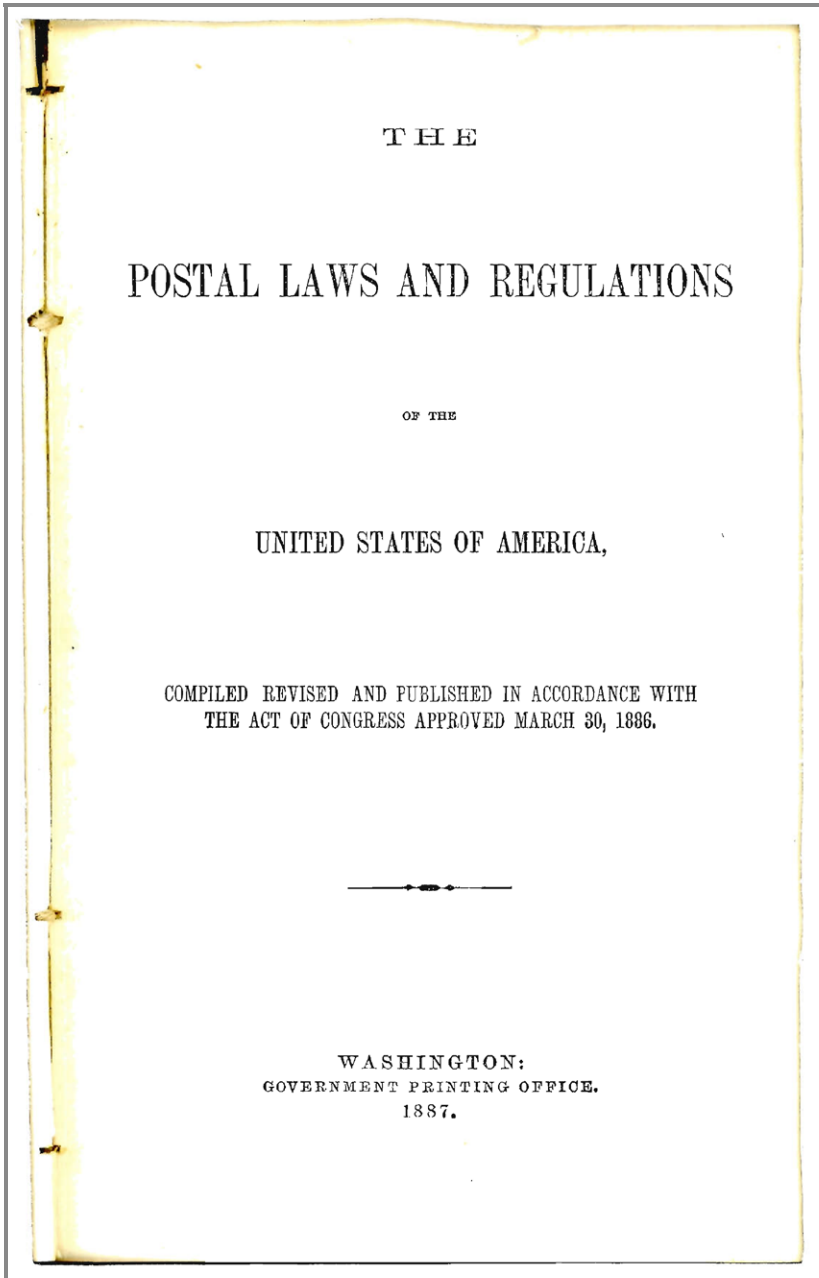


# US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Year: 1887

Withdrawal of mail



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same to the Dead-Letter Office, but will notify the person mailing such package, whether he live within the delivery of the post-office or not, that some other means than the mail must be provided for its transportation. If the sender is not known, then the postmaster should notify the party addressed of the detention of the package, that it cannot be transmitted in the mails, and that he must provide some other means for its being forwarded at his own expense, outside the mails. Then, if such packages are not taken from his office by or for either the sender or addressee within thirty days, the postmaster should report the facts to the Superintendent of the Dead-Letter Office, and await instructions from him.

