

the judicial or administrative proceeding and the nature of the testimony or documents requested.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, an employee of USDA only may appear as a witness or produce records on behalf of a party other than the United States in a judicial or administrative proceeding in which the United States is a party if such appearance or production has been ordered by the service on the employee of a valid summons, subpoena, or other compulsory process issued by a court, administrative agency, or other official authorized to compel his or her appearance.

(2) An employee requested to appear as a witness or produce records on behalf of a party other than the United States in a judicial or administrative proceeding in which the United States is a party, without being served a valid summons, subpoena, or other compulsory process, may appear or produce records only if such appearance or production has been authorized by a representative of the Department of Justice, the United States Attorney, or other counsel who is representing the United States in the case of a judicial proceeding; or by the official or attorney representing the United States, in the case of an administrative proceeding.

(c) The head of the USDA agency shall consult with the General Counsel or his or her designee as to whether there are grounds to oppose the employee's attendance or production of documents and, if so, whether to seek to quash the summons, subpoena, compulsory process, or to deny authorization under paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(d) As appropriate, the General Counsel or his or her designee will request the assistance of the Department of Justice, a United States Attorney, or other counsel representing the United States, in the case of a judicial proceeding; or of the official or attorney representing the United States, in the case of an administrative proceeding, to represent the interest of the employee and USDA.

(e) If there is any question regarding the validity of a summons, subpoena, or other compulsory process, an em-

ployee shall contact the Office of the General Counsel for advice.

§ 1.217 Witness fees and travel expenses.

(a) Any employee of USDA who attends a judicial or administrative proceeding as a witness in order to testify or produce official documents on behalf of the United States is entitled to travel expenses in connection with such appearance in accordance with the Agriculture Travel Regulations.

(b) An employee of USDA who attends a judicial or administrative proceeding on behalf of the United States is not entitled to receive fees for such attendance.

(c) An employee of USDA who attends a judicial or administrative proceeding on behalf of a party other than the United States when such appearance is in his or her official capacity or arises out of or relates to his or her employment with USDA is entitled to travel expenses in accordance with the Agriculture Travel Regulations to the extent that such expenses are not paid for by the court, agency, or official compelling his or her appearance or by the party on whose behalf he or she appears.

(d) An employee of USDA who attends a judicial or administrative proceeding on behalf of a party other than the United States when such appearance is in his or her official capacity or arises out of or relates to his or her employment with USDA is required to collect the authorized fees for such service and remit such fees to his or her USDA agency.

§ 1.218 Penalty.

An employee who testifies or produces records in a judicial or administrative proceeding in violation of the provisions of this regulation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

§ 1.219 Delegations.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c), or (d) of this section, the head of a USDA agency may delegate his or her responsibilities under this subpart, including the requirement to be notified of the receipt of a subpoena as provided in §§ 1.214(a) and 1.216(a) of this