *disclosure*, as used in §309.6, mean to give access to a record, whether by producing the written record or by oral discussion of its contents. Where the Corporation employee authorized to release Corporation documents makes a determination that furnishing copies of the documents is necessary, the words *disclose* or *disclosure* include the furnishing of copies of documents or records. In addition, *disclose* or *disclosure* as used in §309.6 is synonymous with the term *transfer* as used in the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3401 *et seq.*).

(d) The term *examination* includes, but is not limited to, formal and informal investigations of irregularities involving suspected violations of federal or state civil or criminal laws, or unsafe and unsound practices as well as such other investigations as may be conducted pursuant to law.

(e) The term *record* includes records, files, documents, reports, correspondence, books, and accounts, or any portion thereof, in any form the FDIC regularly maintains them.

(f) The term *report of examination* includes, but is not limited to, examination reports resulting from examinations of depository institutions conducted jointly by Corporation examiners and state banking authority examiners or other federal financial institution examiners, as well as reports resulting from examinations conducted solely by Corporation examiners. The term also includes compliance examination reports.

(g) The term *customer financial records*, as used in §309.6, means an original of, a copy of, or information known to have been derived from, any record held by a depository institution pertaining to a customer’s relationship

with the depository institution but does not include any record that contains information not identified with or identifiable as being derived from the financial records of a particular customer. The term *customer* as used in § 309.6 refers to individuals or partnerships of five or fewer persons.

(h) The term *Director of the Division having primary authority* includes Deputies to the Chairman and directors of FDIC Divisions and Offices that create, maintain custody, or otherwise have primary responsibility for the handling of FDIC records or information.

[60 FR 61465, Nov. 30, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 16404, Apr. 3, 1998]

§ 309.3 Federal Register publication.

The FDIC publishes the following information in the FEDERAL REGISTER for the guidance of the public:

(a) Descriptions of its central and field organization and the established places at which, the officers from whom, and the methods whereby, the public may secure information, make submittals or requests, or obtain decisions;

(b) Statements of the general course and method by which its functions are channeled and determined, including the nature and requirements of all formal and informal procedures available;

(c) Rules of procedure, descriptions of forms available or the places at which forms may be obtained, and instructions as to the scope and contents of all papers, reports or examinations;

(d) Substantive rules of general applicability adopted as authorized by law, and statements of general policy or interpretations of general applicability formulated and adopted by the FDIC;

(e) Every amendment, revision or repeal of the foregoing; and

(f) General notices of proposed rule-making.

§ 309.4 Publicly available records.

(a) *Records available on the FDIC's World Wide Web page*—(1) *Discretionary release of documents*. The FDIC encourages the public to explore the wealth of resources available on the FDIC's World Wide Web page, located at: <http://www.fdic.gov>. The FDIC has elected to publish a broad range of materials on

its World Wide Web page, including consumer guides; financial and statistical information of interest to the banking industry; and information concerning the FDIC's responsibilities and structure.

(2) *Documents required to be made available via computer telecommunications*. (i) The following types of documents created on or after November 1, 1996, and required to be made available through computer telecommunications, may be found on the FDIC's World Wide Web page located at: <http://www.fdic.gov>:

(A) Final opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, as well as final orders and written agreements, made in the adjudication of cases;

(B) Statements of policy and interpretations adopted by the Board of Directors that are not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(C) Administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect the public;

(D) Copies of all records released to any person under § 309.5 that, because of the nature of their subject matter, the FDIC has determined are likely to be the subject of subsequent requests;

(E) A general index of the records referred to in paragraph (a)(2)(i)(D) of this section.

(ii) To the extent permitted by law, the FDIC may delete identifying details when it makes available or publishes a final opinion, final order, statement of policy, interpretation or staff manual or instruction. If redaction is necessary, the FDIC will, to the extent technically feasible, indicate the amount of material deleted at the place in the record where such deletion is made unless that indication in and of itself will jeopardize the purpose for the redaction.

(b) *Public Information Center*. The FDIC maintains a Public Information Center or "PIC" that contains Corporate records that the Freedom of Information Act requires be made available for regular inspection and copying, as well as any records or information the FDIC, in its discretion, has regularly made available to the public. The PIC has extensive materials of interest to the public, including many Reports, Summaries and Manuals used