

# US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Mail messenger service



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fect their rights or duties or the rights of the United States, under existing laws, it being only intended hereby to enable the proper accounting officers to state on the books of the Treasury the accounts between the Government and said companies respectively. (Act of March 3, 1879, 20 Stats., 420.)

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE.

### OF MAIL-MESSENGER SERVICE.

Sec. 765. Authorized.—That the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ such mail-messenger service as may be necessary for the carriage of the mails in connection with railroad and steamboat service, transfer service between depots, over bridges or ferries, between post-offices, post-offices and branch offices or stations, in cases where by the laws and regulations of the Post-Office Department, railroad companies, steamboat companies, and the masters of vessels are not required to deliver into and take from the post-offices the mails carried on their lines or vessels. (Act of March 3, 1887, 24 Stats., 492.)

Sec. 766. Mail-Messenger Service; how Employed.—A mail messenger cannot be employed without express authority from the Second Assistant Postmaster-General; and in no case can a postmaster be allowed compensation for mail messenger service performed by himself, nor can he be interested or concerned in the contract for such service. (See section 773.) Whenever such service is necessary to any office the postmaster will be authorized, by special instructions in each case, to advertise for ten days for sealed proposals to perform the service according to specifications prepared by the Department. He will give notice or advertise as directed, and secure the utmost possible publicity by calling thereto the attention of all persons likely to compete for the service. When the proposals have been received he will forward all of them, unopened and in one envelope, to the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, together with a report of his action, embracing a copy of the notice given, a statement of the manner of giving it, whether any of the persons making proposals are dissolute, dishonest, or irresponsible, and his opinion as to what is a reasonable compensation for the service to be required. The proposals will be opened by the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, and the lowest bidder, if honest and capable, and his proposal be deemed reasonable and advantageous, will be designated by an order as mail-messenger. No further written contract is required; nor will the mail-messenger be designated for a defi-

nite period, unless the specifications expressly so provide; but he will be expected to serve at the compensation proposed, until his employment is terminated by due notice or order. He must give twenty days' notice of intention to relinquish service.

Before entering upon their employment mail messengers and their assistants must take the oath given in section forty-four, which will be immediately transmitted by the postmaster to the Second Assistant Postmaster-General (Division of Inspection.)

If a messenger die, resign, or abandon the service the postmaster must report the fact to the Second Assistant Postmaster-General at once, and may recommend another at the same rate of pay; but the Department will readvertise if deemed advisable.

**Sec. 767. Duties of Mail-Messengers.**—Mail-messengers are required to receive the mail from and deliver it into the post-offices, mail cars, and on board steamboats according to the schedules of arrivals and departures for mail messenger service prescribed by their postmasters; to keep the mail pouches and sacks, while in their custody, guarded from exposure to wet, theft, or other injury; to handle them carefully; not to throw them from vehicles or drag them so as to injure the pouches or sacks or their contents, and to observe all regulations or special instructions from the Department or the postmaster affecting their service.

**Sec. 768. Duties of Postmasters in Respect to Mail-Messenger Service.**—Postmasters will instruct mail-messengers in regard to the performance of their duties, will prescribe schedules of arrivals and departures for their service, allowing reasonable running time, requiring due receipt and delivery in case of delayed incoming or outgoing trains or boats, as the emergency may require, and will keep an accurate record of all failures to perform trips, and other delinquencies or irregularities, and resulting delays or injuries therefrom.

Whenever mail-messenger service at any post-office becomes unnecessary or ceases from any cause, the postmaster will immediately inform the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, who will thereupon order discontinuance of the same. When the cost of this service can, in the judgment of the postmaster, be reduced by a readvertisement, he will so notify the Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

**Sec. 769. Reports of Mail-Messenger Service.**—Immediately after the expiration of each quarter, the postmaster will make a report (on Form 2242) of the mail-messenger service employed at his post-office for such quarter, and transmit the same to the Second Assistant Postmaster-General (Division of Inspection). The report must be properly filled up, giving legibly the name of the post-office, number of route, name of mail-messenger, number of trips a week required, annual pay, dis-