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(c) This part does not prohibit representation or referral of clients by recipients pursuant to a statutory or private ombudsman program that provides investigatory and referral services and/or legal assistance on behalf of persons who are unable to seek assistance on their own, including those who are institutionalized or are physically or mentally disabled.

§ 1638.5 Recipient policies.

Each recipient shall adopt written policies to implement the requirements of this part.

PART 1639—WELFARE REFORM

Sec.

1639.1 Purpose.

1639.2 Definitions.

1639.3 Prohibition.

1639.4 Permissible representation of eligible clients.

1639.5 Exceptions for public rulemaking and responding to requests with non-LSC funds.

1639.6 Recipient policies and procedures.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2996g(e); Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009; Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321.

SOURCE: 62 FR 30766, June 5, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1639.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that LSC recipients do not initiate litigation involving, or challenge or participate in, efforts to reform a Federal or State welfare system. The rule also clarifies when recipients may engage in representation on behalf of an individual client seeking specific relief from a welfare agency and under what circumstances recipients may use funds from sources other than the Corporation to comment on public rulemaking or respond to requests from legislative or administrative officials involving a reform of a Federal or State welfare system.

§ 1639.2 Definitions.

An effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system includes all of the provisions, except for the Child Support Enforcement provisions of Title III, of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act

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of 1996 (Personal Responsibility Act), 110 Stat. 2105 (1996), and subsequent legislation enacted by Congress or the States to implement, replace or modify key components of the provisions of the Personal Responsibility Act or by States to replace or modify key components of their General Assistance or similar means-tested programs conducted by States or by counties with State funding or under State mandates.

[67 FR 19343, Apr. 19, 2002]

§ 1639.3 Prohibition.

Except as provided in §§ 1639.4 and 1639.5, recipients may not initiate legal representation, or participate in any other way in litigation, lobbying or rulemaking, involving an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system. Prohibited activities include participation in:

(a) Litigation challenging laws or regulations enacted as part of an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

(b) Rulemaking involving proposals that are being considered to implement an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

(c) Lobbying before legislative or administrative bodies undertaken directly or through grassroots efforts involving pending or proposed legislation that is part of an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

§ 1639.4 Permissible representation of eligible clients.

Recipients may represent an individual eligible client who is seeking specific relief from a welfare agency.

[62 FR 30766, June 5, 1997, as amended at 67 FR 19343, Apr. 19, 2002]

§ 1639.5 Exceptions for public rulemaking and responding to requests with non-LSC funds.

Consistent with the provisions of 45 CFR 1612.6 (a) through (e), recipients may use non-LSC funds to comment in a public rulemaking proceeding or respond to a written request for information or testimony from a Federal, State or local agency, legislative body,

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or committee, or a member thereof, regarding an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

§ 1639.6 Recipient policies and procedures.

Each recipient shall adopt written policies and procedures to guide its staff in complying with this part.

PART 1640—APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAW TO LSC RECIPIENTS

Sec.

1640.1 Purpose.

1640.2 Definitions.

1640.3 Contractual agreement.

1640.4 Violation of agreement.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 504(a)(19), Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009; Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321.

SOURCE: 62 FR 19426, Apr. 21, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1640.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to ensure that recipients use their LSC funds in accordance with Federal law related to the proper use of Federal funds. This part also identifies the Federal laws which apply, and it provides notice of the consequences to a recipient of a violation of such Federal laws by a recipient, its employees or board members.

§ 1640.2 Definitions.

(a)(1) *Federal law relating to the proper use of Federal funds* means:

(i) 18 U.S.C. 201 (Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses);

(ii) 18 U.S.C. 286 (Conspiracy to Defraud the Government With Respect to Claims);

(iii) 18 U.S.C. 287 (False, Fictitious or Fraudulent Claims);

(iv) 18 U.S.C. 371 (Conspiracy to Commit Offense or Defraud the United States);

(v) 18 U.S.C. 641 (Public Money, Property or Records);

(vi) 18 U.S.C. 1001 (Statements or Entries Generally);

(vii) 18 U.S.C. 1002 (Possession of False Papers to Defraud the United States);

(viii) 18 U.S.C. 1516 (Obstruction of Federal Audit);

(ix) 31 U.S.C. 3729 (False Claims);

(x) 31 U.S.C. 3730 (Civil Actions for False Claims), except that actions that are authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3730(b) to be brought by persons may not be brought against the Corporation, any recipient, subrecipient, grantee, or contractor of the Corporation, or any employee thereof;

(xi) 31 U.S.C. 3731 (False Claims Procedure);

(xii) 31 U.S.C. 3732 (False Claims Jurisdiction); and

(xiii) 31 U.S.C. 3733 (Civil Investigative Demands).

(2) For the purposes of the laws listed in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, LSC shall be considered a Federal agency and a recipient's LSC funds shall be considered to be Federal funds provided by grant or contract.

(b) *A violation of the agreement* means:

(1) That the recipient has been convicted of, or judgment has been entered against the recipient for, a violation of any of the laws listed in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, with respect to its LSC grant or contract, by the court having jurisdiction of the matter, and any appeals of the conviction or judgment have been exhausted or the time for the appeal has expired; or

(2) An employee or board member of the recipient has been convicted of, or judgment has been entered against the employee or board member for, a violation of any of the laws listed in paragraph (a)(1) of this section with respect to a recipient's grant or contract with LSC by the court having jurisdiction of the matter, and any appeals of the conviction or judgment have been exhausted or the time for appeal has expired, and the Corporation finds that the recipient has knowingly or through gross negligence allowed the employee or board member to engage in such activities.

§ 1640.3 Contractual agreement.

As a condition of receiving LSC funds, a recipient must enter into a written contractual agreement with the Corporation that, with respect to its LSC funds, it will be subject to the Federal laws listed in § 1640.2(a)(1). The agreement shall include a statement that all of the recipient's employees and board members have been informed