



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

August 2, 2017

CBCA 5738-RELO

In the Matter of CRISTINA RAMOS

Cristina Ramos, Washington, DC, Claimant.

Thomas M. Painter, Director, Office of Human Resources, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC, appearing for Department of Defense.

CHADWICK, Board Judge.

Cristina Ramos is a civilian employee of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). The agency transferred her from a job in a foreign country to the Washington, D.C., area in September 2015, authorizing transportation, storage, and delivery of her household goods for up to one year. DIA did not authorize reimbursement of real estate transaction expenses, because the Washington duty station was less than fifty miles from Ms. Ramos's previous residence in this country. *See* Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) 5566-C, 5908-D.2.b. DIA then assigned Ms. Ramos to temporary duty in Afghanistan from November 2015 to May 2016. Upon her return to the United States, Ms. Ramos did not find permanent housing before her eligibility for household goods expenses expired in September 2016. Ms. Ramos later paid for her goods to be moved out of storage to a residence. She seeks review of DIA's denial of her claim for reimbursement of \$1875.90 in transportation fees, \$2629.95 in storage fees, and \$18,946.69 in real estate transaction expenses. We deny the claim.

Under the Department of Defense Joint Travel Regulations, reimbursable travel and transportation must be completed within one year, with exceptions not applicable here. JTR 5518-C. Ms. Ramos says she "understood" from DIA personnel that she could be reimbursed for storage and delivery of her household goods "regardless of timeline." However, the regulations, and not any advice she may have received directly from DIA, govern her entitlement. *See Adam L. Diehl*, CBCA 5647-RELO, 17-1 BCA ¶ 36,751. Ms. Ramos also requests "a refund" of real estate transaction expenses she incurred in September 2016, on the grounds that she "was authorized Real Estate Expenses" for a transfer "in 2010" but "did

not use those funds.” DIA properly did not authorize reimbursement of real estate transaction expenses for Ms. Ramos’s 2015 transfer, and no statute or regulation would permit the agency to rely on a prior authorization of such an allowance.

Decision

The claim is denied.

KYLE CHADWICK
Board Judge