

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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## COMMISSION ESTABLISHES EFFECTIVE DATE FOR PERSONAL USE RULES

WASHINGTON -- Revised regulations governing the personal use of funds from federal candidates' campaign accounts are effective as of today, April 5, 1995, the Federal Election Commission announced in a Federal Register notice.

The new regulations, published in the Federal Register on Feb. 9, 1995 (p.7862), were approved by the Commission on February 2 and transmitted to Congress for the statutory review of 30 legislative days, which expired in the Senate on March 22 and on March 23 in the House of Representatives.

Personal use expenses are defined as expenses of any person "that exist irrespective of the candidate's campaign or duties as a federal officeholder." Specific prohibitions on personal use of campaign funds in the new regulations include:

- Day-to-day household food items and supplies;
- mortgage, rent, and utility payments for the candidate's personal residence, even if part of the residence is being used by the campaign;
- funeral, cremation, and burial expenses, other than gifts and donations of nominal value, such as flowers or similar expressions of sympathy;
- clothing, including specialized attire for political functions, but allowing clothing of de minimis value such as T-shirts or caps imprinted with a campaign slogan;
- tuition payments, other than training of campaign staff to perform campaign tasks.

The regulations provide for other expenses, including legal, meal, travel, and vehicle expenses, to be addressed by the Commission on a case-by-case basis, using the general definition of personal use.

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