



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

August 13, 2012

CBCA 2767-TRAV

In the Matter of BENJAMIN P. HALLISSY

Benjamin P. Hallissy, Patuxent River, MD, Claimant.

Bonnie Petree, Department Supervisor, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Department of the Navy, Patuxent River, MD, appearing for Department of the Navy.

McCANN, Board Judge.

Claimant, Benjamin P. Hallissy, is an employee of the Naval Air Warfare Center, Patuxent River, Maryland. He asks this Board to review the agency's denial of reimbursement of lodging costs while he was on temporary duty travel.

Background

Claimant was approved for government travel to Fort Worth, Texas, from November 7 through November 10, 2011. He used an online booking service, hotels.com, to make his lodging arrangements at the Fort Worth Sheraton Hotel and Spa. The itinerary for the trip provided by hotels.com indicated that Mr. Hallissy would check in on November 7, 2011, and check out November 10, 2011. It also specified that he would be charged \$132.30 per night for the room and \$19.58 per night for taxes and service fees. The total for the room for the three days came to \$396.90, and for taxes and service fees, \$58.74. The total amount of the bill shown on the itinerary was \$455.64 ($\$396.90 + \$58.74 = \455.64). When Mr. Hallissy left the hotel on November 10, 2011, it refused to provide him with a receipt. Subsequently, he received a receipt from hotels.com referencing the appropriate itinerary number. It indicated that he had checked in on November 7, 2011, and out on November 10, 2011, and had paid a total of \$455.74. The agency refused to reimburse Mr. Hallissy on the grounds that the regulation did not authorize reimbursement because the receipt lacked the required specificity.

The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) provision which applies to civilian employees of the Defense Department provides:

On-Line Booking Tool. . . *Lodging reimbursement is authorized for hotel lodging obtained through an online booking agent only when the traveler can provide a documented itemized receipt for room costs from the hotel or online booking agent showing the following charges (CBCA 2431-TRAV, 13 September 2011):*

- a. Daily hotel room costs;
- b. Daily hotel taxes; and
- c. Daily miscellaneous fees, if applicable.

JTR C4555-B.5. This provision must be read consistent with the governing statute and the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) provision which requires that receipts be provided as a condition of payment, but does not limit the source of receipts that may be required. *Chong Wang*, CBCA 2747-TRAV, 12-1 BCA ¶ 34,995 (citing *Scott M. Torrice*, CBCA 2431-TRAV, 11-2 BCA ¶ 34,839). The purpose of the provision is to reimburse where itemized documentation shows that the traveler actually stayed in the hotel on the specified nights and actually paid particular amounts for the room. *Id.* (citing *Emily J. Rypma*, CBCA 2511-TRAV, 12-1 BCA ¶ 34,891 (2011); *Scott R. Wilson*, CBCA 2563-TRAV, 12-1 BCA ¶ 34,896 (2011)).

In this case, the documentation in the record specifically supports Mr. Hallissy's daily hotel room costs (\$396.90). Consequently, we direct the Navy to reimburse him for those costs – provided that the amounts are within the maximum per-day limit for the location to which he traveled. If Mr. Hallissy can produce further documentation as to the exact amount he paid for taxes and the exact amount he paid for miscellaneous fees charged by the hotel, he should also be reimbursed for them.

R. ANTHONY McCANN
Board Judge