

§ 890.1068

debarment and penalties and assessments in the same notice, the provider may contest both the debarment and the financial sanctions in the same proceeding. If the provider pursues a combined contest, the requirements set forth in §§ 890.1022 through 890.1024, as well as this section, apply.

(c) *Settling or compromising proposed sanctions.* The debarring official may settle or compromise proposed sanctions at any time before issuing a final decision under § 890.1070.

§ 890.1068 Effect of not contesting proposed penalties and assessments.

(a) *Proposed sanctions may be implemented immediately.* In the absence of a timely response by a provider as required in the notice described in § 890.1066, the debarring official may issue a final decision implementing the proposed financial sanctions immediately, without further procedures.

(b) *Debarring official sends notice after implementing sanctions.* Immediately upon issuing a final decision under paragraph (a), the debarring official must send the provider written notice, via certified return receipt mail or express delivery service, stating:

- (1) The amount of penalties and assessments imposed;
- (2) The date on which they were imposed; and
- (3) The means by which the provider may pay the penalties and assessments.

(c) *No appeal rights.* A provider may not pursue a further administrative or judicial appeal of the debarring official's final decision implementing any sanctions if a timely contest was not filed in response to OPM's notice under § 890.1066.

§ 890.1069 Information the debarring official must consider in deciding a provider's contest of proposed penalties and assessments.

(a) *Documentary material and written arguments.* As part of a provider's contest, the provider must furnish a written statement of reasons why the proposed penalties and assessments should not be imposed and/or why the amounts proposed are excessive.

(b) *Mandatory disclosures.* In addition to any other information submitted

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during the contest, the provider must inform the debarring official in writing of:

(1) Any existing, proposed, or prior exclusion, debarment, penalty, assessment, or other sanction that was imposed by a Federal, State, or local government agency, including any administrative agreement that purports to affect only a single agency; and

(2) Any current or prior criminal or civil legal proceeding that was based on the same facts as the penalties and assessments proposed by OPM.

(c) *In-person appearance.* A provider may request a personal appearance (in person, by telephone conference, or through a representative) to provide testimony and oral arguments to the debarring official.

§ 890.1070 Deciding contests of proposed penalties and assessments.

(a) *Debarring official reviews entire administrative record.* After the provider submits the information and evidence authorized or required by § 890.1069, the debarring official shall review the entire official record to determine if the contest can be decided without additional administrative proceedings, or if an evidentiary hearing is required to resolve disputed material facts.

(b) *Previously determined facts.* Any facts relating to the basis for the proposed penalties and assessments that were determined in prior due process proceedings are binding on the debarring official in deciding the contest. "Prior due process proceedings" are those set forth in § 890.1025(a)(1) through (4).

(c) *Deciding the contest without further proceedings.* To decide the contest without further administrative proceedings, the debarring official must determine that:

(1) The preponderance of the evidence in the administrative record as a whole demonstrates that the provider committed a sanctionable violation described in § 890.1061; and

(2) The evidentiary record contains no *bona fide* dispute of any fact material to the proposed financial sanction. A "material fact" is a fact essential to determining whether a provider committed a sanctionable violation for