

## SUBCHAPTER II—OFFICERS

**§ 321. Eligibility to serve as trustee**

(a) A person may serve as trustee in a case under this title only if such person is—

(1) an individual that is competent to perform the duties of trustee and, in a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13 of this title, resides or has an office in the judicial district within which the case is pending, or in any judicial district adjacent to such district; or

(2) a corporation authorized by such corporation's charter or bylaws to act as trustee, and, in a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13 of this title, having an office in at least one of such districts.

(b) A person that has served as an examiner in the case may not serve as trustee in the case.

(c) The United States trustee for the judicial district in which the case is pending is eligible to serve as trustee in the case if necessary.

(Pub. L. 95-598, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2561; Pub. L. 98-353, title III, § 428, July 10, 1984, 98 Stat. 369; Pub. L. 99-554, title II, §§ 206, 257(c), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3098, 3114.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

## LEGISLATIVE STATEMENTS

Section 321 indicates that an examiner may not serve as a trustee in the case.

## SENATE REPORT NO. 95-989

Section 321 is adapted from current Bankruptcy Act § 45 [section 73 of former title 11] and Bankruptcy Rule 209. Subsection (a) specifies that an individual may serve as trustee in a bankruptcy case only if he is competent to perform the duties of trustee and resides or has an office in the judicial district within which the case is pending, or in an adjacent judicial district. A corporation must be authorized by its charter or bylaws to act as trustee, and, for chapter 7 or 13 cases, must have an office in any of the above mentioned judicial districts.

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-554, § 257(c), inserted reference to chapter 12 in two places.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-554, § 206, added subsec. (c).

1984—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-353 substituted “the case” for “a case” after “an examiner in”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Effective date and applicability of amendment by section 206 of Pub. L. 99-554 dependent upon the judicial district involved, see section 302(d), (e) of Pub. L. 99-554, set out as a note under section 581 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

Amendment by section 257 of Pub. L. 99-554 effective 30 days after Oct. 27, 1986, but not applicable to cases commenced under this title before that date, see section 302(a), (c)(1) of Pub. L. 99-554.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-353 effective with respect to cases filed 90 days after July 10, 1984, see section 552(a) of Pub. L. 98-353, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

**§ 322. Qualification of trustee**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b)(1), a person selected under section 701, 702, 703, 1104,

1163, 1183, 1202, or 1302 of this title to serve as trustee in a case under this title qualifies if before seven days after such selection, and before beginning official duties, such person has filed with the court a bond in favor of the United States conditioned on the faithful performance of such official duties.

(b)(1) The United States trustee qualifies wherever such trustee serves as trustee in a case under this title.

(2) The United States trustee shall determine—

(A) the amount of a bond required to be filed under subsection (a) of this section; and

(B) the sufficiency of the surety on such bond.

(c) A trustee is not liable personally or on such trustee's bond in favor of the United States for any penalty or forfeiture incurred by the debtor.

(d) A proceeding on a trustee's bond may not be commenced after two years after the date on which such trustee was discharged.

(Pub. L. 95-598, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2562; Pub. L. 98-353, title III, § 429, July 10, 1984, 98 Stat. 369; Pub. L. 99-554, title II, §§ 207, 257(d), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3098, 3114; Pub. L. 103-394, title V, § 501(d)(3), Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4143; Pub. L. 111-16, § 2(2), May 7, 2009, 123 Stat. 1607; Pub. L. 116-54, § 4(a)(3), Aug. 23, 2019, 133 Stat. 1085.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

## LEGISLATIVE STATEMENTS

Section 322(a) is modified to include a trustee serving in a railroad reorganization under subchapter IV of chapter 11.

## SENATE REPORT NO. 95-989

A trustee qualifies in a case by filing, within five days after selection, a bond in favor of the United States, conditioned on the faithful performance of his official duties. This section is derived from the Bankruptcy Act section 50b [section 78(b) of former title 11]. The court is required to determine the amount of the bond and the sufficiency of the surety on the bond. Subsection (c), derived from Bankruptcy Act section 50i [section 78(i) of former title 11], relieves the trustee from personal liability and from liability on his bond for any penalty or forfeiture incurred by the debtor. Subsection (d), derived from section 50m [section 78(m) of former title 11], fixes a two-year statute of limitations on any action on a trustee's bond. Finally, subsection (e) dispenses with the bonding requirement for the United States trustee.

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-54 inserted “1183,” after “1163,”.

2009—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-16 substituted “seven days” for “five days”.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-394 substituted “1202, or 1302” for “1302, or 1202”.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-554, § 257(d), inserted reference to section 1202 of this title.

Pub. L. 99-554, § 207(1), substituted “Except as provided in subsection (b)(1), a person” for “A person”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-554, § 207(2), amended subsec. (b) generally, adding par. (1), designating existing provisions as par. (2), substituting “The United States trustee” for “The court”, “(A) the amount” for “(1) the amount”, and “(B) the sufficiency” for “(2) the sufficiency”.