

US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Returned mail



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ing him to make such disposal of the letters to such address. An order directed to the postmaster at one post-office to return registered letters as fraudulent does not authorize the postmaster at another office to take similar action upon letters arriving at his office addressed to the same persons or concerns. The order is not general to all postmasters, but special to particular postmasters.

Sec. 1132. Fraudulent Matter to be Returned without Charge of Postage or Fee.—Registered matter fully prepaid at first-class rates, the return of which has been ordered under section one thousand one hundred and thirty, shall be returned without additional charge for postage or registry fee.

Sec. 1133. Recall of Matter.—After a registered letter or other registered matter has been transmitted from the mailing post-office, it cannot be recalled by the sender, except by special permission of the Department, or as provided in sections five hundred and thirty-three. The following directions must be observed in recalling registered matter:

1. Applications for such recall must state all the facts in detail, and be at once sent by the mailing postmaster to the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

2. In extreme cases, or where immediate action is necessary, the postmaster may also, at the expense of the sender, telegraph a request to the postmaster at the office of destination to hold the registered article in question until the decision of the Department shall be obtained, which request must in all cases be complied with. Where an application to withhold delivery is thus made direct to the delivering postmaster, he must immediately notify the Third Assistant Postmaster-General of it, and await instructions.

3. In the case of third or fourth class matter specially returned, the sender must be required by the postmaster at the mailing office to pay the return postage.

4. Before dispatch a registered letter can be reclaimed by the sender in the manner prescribed in section five hundred and thirty-one. The sender will return the registration receipt indorsed with his name, which the postmaster will paste opposite the entry in the registration book, indorsing the entry, "RETURNED TO WRITER BY ME (*giving date*), ———, P. M." The registered letter, before return, must be indorsed, "WITHDRAWN BY WRITER FROM ——— P. O. (*date*), ———, P. M."

Sec. 1134. Return of Undelivered Matter to Mailing Office.—The following rules will govern the return of undelivered registered matter:

1. If any domestic registered matter cannot be delivered within thirty

days after its arrival at the office of destination, or within such time, not less than three days and not exceeding ninety days, as may be stated in a request upon its face, or in case its delivery is prohibited by the Postmaster-General in accordance with section one thousand one hundred and thirty, the postmaster must indorse on such matter the cause of non-delivery and return the same, without advertising it in any case, to the post-office whence it was mailed.

2. It must be marked "RETURNED TO WRITER," renumbered, and entered in registration book as if mailed at his post-office, placed in a registered-package envelope with a registry bill and the original registry return receipt, and a note of such return, with date thereof, made in receipt column of delivery book.

3. The address of letter or parcel must be changed only as to destination, and "R. W." marked on registry bill, indicating return to writer. On arrival at the original mailing post-office it must be treated as if it were an original registered letter or parcel received for delivery.

4. Registered matter prepaid at first-class rates, and matter the delivery of which has been prohibited by the Postmaster-General, shall be returned without additional charge for postage or registry fee. All other registered matter, except fraudulent matter, when returned, is subject to an additional charge of postage for returning the same, but should not be charged with an additional registry fee.

5. Postmasters before returning matter subject to return postage, must charge the same with the necessary postage and indorse thereon "RETURN POSTAGE DUE ——— CENTS," and the postmaster at the office to which such matter is returned shall affix thereto postage-due stamps sufficient to cover the return postage, and collect the amount on delivery. Should the sender in any case refuse to pay the return postage, the matter must be disposed of as refused.

6. If postage stamps or money sufficient to pay the return postage should be furnished by the sender, the postmaster at the returning office shall affix to the matter returned the necessary stamps and cancel them the same as if the matter had been originally mailed at his office.

7. After a registered letter or parcel has been returned to the mailing office in compliance with the law regulating the limit of time which it should be held for delivery before its return to the sender, the addressee of such letter is debarred thereby from any further claim upon it. Such letter or parcel cannot be remailed to the addressee without a new prepayment of postage and registry fee.

Sec. 1135. **Refused Letters or Parcels.**—In case of addressee simply refusing to receive a registered letter or parcel, it must be retained the