



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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## **PROCEDURES FOR FILING REQUESTS FOR WAIVER, REDUCTION, DEFERRAL AND/OR INSTALLMENT PAYMENT RELIEF OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 REGULATORY FEES**

On August 27, 2026, the Commission released the *FY 2026 Regulatory Fees Report and Order*.<sup>1</sup> This document is available for viewing at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>. Regulatory fee payments must be received by the Commission no later than 11:59 PM, Eastern Daylight Time, on September 24, 2026.<sup>2</sup> While FY 2026 regulatory fees will not become effective until the Order is published in the Federal Register, regulatees, at their own discretion, may submit payments at any time before the FY 2026 regulatory fee due date.

Any regulatory fee that is not paid in full by September 24, 2026, and for which a request to waive, reduce, or defer payment of the fee or a request to pay the fee in installments<sup>3</sup> has not been filed by September 24, 2026, will be assessed a 25% late payment penalty. The unpaid regulatory fee and the 25% late payment penalty will accrue interest until paid in full.<sup>4</sup> Further, the Commission may pursue all available remedies to collect unpaid regulatory fee debt, including placing delinquent debtors on “red light,” dismissing delinquent debtors’ pending applications and request for benefits<sup>5</sup> and referring the delinquent debt to the United States Treasury for further collection.<sup>6</sup>

### **Installment payment of FY 2026 regulatory fee debt**

All fee payors seeking to pay their FY 2026 regulatory fees in installments will be permitted to make a partial payment of their FY 2026 regulatory fee, and are encouraged, to pay as much of their FY 2026 regulatory fee as possible by September 24, 2026.<sup>7</sup> All fee payors that intend to request installment payment of all or the unpaid balance of their FY 2026 regulatory fees must submit their installment payment requests by September 24, 2026, to avoid assessment of a 25% late payment penalty, interest,

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<sup>1</sup> *Review of the Commission’s Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2026*, MD Docket No. 26-94, Report and Order, FCC 26-59 (rel. Aug. 27, 2026) (*FY 2026 Regulatory Fees Report and Order*).

<sup>2</sup> The Commission has instituted a mandatory electronic payment policy, which means that licensees will not be able to make regulatory fee payments by check, money order, or cashier’s check. Only credit card, ACH, and wire transfer payments will be accepted. Please make sure that your electronic fee payment is made and the transaction is complete by the due date for FY 2026 regulatory fees.

<sup>3</sup> 47 CFR §§ 1.1166, 1.1914.

<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 159A(c); 31 U.S.C. § 3717; 47 CFR §§ 1.1164, 1.1940.

<sup>5</sup> Under the Commission’s “red light” rule, the Commission will not act on any application or request for benefit filed by a party that owes delinquent debt to the Commission. The delinquent debtor must pay its debt in full or make payment arrangements satisfactory to the Commission. Failure to do so will result in dismissal of the debtor’s filing. 47 CFR §§ 1.1164, 1.1910.

<sup>6</sup> 31 U.S.C. § 3701, *et seq.*; 47 CFR § 1.1901, *et. seq.*

<sup>7</sup> For instructions on how to make partial and full payment of FY 2026 regulatory fees, please review the Payment Methods and Procedures Public Notice for Fiscal Year 2026 Regulatory Fees, <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/regulatory-fees>.

and costs on their FY 2026 regulatory fee debt. Fee payors may request an installment payment plan electronically, by sending their requests to [regfeerelief@fcc.gov](mailto:regfeerelief@fcc.gov). A request may be combined in a single filing with a waiver and deferral request made on financial hardship grounds.<sup>8</sup> Only those fee payors who demonstrate that they cannot pay their FY 2026 regulatory fees in full by September 24, 2026, will be granted installment payment relief.<sup>9</sup>

### **Waiver, reduction and deferral on financial hardship grounds**

The Commission's standard for granting a waiver request under section 1.1166 of its rules has not changed. The Commission may waive, reduce or defer payment of a regulatory fee in a specific instance if a regulatee demonstrates good cause for the relief sought and that waiver, reduction, or deferral of the fee promotes the public interest. Fee relief may be granted, but only to those regulatees "unambiguously articulating 'extraordinary circumstances' outweighing the public interest in recouping the cost of the Commission's regulatory services."<sup>10</sup>

A request for waiver or reduction of a FY 2026 regulatory fee<sup>11</sup> based on financial hardship must be filed on or before September 24, 2026, and accompanied by either (i) full payment of the FY 2026 regulatory fee or (ii) a request to defer payment with all financial documents the fee payor determines are sufficient to demonstrate financial hardship;<sup>12</sup> no additional documents will be accepted for consideration after a party's waiver request has been filed.<sup>13</sup> A party seeking relief under section 1.1166 from payment of its FY 2026 regulatory fees based on financial hardship may file a single request for all forms of relief sought.<sup>14</sup> Parties are directed to file their requests electronically by emailing their requests, together with all supporting financial documents, to the following email address: [regfeerelief@fcc.gov](mailto:regfeerelief@fcc.gov).<sup>15</sup>

In order to prove financial hardship sufficient to justify a waiver, a regulatee must show that it lacks sufficient funds to pay its FY 2026 regulatory fee in full while maintaining service to the public.<sup>16</sup> Among the documents that a business entity fee payor may wish to include to prove financial hardship sufficient to justify a waiver are: tax returns, a balance sheet and profit and lost statement (audited if possible), cashflow projections for the next twelve months, a list of officers and highest paid individual employees with each person's compensation. For individual fee payors, such documents might include wage statements, documents disclosing non-wage income, such as rental income; real estate valuations and mortgage documents; bank, credit card and loan statements; account numbers and balances for all

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<sup>8</sup> 47 CFR §§ 1.1166, 1.1914.

<sup>9</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1914.

<sup>10</sup> *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for FY 2019*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MD Docket No. 19-105, 34 FCC Rcd 8189, 8207, para. 50 (2019) (*FY 2019 Report and Order*).

<sup>11</sup> Requests to waive, reduce and/or defer payment of regulatory fees may include requests to waive, reduce and/or defer payment of the 25% penalty and accrued interest. 47 U.S.C. § 159A(d); 47 CFR § 1.1166.

<sup>12</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1166. Waiver requests filed after the September 24, 2026, deadline will be dismissed unless the fee payor has paid its FY 2026 regulatory fee (and if payment is made after September 24, 2026, the 25% late payment penalty and all accrued interest and costs), and is not on red light for any other unpaid delinquent debt.

<sup>13</sup> See *Review of the Commission's Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2024*, MD Docket Nos. 24-85 and 24-86, Second Report and Order, 39 FCC Rcd 10140, 10171, para. 58 (2024).

<sup>14</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1166.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> *FY 2019 Report and Order*, 34 FCC Rcd at 8207, para. 50.

cash accounts and investments; monthly income and expense summaries; and tax returns. A request filed by a party on “red light” under section 1.1910 of the Commission’s rules will be dismissed.<sup>17</sup>

**Waiver or reduction of fees on other grounds**

Requests for waiver or reduction of FY 2026 regulatory fees on any grounds other than financial hardship may be combined in a single filing and must be filed by September 24, 2026, or accompanied by full payment of the FY 2026 regulatory fee. Parties are directed to file their requests electronically by emailing their requests, together with all supporting documents, to the following email address: [regfeerelief@fcc.gov](mailto:regfeerelief@fcc.gov). A request filed by a party on “red light” under section 1.1910 of the Commission’s rules will be dismissed.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> 47 CFR §§ 1.1164, 1.1910.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*