

The nation's guarantors provide the following summaries to inform schools, lenders, and servicers of the latest *Common Manual* policy changes. These changes will appear in the manual's next annual update. These changes will also be incorporated into the *Integrated Common Manual* released. The *Integrated Common Manual* is available on several guarantor websites, and it is also available on the *Common Manual's* website at www.commonmanual.org. Please carefully note the effective date of each policy change.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Eligibility and Interest Rate Reduction

The *Common Manual* has been updated to reflect that lenders must grant eligible servicemembers (including borrowers, endorsers, and comakers) the SCRA interest rate reduction as of July 1, 2016, based on the lender's comparison of its borrowers, endorsers, and comakers to the Department of Defense maintained database, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). The lender may not require a servicemember to request an interest rate reduction in writing and must allow the servicemember to provide alternative evidence if the DMDC data is inaccurate or incomplete.

Affected Sections: 7.4.B Reduced Stafford Interest Rates
7.5.B Reduced PLUS Interest Rates
10.9.B Reduced Interest Rates
13.1.D Claim File Documentation
15.3.D Calculating the Interest Rate

Effective Date: SCRA interest rate reductions made on or after July 1, 2016

Basis: §682.208(j); Preamble of the October 30, 2015, *Federal Register*, Vol. 80, No. 210, pp. 67206-67208.

Policy Information: 1309/Batch 204

Guarantor Comments: None.

Claim File Documentation

The *Common Manual* has been updated to correct errors in the claim documentation references for Bankruptcy, Death, and Total and Permanent Disability claims.

Affected Sections: 13.1.D Claim File Documentation

Effective Date: Claims filed by the lender on or after March 1, 2012.

Basis: §682.402; Federal Register Vol. 57, No. 244, page 60323, December 18, 1992.

Policy Information: 1310/Batch 204

Guarantor Comments: None.