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28 CFR Ch. I (7-1-08 Edition)

possession of the property or when the release would be in the best interest of justice and the Government.

§ 8.7 Judicial forfeiture.

If the appraised value exceeds the monetary amount set forth in title 19, United States Code, section 1607, or a claim and satisfactory bond have been received either for property appraised at that amount or less, or for seized merchandise which is any monetary instrument within the meaning of section 5312(a)(3) of title 31 of the United States Code, the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI field office that seized the property shall transmit the claim and bond to the U.S. Attorney for the judicial district in which the seizure was made for the purpose of instituting judicial forfeiture proceedings. Also transmitted with the claim and bond will be a description of the property and a complete statement of the facts and circumstances leading to the seizure of the property.

[Order No. 1476-91, 56 FR 8685, Mar. 1, 1991]

§ 8.8 Advertisement and declaration of forfeiture.

(a) The notice required by customs laws, section 607, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1607), of seizure and intention to forfeit and sell or otherwise dispose of property seized pursuant to the statutes identified in § 8.1, shall describe the property seized, state the date seized, cause, and place of seizure; and state that any person desiring to claim the property must file with the Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice a claim to such property and a bond.

(b) The bond amount shall be \$5,000 or ten percent of the value of the claimed property whichever is lower, but not less than \$250. The bond posted to cover costs may be in cash, certified check, or satisfactory sureties. When the claim and bond are received by the Special Agent in Charge, he shall, after finding the documents in proper form and the sureties satisfactory, transmit the documents, together with a description of the property and a complete statement of the facts and circumstances surrounding the seizure, to

the U.S. Attorney for the judicial district in which the seizure was made for purpose of proceeding to forfeiture of the property in a manner prescribed by law. If the documents are not in satisfactory condition when first received, a reasonable time for correction may be allowed. If correction is not made within a reasonable time, the documents may be treated as nugatory, and the administrative forfeiture shall proceed as though they had not been tendered. The filing of the claim and the posting of the bond does not entitle the claimant to possession of the property, however, it does stop the administrative forfeiture proceeding.

(c) The notice for administrative forfeiture proceedings shall be published once each week for at least three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the judicial district in which the property was seized. If a claim is not made within the time period, the FBI Property Management Officer shall declare the property forfeited.

[Order No. 1128-86, 51 FR 8818, Mar. 14, 1986, as amended by Order No. 1197-87, 52 FR 24448, July 1, 1987; Order No. 1476-91, 56 FR 8687, Mar. 1, 1991]

§ 8.9 Disposition of forfeited property.

(a) If the laws of a state in which an article of forfeited property is located prohibit the sale of such property or if the U.S. Marshals Service is of the opinion that it would be more advantageous to sell the forfeited property in another district, the property may be moved to and sold in such other district as the U.S. Marshals Service may direct.

(b) If, after the administrative forfeiture of property is completed, it appears that the proceeds of sale will not be sufficient to pay the costs of sale or the proceeds will be insignificant in relation to the expenses involved in the forfeiture, the U.S. Marshals Service may order the destruction of the property. Similarly, property forfeited under a decree of a court may be destroyed in accordance with section 611, Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1611). Also, if the sale or use of any article is prohibited under any law of the United States or the state where it is stored, the U.S. Marshals Service may order it

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destroyed or cause alteration of the property into an article that is not prohibited.

(c) If arms and munitions are forfeited pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 401(c), the Secretary of Defense should be contacted to determine if he desires this property.

§ 8.10 Remission or mitigation of forfeiture.

(a) Any person claiming a legal or equitable interest in any property which has been forfeited pursuant to statutes identified in § 8.1, may file, in accordance with the provisions of 28 CFR part 9, a petition for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture or a petition for restoration of the proceeds of sale or for value of the property placed in official use. If the forfeiture proceedings are administrative, the petition shall be addressed to the Director of the FBI and shall be filed in triplicate with the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI field office that seized the property. It must be executed and sworn to by the person alleging interest in the property. If the forfeiture proceedings are judicial, the petition shall be addressed to the Attorney General of the United States and filed in triplicate with the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI field office that seized the property. The petition for a judicial forfeiture shall be sworn to by the petitioner, or by his or her counsel upon information and belief.

(b) The petition shall include the following:

(1) A complete description of the property, including model and serial numbers, if any, and the date and place of seizure;

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

(3) The facts and circumstances, established by satisfactory proof, relied upon by the petitioner to justify remission or mitigation of the forfeiture. For further information regarding the content of a petition, see 28 CFR 9.5.

(c) Where the petition is for restoration of the proceeds of sale, or for value of the property placed in official use, it must be supported by satisfactory

proof that the petitioner did not know of the seizure prior to the declaration of forfeiture and was in such circumstances as prevented petitioner from knowing of the same.

(d) A petition for remission or mitigation of forfeiture should be filed within 30 days of the receipt of the notice of seizure. Once forfeited property is disposed of, a petition for remission or mitigation of forfeiture will no longer be accepted. A petition for restoration of proceeds of sale or for value of the property placed in official use must be filed within 90 days of the sale of the property, or within 90 days of the date the property is placed in official use.

(e) Upon receipt of a petition, an appropriate investigation shall be conducted by the FBI. No hearing shall be held. For administrative forfeitures, the petition and the results of the petition investigation shall be forwarded to the Legal Counsel Division, FBI. Final decisions on petitions for property forfeited administratively shall be made by the Assistant Director, Legal Counsel, FBI or his designee within the Legal Counsel Division, FBI. For judicial forfeitures, the petition and the results of the petition investigation shall be forwarded to the U.S. Attorney who prosecuted the property. The U.S. Attorney shall forward the petition and the results of the investigation together with a recommendation as to allowance or denial of the petition to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division. The matter shall be assigned to the Asset Forfeiture Office who shall either grant the petition by remission or mitigation of the forfeiture or shall deny it.

(f) A request for reconsideration of the denial of the petition for an administrative forfeiture must be submitted within 10 days from receipt of the letter denying the petition. Such request shall be addressed to the Director of the FBI for referral to the FBI Legal Counsel Division and shall be based on evidence recently developed or not previously considered. Only one request for reconsideration of a denial of a petition shall be considered. For further information regarding petitions see 28 CFR part 9.