



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

June 3, 2010

CBCA 2004-RELO

In the Matter of HUDSON MINSHEW

Hudson Minshew, Palmdale, CA, Claimant.

Peggy Holbrook, Budget Officer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, Davis, CA, appearing for Department of Agriculture.

BORWICK, Board Judge.

In this matter, the Board determines that claimant, Hudson Minshew, an employee of the Department of Agriculture (agency), through the agency's Natural Resources Conservation Service, is entitled to be reimbursed the cost of a one-way car rental between the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) and his residence at his new duty station. Reimbursement of this expense is allowed under the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR).

Background

On July 9, 2009, the agency transferred claimant in the interest of the Government on a two-year temporary change of station (TCS) from Hawaii to Lancaster, California. Claimant, accompanied by his family members, traveled from Hawaii to LAX, which is seventy-seven miles from Lancaster, claimant's ultimate destination. Before commencing en-route travel, claimant consulted with agency relocation officials concerning travel for himself and his family between LAX and Lancaster. The officials conducted a cost analysis and determined that due to the size of his family and accompanying luggage, a one-way taxi fare would cost \$202.50, an airport shuttle would cost \$144 with additional charge for luggage, and a one-way rental car would cost \$125. Consequently, the agency authorized claimant to use a rental car for transportation from LAX to Lancaster. Claimant sought reimbursement for that expense, which actually cost \$124.38. The agency's national finance center (NFC) denied reimbursement on the ground that the car rental was not reimbursable for en-route travel.

Discussion

An employee and his or her family traveling pursuant to a TCS are entitled to the travel benefits specified in chapter 301 of the FTR for an employee on temporary duty. 41 CFR 302-3.412(a), -4.100 (2009). The FTR recognizes that the general method of transportation between a common carrier terminal and home or office when traveling is by taxi or shuttle. In that circumstance, the FTR provides for reimbursement of the usual fare plus tip of a taxi or shuttle service. 41 CFR 301-10.420(b)(1)(i). The FTR, however, provides for use of a rental car when the agency determines that such use is advantageous to the Government and when the agency specifically authorizes such use. 41 CFR 301-10.450.

Here the agency conducted a cost comparison, determined that a one-way rental would be advantageous to the Government in view of the distance between LAX and Lancaster, and specifically authorized claimant to use a rental car. Claimant's reimbursement for the rental car expense is thus allowed by the FTR. The Board grants the claim and directs the agency to reimburse claimant the \$124.38 it disallowed for the rental car expense.

ANTHONY S. BORWICK
Board Judge