

DOCUMENT RESUME

03547 - [A2693846]

[Travel Expenses while on Leave]. B-189265. September 21, 1977.
2 pp.

Decision re: Patricia Stolfa; Povra Bloom; by Robert F. Keller,
Acting Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Personnel Management and Compensation: Compensation
(305).

Contact: Office of the General Counsel: Civilian Personnel.

Budget Function: General Government: Central Personnel
Management (805).

Organization Concerned: Community Services Administration.

Authority: E-182499 (1976). B-185070 (1976).

R. J. White, a certifying officer of the Community Services Administration, requested advice on the propriety of reimbursements made to two employees for travel expenses incurred while returning from annual leave during which period they performed temporary duty. The employees were entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses attributable to the temporary duty but not to the cost of returning to their headquarters from the leave point. (Author/SC)

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Batesford
City, Ohio

DECISION



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548**

03547

FILE: B-189265

DATE: September 21, 1977

MATTER OF: Patricia Stolfa and Devra Bloom - Travel expenses while on leave

DIGEST: Employees whose authorized leave of absence away from their permanent duty station is temporarily interrupted to perform temporary duty at another place and who return to the place where they were on leave, are entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses attributable to the temporary duty but not to the cost of returning to their headquarters from the leave point.

This action is in response to a request from Mr. R. J. White, a certifying officer of the Community Services Administration, concerning the propriety of reimbursements made to two employees for travel expenses they incurred while returning from annual leave during which period they performed temporary duty.

One of the employees, Ms. Patricia Stolfa, had traveled to Denver, Colorado, on December 19, 1976, in a leave status. Directed to perform temporary duty at Fort Lupton, Colorado, on January 3, 1977, she traveled to Fort Lupton and returned to Denver the same day. The following day, January 4, 1977, she performed official business in Denver and departed the next morning for Washington, D.C., her official duty station. Ms. Stolfa was reimbursed for her travel from Denver to Fort Lupton and back, and for her air fare from Denver to Washington, D.C.

The second employee, Ms. Devra Bloom, was on annual leave in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when she was directed to perform temporary duty in Miami, Florida, on June 30, 1975. She traveled to and from Miami on June 30, 1975, and resumed her leave status in Fort Lauderdale the next day. After her return, Ms. Bloom was reimbursed for her travel between Fort Lauderdale and Miami and for her air fare from Fort Lauderdale to Washington, D.C., her official duty station.

The certifying officer has questioned the propriety of reimbursing Ms. Stolfa and Ms. Bloom for the cost of transportation from Denver and Fort Lauderdale to Washington, D.C.

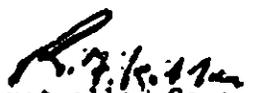
The general rule is that when an employee proceeds to a point away from his official duty station on annual leave, he assumes the obligation of returning at his own expense. B-182499,

B-189265

January 19, 1976. Also, it repeatedly has been held that if, during such leave or at the expiration thereof, the employee is required to perform duty either at his leave point or some other point prior to his returning to headquarters, the Government is chargeable only with the difference between the cost attributable to the temporary duty and what it would have cost the employee to return to his headquarters direct from the place where he was on leave. B-185070, April 13, 1976.

Since both of the employees have been reimbursed for the cost of travel from the place where their leave of absence was interrupted to the place where the duty was performed and return, there is no authority to reimburse the employees for the travel expenses in returning to their headquarters.

Therefore, action should be taken to recover the improperly paid amounts from Ms. Stolfs and Ms. Bloom.


Acting Comptroller General
of the United States