

443. Should a letter intended for one person be delivered to another, and should it be opened by the wrong person, the name of this latter person and his address must be written on it, and the reason why it is returned, thus: "Opened by [*Name and address of person*]-not for him"; and the letter must be resealed, care being taken that the seal is not placed upon the original fastening. Postmen and delivery officers are warned against permitting the public to open letters addressed doubtfully, unless the surnames are identical or there are good reasons for supposing that any such letter is intended for the person to whom it is offered. A letter cannot be supposed to be intended for a person whose surname at least is not on the envelope, and the only ground for delivering to a person whose initials are not identical with those on the envelope is reason for supposing that the initials are written wrongly. All officers must exercise the greatest care to prevent letters being opened by persons for whom they are not intended, and any failure of such care will be noticed severely to the officer responsible.

444. When the Public Trustee gives formal notice that he is about to administer a deceased person's estate, the notice is to operate to secure delay of postal packets addressed to such person, in the post-office, to await their delivery to the Public Trustee on receipt of the further notice that he has been granted probate or administration of the estate. Thereafter no postal packet is to be delivered to any other person, whether engaged with the estate or not. The notice must also be referred to the Secretary for noting in the Dead Letter Office.

445. (a.) On delivery to the Chief Postmaster of an order issued by the Supreme Court, postal packets may be delivered to the assignee of a bankrupt's estate, or otherwise as the Court directs. The order will state the period for which it holds good. The maximum period is three months.

(b.) Chief Postmasters are to act without reference to the Secretary in the matter of the delivery of letters the addressee of which has assigned his estate. Attention must be given to the following conditions:—

A copy of the order of assignment must be deposited with the Chief Postmaster.

An order which is issued only for certain specified purposes, not including the delivery of letters, must not be acted upon. It must be quite clear from its terms that absolutely all property of the assignor, or that the delivery of letters in particular, is covered by the order.

In any case of doubt the Secretary may be referred to.

446. A statement of the non-revocation of a power of attorney is not required in each instance of the delivery of a postal packet to a person nominated in such power to receive such packets. The power may be acted on until the person who nominates the deputy definitely directs the Post Office to alter the method of delivery. It suffices if the power of attorney is produced to the Postmaster, and the separate written order is endorsed "Power of attorney produced," and the endorsement dated.

EXPRESS-DELIVERY SERVICE.

(See Guide for general instructions.)

447. The express-delivery service is in operation at all offices at which message-boys are employed. Where the telegraph-office is separate from the post-office the Chief Postmaster will confer with the Superintendent, and make arrangements for boys to be sent to the post-office for express articles at any time the boys may be wanted.