**Sec. 529. What Matter to be Sent to the Dead-Letter Office.**—The following unmailable matter will be sent from the office where it is deposited for mailing to the Dead-Letter Office, namely :

1. "*Held for postage*" matter which cannot be returned to sender and has not been prepaid by addressee, as required by section five hundred and twenty-five.

2. *Misdirected matter* which cannot be dispatched to the addressee nor returned to sender, as directed in section five hundred and twenty-six.

3. *Excess of weight and size of matter*, or those packages of domestic matter which exceed the weight limited by law.

4. *Obscene matter* declared non-mailable by section three hundred and eighty.

5. *Lottery circulars* forbidden to be sent in the mails by section three hundred and seventy-nine.

6. *Mutilated or damaged matter*, or that which when deposited in the post-office is, or before dispatch may become, so damaged that it cannot be forwarded to destination, and cannot be returned to the sender.

As to FOREIGN MATTER, see sections 434 and 619.

**Sec. 530. How to be Sent to Dead-Letter Office.**—Unmailable matter will be sent to the Dead-Letter Office from the office where offered for mailing, in connection with other unmailable and dead matter, at the periods prescribed in section six hundred and five.

#### AT MAILING OFFICES—WITHDRAWAL OF MAIL MATTER.

**Sec. 531. Before Dispatch.**—After mailable matter has been deposited in the post-office it cannot be withdrawn except by the writer thereof or sender, or, in case of a minor child, the parent or guardian duly authorized to control the correspondence of the writer. The utmost care must be taken to ascertain that the person desiring to withdraw the matter is the person entitled to do so. If necessary the postmaster should require the applicant to exhibit a written address in the same

hand as that upon the letter and such description of the letter or article mailed, or other evidence, as will identify the same and satisfy the postmaster that the applicant is entitled to withdraw it.

The postmaster acts at his peril in permitting such withdrawal, and would be liable, however honest his intentions, were he to deliver it to an impostor or one not entitled to it. He should in no case delay a mail or retard the business of his office in order to search for a letter desired to be withdrawn.

**Sec. 532. Letters with Stamps Canceled not to be Withdrawn.**—After canceling the stamps upon a letter the postmaster must not return it to the person mailing it for him to take it to a railway post-office. If received too late to put in the locked pouch, the postmaster or his assistant or sworn clerk may, after cancellation and postmarking, take it to the postal car. The railway postal clerk may receive it from such postmaster, assistant, or clerk, but is forbidden to receive such canceled letter from any other person out of the pouch. (See section 979.)

**Sec. 533. Withdrawal by Sender after Dispatch.**—After a letter has passed from the mailing post-office the delivery of the same may be prevented, and its return to the writer secured, by an application by the writer to the postmaster at the office of mailing, stating reasons therefor, identifying the letter, and supporting such application with sufficient proof in writing. Upon such application and evidence, and upon a deposit being made by the writer of a sum sufficient to cover all expenses incurred, the postmaster shall telegraph a request for the return of such letter to his office, if it has been forwarded, to the postmaster at the office of address, carefully describing the same, so as to identify it and prevent the return of any other matter. On receipt of such request the postmaster at the office of address shall return such letter to the mailing postmaster in a penalty envelope, who will deliver it to the writer upon payment of all expenses and of letter rate of postage on the matter returned, on the envelope of which postage-due stamps of the proper value must be placed and canceled, and upon the prepayment also of a registered parcel, addressed to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, Division of Correspondence, in which the postmaster shall inclose and transmit the application of the writer and all proofs submitted by him, together with the writer's receipt for it, and the envelope of the returned letter. The following form may be used in making application for withdrawal of mail matter after dispatch:

— — — —, 188—.

Postmaster, — — — —,

Please recall and deliver to myself or bearer a letter deposited in — — — — on or about — — — —, 188—, addressed to — — — —, and described as follows: — — — —, and in the same handwriting as this application, and which was written by

me or by my authority, and which I do not desire delivered to the addressee for the following reasons: \_\_\_\_\_.

