

to pay such fine, or fine and costs, and after notice to the district attorney of the United States, who may appear, offer evidence, and be heard, the commissioner or the warden as the examining authority to whom such application is addressed shall by an appropriate administrative proceeding inquire into the matter. If on examination it shall appear to the examining authority that such convict is unable to pay such fine, or fine and costs, and that he has not any property exceeding \$20 in value, except such as is by law exempt from being taken on execution for debt, the examining authority shall administer to him the following oath: 'I do solemnly swear that I have not any property, real or personal, to the amount of \$20, except such as is by law exempt from being taken on civil process for debt by the laws of (naming the State where oath is administered); and that I have no property in any way conveyed or concealed, or in any way disposed of, for my future use or benefit. So help me God.' Upon taking such oath such convict shall be discharged; and the examining authority shall file with the institution in which the convict is confined a certificate setting forth the facts. Any such convict to whom the warden shall fail or refuse to administer the oath may apply to the nearest commissioner for the administration of the oath upon a proceeding *de novo* as above provided, and upon taking such oath shall be discharged. In case the convict is found by the examining authority to possess property valued at an amount in excess of said exemption, nevertheless, if the Attorney General finds that the retention by such convict of all of such property is reasonably necessary for his support or that of his family, such convict shall be released without further imprisonment solely for the nonpayment of such fine, or fine and costs; or if he finds that the retention by such convict of any part of such property is reasonably necessary for his support or that of his family, such convict shall be released without further imprisonment solely for nonpayment of such fine or fine and costs upon payment on account of his fine and costs, of that portion of his property in excess of the amount found to be reasonably necessary for his support or that of his family."

Oath.

Discharge.

Possession of property in excess of exemption.

Approved July 10, 1946.

[CHAPTER 548]

AN ACT

To prescribe and furnish to United States commissioners standard forms and dockets and to furnish United States Code and seal.

July 10, 1946

[S. 344]

[Public Law 497]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall supply to United States commissioners without cost to them blank forms of such content as he shall consider best adapted for the transaction of their business and docket books of approved content in which to enter the record of all proceedings before them. Upon the approval of the senior district judge of the district in which he serves, each commissioner shall also without cost to him be furnished by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts with a copy of the United States Code, which shall remain the property of the United States. Commissioners appointed after the effective date of this Act shall be furnished with the official impression seal required by the Act of June 28, 1906 (ch. 3573, 34 Stat. 546). All property furnished to any commissioner under this Act shall, upon the termination of his term of office, be transmitted to his successor in office, if any; otherwise disposed of as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall direct.

28 U. S. C. § 528.
Transmittal of property to successor.

Approved July 10, 1946.