

# Board of Contract Appeals

General Services Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20405

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April 4, 2005

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GSBCA 16586-RELO

In the Matter of ANGELA Y. HICKS

Angela Y. Hicks, Sterling, VA, Claimant.

Randall M. Christopherson, Director, Denver Finance Center, Small Business Administration, Denver, CO, appearing for Small Business Administration.

**GOODMAN**, Board Judge.

Claimant, Angela Y. Hicks, is an employee of the Small Business Administration. She has asked this Board to review the agency's denial of reimbursement of costs incurred during her permanent change of station (PCS) transfer.

## Factual Background

Claimant was issued travel orders dated December 29, 2003, for a PCS transfer from Dallas, Texas, to Herndon, Virginia. The orders authorized reimbursement of relocation expenses. Claimant decided to have her father travel with her, as she was traveling with her young son in an automobile through winter weather. Before she moved in January 2004, she asked the agency relocation specialist whether she could be compensated for expenses that would be incurred by having her father, who did not live with her, accompany her during her travel. She was informed that the agency would not reimburse her for her father's travel expenses.

Claimant accomplished her PCS travel with her son and father. She submitted a claim for reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by her father, including air fare for his return to Dallas.

## Discussion

The Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) authorizes reimbursement of relocation travel expenses incurred by an employee and his or her "immediate family members." 41 CFR 302-4.100 (2003). "Immediate family" is defined as:

Any of the following named members of the employee's household at the time he/she reports for duty at the new permanent duty station or performs authorized travel involving family members: . . .

(c) dependent parents . . . of the employee.

*Id.* 300-3.1.

Claimant's father did not live with her before she was transferred. The airline ticket attached to claimant's travel voucher indicates that her father returned to Dallas five days after claimant's arrival at the new duty station. There is no evidence that he was her dependent. Claimant's father is therefore not an "immediate family" member as defined by the FTR, and claimant is not entitled to travel expenses incurred by her father during her PCS move.

Decision

The claim is denied.

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ALLAN H. GOODMAN  
Board Judge