

August 6, 2021 | Volume 15 | Issue 30

Highlights



The regulatory environment continues to change rapidly and your policies need to keep up with it. Just recently there were changes made by the CFPB, the Federal Housing Administration, and the NCUA, all of which were captured in the latest CU PolicyPro content update.

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Compliance and Advocacy News & Highlights

Agencies Extend Eviction Moratoria

The secretaries of the USDA, HUD, VA, and Treasury and the acting director of the FHFA released a joint statement on agency actions to prevent evictions.

At the request of the president, the agencies have extended their foreclosure-related eviction moratoria until September 30, 2021. The agency heads also said the owners and operators of federally-assisted and financed rental housing should make every effort to access Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) resources to avoid evicting a tenant for non-payment of rent. These resources are available in every state, and many counties and cities are also running local programs. Owners and operators of federally-assisted housing are stewards of important public resources and should access rental assistance both to prevent unnecessary human suffering and to protect the public investment in affordable housing.

Source: USDA, HUD, VA, Treasury, FHFA

CFPB Webinar: Helping Clients Who Are Experiencing Housing Insecurity

On Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 2-3:30 pm ET, learn about online resources and assistance available to homeowners and renters during the coronavirus emergency. As our economy begins to recover, some homeowners and renters may need coaching and counseling from financial practitioners on how to transition back into making payments. Others at risk of foreclosure or eviction may need guidance on where to go for help. Attend this webinar to learn where to find resources and professionals that can help you provide support services for your clients. Registration is required for attendance and is available now.

Source: CFPB

Reminder To Update EIN Information

The IRS has issued a <u>press release</u> urging entities with Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) to update their applications if there has been a change in the responsible party or contact information. IRS regulations require EIN holders to update responsible party information within 60 days of any change by filing <u>Form 8822-B</u>, <u>Change of Address or Responsible Party - Business</u>. It is critical that the IRS have accurate information in cases of identity theft or other fraud issues related to EINs or business accounts.

The data around the "responsible parties" for business-type entities is often outdated or incorrect, meaning that the IRS does not have accurate records of whom to contact for identity theft issues. This means a time-consuming process to identify the point of contact so the IRS can inquire about a suspicious filing. As a result, the IRS intends to step up its awareness efforts aimed at businesses, partnerships, trusts and estates, charities and other entities that are EIN holders.

Starting in August, the IRS will begin sending letters to approximately 100,000 EIN holders where it appears the responsible party is outdated. All EIN applications (mail, fax, electronic) must disclose the name and Taxpayer Identification Number (Social Security number, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number or EIN) of the true principal officer, general partner, grantor, owner or trustor. The IRS defines the responsible party as the individual or entity who "controls, manages, or directs the applicant entity and the disposition of its funds and assets."

Source: IRS

CFPB Announces Effective Date for FDCPA Final Rules

<u>The CFPB announced</u> on recently that two final rules issued under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) will take effect as planned, on November 30, 2021.

The first rule issued in October 2020, focuses on debt collection communications and clarifies the FDCPA's prohibitions on harassment and abuse, false or misleading representations, and unfair practices by debt collectors when collecting consumer debt.

The second rule issued in December 2020, clarifies disclosures debt collectors must provide to consumers at the beginning of collection communications, and prohibits debt collectors from suing or threatening to sue consumers on time-barred debt. Additionally, the second rule requires debt collectors to take specific steps to disclose the existence of a debt to consumers before reporting information about the debt to a consumer reporting agency.

The Bureau will publish a formal notice in the *Federal Register* withdrawing its April 2021 proposal that would have postponed the effective date to January 29, 2022. The CFPB's statement said that nothing in its decision not to change the effective date precludes the CFPB from reconsidering the debt collection rules at a later date.

Source: CFPB

Paid Sick and Family Leave Tax Credits

The IRS has updated its <u>frequently asked questions (FAQs)</u> regarding the paid sick and family leave tax credits under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). The updates clarify that eligible employers can claim the credits for providing leave to employees to accompany a family or household member or certain other individuals to obtain immunization relating to COVID-19 or to care for a family or household member or certain other individuals recovering from the immunization.

This new reason for paid sick or family leave also applies to the comparable credits for self-employed individuals.

Source: IRS

Articles of Interest:

- Polanco Named NCUA Director for the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion
- Consumer Compliance Outlook (FRB)
- SBA Announces Opening of Paycheck Protection Program Direct Forgiveness Portal
- New Digitization Report Looks at Challenges, Opportunities for CUs

CUNA's Advocacy Resources:

• Happenings in Washington

WOCCU Advocacy Resources:

- <u>Telegraph</u> the most recent newsletter on current advocacy issues
- <u>Advocate Bloq</u> International advocacy trends and issues

Compliance Calendar

- August 31st, 2021: CFPB RESPA Borrower Protections COVID-19 Emergency
- September 6th, 2021: Labor Day Federal Holiday
- October 11th, 2021: Columbus Day Federal Holiday (also recognized: Indigenous Peoples' Day)
- November 11th, 2021: Veterans Day Federal Holiday
- November 25th, 2021: Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday
- November 30th, 2021: CFPB Fair Debt Collections Practices (Regulation F)