

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Docket No. 12-0568

In re: ROCKY COPELAND,

Petitioner

**DECISION AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

This matter is before the Office of Administrative Law Judges (“OALJ”) upon the request of Rocky Copeland (“Petitioner”) for a hearing to address the existence or amount of a debt alleged to be due to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Agency (“Respondent”; “USDA-RD”); and if established, the propriety of imposing administrative wage garnishment.

A hearing was scheduled to commence on September 25, 2012, but Petitioner did not answer at the telephone number he provided. Later that day, I learned that Petitioner had sent to the Hearing Clerk for OALJ a copy of a notice of his bankruptcy case filing, Case No. 12-31300, filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Florida. Accordingly, wage garnishment is stayed, and the instant matter is DISMISSED. The hearing shall not be rescheduled.

Copies of this Decision and Order shall be served upon the parties by the Hearing Clerk’s Office.

So Ordered this 27th day of September, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

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Janice K. Bullard  
Administrative Law Judge