

penalty by filing a request therefor in accordance with § 160.526 of this subpart.

§ 160.516 Failure to request a hearing.

If the respondent does not request a hearing within the time prescribed by § 160.526, the Secretary must impose the proposed penalty or any less severe penalty permitted by 42 U.S.C. 1320d-5. The Secretary must notify the respondent by certified mail, return receipt requested, of any penalty that has been imposed and of the means by which the respondent may satisfy the penalty. The respondent has no right to appeal under § 160.568 with respect to a penalty with respect to which the respondent has not timely requested a hearing.

§ 160.518 Collection of penalty.

(a) Once a determination of the Secretary to impose a penalty has become final, the penalty must be collected by the Secretary.

(b) The penalty may be recovered in a civil action brought in the United States district court for the district where the respondent resides, is found, or is located.

(c) The amount of a penalty, when finally determined, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, may be deducted from any sum then or later owing by the United States, or by a State agency, to the respondent.

(d) Matters that were raised or that could have been raised in a hearing before an ALJ or in an appeal under 42 U.S.C. 1320a-7a(e) may not be raised as a defense in a civil action by the United States to collect a penalty under this part.

§ 160.520 [Reserved]

§ 160.522 Limitations.

No action under this subpart may be entertained unless commenced by the Secretary, in accordance with § 160.514 of this subpart, within 6 years from the date on which the latest act or omission that is the subject of the action occurred.

§ 160.524 [Reserved]

§ 160.526 Hearing before an ALJ.

(a) The respondent may request a hearing before an ALJ. The parties to the hearing proceeding consist of—

- (1) The respondent; and
- (2) The Secretary.

(b) The request for a hearing must be made in writing signed by the respondent or by the respondent's attorney and sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address specified in the notice of proposed determination. The request for a hearing

must be mailed within 60 days after notice of the proposed determination is received by the respondent. For purposes of this section, the respondent's date of receipt of the notice of proposed determination is presumed to be 5 days after the date of the notice unless the respondent makes a reasonable showing to the contrary to the ALJ.

(c) The request for a hearing must clearly and directly admit, deny, or explain each of the findings of fact contained in the notice of proposed determination with regard to which the respondent has any knowledge. If the respondent has no knowledge of a particular finding of fact and so states, the finding shall be deemed denied. The request for a hearing must also state the circumstances or arguments that the respondent alleges constitute the grounds for any defense and the factual and legal basis for opposing the penalty.

(d) The ALJ must dismiss a hearing request where—

- (1) The respondent's hearing request is not filed as required by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section;
- (2) The respondent withdraws the request for a hearing;
- (3) The respondent abandons the request for a hearing; or
- (4) The respondent's hearing request fails to raise any issue that may properly be addressed in a hearing.

§ 160.528 Rights of parties.

(a) Except as otherwise limited by this part, each party may—

- (1) Be accompanied, represented, and advised by an attorney;
- (2) Participate in any conference held by the ALJ;
- (3) Conduct discovery of documents as permitted by this subpart;
- (4) Agree to stipulations of fact or law that will be made part of the record;
- (5) Present evidence relevant to the issues at the hearing;
- (6) Present and cross-examine witnesses;
- (7) Present oral arguments at the hearing as permitted by the ALJ; and
- (8) Submit written briefs and proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law after the hearing.

(b) A party may appear in person or by a representative. Natural persons who appear as an attorney or other representative must conform to the standards of conduct and ethics required of practitioners before the courts of the United States.

§ 160.530 Authority of the ALJ.

(a) The ALJ must conduct a fair and impartial hearing, avoid delay, maintain order, and ensure that a record of the proceeding is made.

(b) The ALJ may—

- (1) Set and change the date, time and place of the hearing upon reasonable notice to the parties;
 - (2) Continue or recess the hearing in whole or in part for a reasonable period of time;
 - (3) Hold conferences to identify or simplify the issues, or to consider other matters that may aid in the expeditious disposition of the proceeding;
 - (4) Administer oaths and affirmations;
 - (5) Issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses at hearings and the production of documents at or in relation to hearings;
 - (6) Rule on motions and other procedural matters;
 - (7) Regulate the scope and timing of documentary discovery as permitted by this subpart;
 - (8) Regulate the course of the hearing and the conduct of representatives, parties, and witnesses;
 - (9) Examine witnesses;
 - (10) Receive, rule on, exclude, or limit evidence;
 - (11) Upon motion of a party, take official notice of facts;
 - (12) Conduct any conference, argument or hearing in person or, upon agreement of the parties, by telephone; and
 - (13) Upon motion of a party, decide cases, in whole or in part, by summary judgment where there is no disputed issue of material fact. A summary judgment decision constitutes a hearing on the record for the purposes of this subpart.
- (c) The ALJ may not—
- (1) Find invalid or refuse to follow Federal statutes or regulations or delegations of authority by the Secretary;
 - (2) Enter an order in the nature of a directed verdict;
 - (3) Compel settlement negotiations; or
 - (4) Enjoin any act of the Secretary.

§ 160.532 Ex parte contacts.

No party or person (except employees of the ALJ's office) may communicate in any way with the ALJ on any matter at issue in a case, unless on notice and opportunity for both parties to participate. This provision does not prohibit a party or person from inquiring about the status of a case or asking routine questions concerning administrative functions or procedures.

§ 160.534 Prehearing conferences.

(a) The ALJ must schedule at least one prehearing conference, and may schedule additional prehearing conferences as appropriate, upon reasonable notice to the parties.

(b) The ALJ may use prehearing conferences to discuss the following—