It is hereby agreed that if the letter is returned to me, I will protect you from any and all claims made against you for such return, and will fully indemnify you for any loss you may sustain by reason of such action, and I herewith deposit \$— to cover all expenses incurred, and will deliver you the envelope of the letter returned.

[Name.] \_\_\_\_\_.

[Address.] \_\_\_\_\_.

[Receipt.] Received \_\_\_\_\_, 188—, of the postmaster, the above described piece of mail matter for account of the sender.

[Name.] \_\_\_\_\_.

Witness [Name.] \_\_\_\_\_, [Address.] \_\_\_\_\_.

#### AT MAILING OFFICES—DISTRIBUTION AND DISPATCH OF MAILS.

**Sec. 534. General Directions.**—At offices where a superintendent of mails is not employed, postmasters will be governed in the distribution and dispatch of mails—except foreign mails outward from exchange offices, which are under the control of the Superintendent of Foreign Mails—by the orders received from the General Superintendent of Railway Mail Service, or from the division superintendent acting under him in whose jurisdiction the post-office may be. In the absence of other instructions, every postmaster whose post-office is situated upon a railroad, will mail all matter direct to the cars, unless it be addressed to post-offices directly connected with his own by star or steamboat routes. Postmasters at other post-offices will mail to the nearest post-office upon a railroad all matter which cannot be sent direct to its destination by star or steamboat route.

**Sec. 535. Distribution of Mails by Schemes.**—Postmasters will carefully distribute and make up mails by the official schemes which may be furnished them, and will conform to any changes that may be made in the same by the superintendent of the division, and will make up and exchange only such pouches as he may order. But the division superintendent may except any post-office from this requirement.

No change in distribution or dispatch must be made without first obtaining authority from the proper division superintendent of Railway Mail Service, except in cases of emergency; and in all such cases an immediate report, giving the reasons for such change, must be made to the division superintendent.

**Sec. 536. Distribution of Mail by States, &c.**—A distribution or separation should be made only of such mail for States or portions of States as can be advanced thereby. All mail for States of which no distribution is made must be made up “by States,” and facing slips used in accordance with section five hundred and forty-three; that is, letter and circular mail for each State must be made up in packages, and



**Sec. 745. Mails not to be Carried beyond Termini without Authority.**—In case railroads are extended or trains run beyond the termini of the route on which the transportation of mails is duly authorized, the mails must not be carried beyond such termini of the route until the additional service is ordered by the Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

**Sec. 746. Conditions of Railway Service and Rates of Pay for Same.**—The Postmaster-General is authorized and directed to readjust the compensation hereafter to be paid for the transportation of mails on railroad routes upon the conditions and at the rates hereinafter mentioned:

First. That the mails shall be conveyed with due frequency and speed; and that sufficient and suitable room, fixtures, and furniture, in a car or apartment properly lighted and warmed, shall be provided for route agents to accompany and distribute the mails.

Second. That the pay per mile per annum shall not exceed the following rates, namely: On routes carrying their whole length an average weight of mails per day of two hundred pounds, fifty dollars; five hundred pounds, seventy-five dollars; one thousand pounds, one hundred dollars; one thousand five hundred pounds, one hundred and twenty-five dollars; two thousand pounds, one hundred and fifty dollars; three thousand five hundred pounds, one hundred and seventy-five dollars; five thousand pounds, two hundred dollars, and twenty-five dollars additional for every additional two thousand pounds, the average weight to be ascertained, in every case, by the actual weighing of the mails for such a number of successive working days, not less than thirty, at such times, after June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and not less frequently than once in every four years, and the result to be stated and verified in such form and manner as the Postmaster-General may direct. (R. S., § 4002.)

**Sec. 747. Compensation of Railroads Reduced Ten Per Centum.**—That the Postmaster-General be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to readjust the compensation to be paid from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, for transportation of mails on railroad routes by reducing the compensation to all railroad companies for the transportation of mails ten per centum per annum from the rates fixed and allowed by the first section of an act, entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-three [section 746], for the transportation of mails on the basis of the average weight. (Act of July 12, 1876, § 1, 19 Stats., 79.)

NOTE.—This act does not affect the compensation for railway postal cars, provided