

potential usefulness of the proposed project for the advancement of scientific knowledge?

(2) Project Design: (30 Points)

Is the design of the project adequate and feasible as indicated by the appropriateness of the work statement and the technical approach, including: (a) a concise and clear statement of goals and objectives; (b) theoretical analysis of the problem and, if appropriate, hypotheses to be tested and/or parameters to be estimated; (c) specification of data sources; (d) plan for data analysis, including appropriateness of statistical methods to be used; and (e) scheduling of tasks and milestones in the progress of the project? Does the proposal describe specific plans for conducting the project in terms of the tasks to be performed, and how the approach proposed will accomplish the project objectives?

(3) Qualifications: (30 Points)

Do the qualifications of the project personnel, as evidenced by training, experience, and publications, demonstrate that they have the knowledge of subject matter and skills required to competently carry out the research and to produce a final report that is comprehensible and usable? Is the staffing pattern appropriate for the proposed research, linking responsibilities clearly to project tasks?

(4) Organization and Budget: (15 Points)

Are the resources needed to conduct the project specified, including personnel, time, funds, and facilities? Are any collaborative efforts with other organizations clearly identified and written assurances referenced? Is all budget information provided including a description by category (personnel, travel, etc.) of the total of the Federal funds required, and written assurances referenced? Where appropriate, are justifications and explanations of costs provided? Are the project's costs reasonable in view of the level of effort and anticipated outcome? Does the applicant's organization have adequate facilities and resources to plan, conduct, and complete the project?

7. Closing Date for Receipt of Applications

The closing date for receipt of grant applications for Federal funds in response to this announcement is June 26, 1997.

Applications may be mailed or sent by commercial carrier or personally delivered to: Grants Management Team; Office of Operations Contracts and Grants; Office of Acquisition and

Grants; Social Security Administration; 1-E-4 Gwynn Oak Building; 1710 Gwynn Oak Avenue; Baltimore, Maryland 21207.

Hand-delivered applications are accepted during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. An application will be considered as meeting the deadline if it is either:

- (a) Received on or before the deadline date at the above address; or
- (b) Mailed through the U.S. Postal Service or sent by commercial carrier on or before the deadline date and received in time to be considered during the competitive review and evaluation process. Applicants are cautioned to request a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark or to obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier as evidence of timely mailing. Private metered postmarks are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing.

Applications which do not meet the above criteria are considered late applications. SSA will notify each late applicant that its application will not be considered.

Note: Facsimile Copies Will Not be Accepted.

Notice Procedures

Paperwork Reduction Act

This notice contains reporting requirements in the "Application Process" section. However, the information is collected using form SSA-96-BK, *Federal Assistance*, which has Office of Management and Budget clearance No. 0960-0184.

Executive Orders 12372 and 12416—Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

This program is not covered by the requirements of Executive Order 12372, as amended by Executive Order 12416, relating to Federal agencies providing opportunities for consultation with State and local elected officials on proposed Federal financial assistance or direct Federal development.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: Program No. 96.007, Social Security-Research and Demonstration.)

Dated: March 20, 1997.

John J. Callahan,

Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. 97-7914 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

Social Security Ruling SSR 97-1p. Title XVI: Supplemental Security Income—Income—When Inheritances Become Income

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Social Security ruling.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 20 CFR 422.406(b)(1), the Acting Commissioner of Social Security gives notice of Social Security Ruling SSR 97-1p. This Policy Interpretation Ruling clarifies the Social Security Administration's longstanding policy that State law must be taken into account in determining the point at which an inheritance becomes income under Title XVI, Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, of the Social Security Act. That is, the earliest point at which an inheritance can become income under Title XVI is the point at which the individual is free, under applicable State inheritance laws, to spend his or her inheritance (if it is cash) or to convert his or her inheritance to cash (if it is not cash).

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joanne K. Castello, Division of Regulations and Rulings, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235, (410) 965-1711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Although we are not required to do so pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(1) and (a)(2), we are publishing this Social Security Ruling in accordance with 20 CFR 422.406(b)(1).

Social Security Rulings make available to the public precedential decisions relating to the Federal old-age, survivors, disability, supplemental security income, and black lung benefits programs. Social Security Rulings may be based on case decisions made at all administrative levels of adjudication, Federal court decisions, Commissioner's decisions, opinions of the Office of the General Counsel, and other policy interpretations of the law and regulations.

Although Social Security Rulings do not have the force and effect of the law or regulations, they are binding on all components of the Social Security Administration, in accordance with 20 CFR 422.406(b)(1), and are to be relied upon as precedents in adjudicating cases.

If this Social Security Ruling is later superseded, modified, or rescinded, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** to that effect.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, Program 96.006 Supplemental Security Income.)

Dated: March 21, 1997.

John J. Callahan,

Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

Policy Interpretation Ruling: Title XVI: Supplemental Security Income—When Inheritances Become Income

Purpose: To clarify the Social Security Administration's (SSA) longstanding policy that State law must be taken into account in determining the point at which an inheritance becomes income for purposes of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Citations (Authority): Section 1612(a)(2)(E) of the Social Security Act; Regulations No. 16, Subpart K, sections 416.1102, 416.1121(g), and 416.1123(a).

Pertinent History: The point at which something becomes income under the SSI program derives from the regulatory definition of income at 20 CFR

416.1102. Income is something an individual receives and can use to meet food, clothing, or shelter needs. An implicit requirement of this definition is that, for property other than cash to be considered income, the individual who receives it must have the legal right, authority, and power to convert it to cash (by selling it, for example). The point at which something becomes income is, necessarily, the point at which it first meets this criterion.

The earliest point at which a cash inheritance can be used to meet food, clothing, or shelter needs is the point at which State inheritance laws permit the heir to spend it. The earliest point at which inherited property other than cash can be used to meet food, clothing, or shelter needs is the point at which State inheritance laws permit the heir to convert the property (or his or her interest in it) to cash.

In some States, an heir cannot dispose of an inheritance until the estate is closed. When this is the case, the inheritance does not meet the regulatory criteria to be considered income until the estate is closed. In other States, an heir may receive a contingency interest in real property at the time of the decedent's death. The heir can sell this contingency interest immediately, even though perfect title to the property cannot be conveyed until the estate is closed and the value of the property may be reduced accordingly or be difficult to determine. However, when the contingency interest can be valued, this interest meets the regulatory criteria to be considered income at the time of the decedent's death.

Since State law governs the point at which inherited property first meets the regulatory criteria for being considered income, State law must be taken into

account in determining the point at which inherited property becomes income under the SSI program. This includes cases in which State law permits an heir to convert inherited property to cash prior to distribution of the assets, since failure to consider such property as income unless and until the assets are distributed would not be consistent with regulations.

Policy Interpretation: The earliest point at which an inheritance can become income under the SSI program is the point at which the individual is free, under applicable State inheritance laws, to spend the inheritance (if it is cash) or to convert the inheritance to cash (if it is not cash).

Effective Date: This Ruling which merely clarifies SSA's longstanding policy on the treatment of inheritances is effective on March 28, 1997.

Cross-Reference: Program Operations Manual System, Part 5, Chapter 008, Subchapter 30, Section SI 00830.550.

[FR Doc. 97-7831 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Privacy Act of 1974: Systems of Records

AGENCY: Operating Administrations, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice to amend and delete systems of records.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Privacy Act Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Crystal Bush at (202) 366-9713

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Transportation systems of records notices subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended, have been published in the **Federal Register** and are available from the above mentioned address.

The specific changes to the records systems being amended are set forth below followed by the notices, as amended, and is published in their entirety. The proposed amendments are not within the purview of subsection (r) of the Privacy Act of 1974, (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended, which requires the submission of a new or altered systems report.

DOT/OST 003

SYSTEM NAME:

Allegations of Infringement of United States Patents.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Office of the General Counsel, 400 7th Street, SW., Room 10102, Washington, DC 20590.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Individuals who believe that an agency of the Department of Transportation is infringing a United States patent owned by the individual.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Copies of correspondence alleging that agencies of the Department of Transportation have infringed, or are infringing, United States patents owned by the originators of the correspondence. Copies of replies by the Department Patent Counsel to the originator of the allegation. Copies of correspondence forwarding the allegation to the particular Department agency accused for their comment; their replies to Patent Counsel. Copies of correspondence between the Department of Transportation and the Department of Justice concerning the allegations.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

49 CFR 1.57.

PURPOSE(S):

The purpose of the system is document allegations that agencies of the Department of Transportation have infringed, or are infringing, United States patents.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Used as a record of allegations and Patent Counsel's actions thereon. See Prefatory Statement of General Routine Uses.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

File folders stored in file cabinets.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Indexed individually by name in alphabetical sequence.

SAFEGUARDS:

Records are disclosed only to individuals with established legal interest or legal "need to know."