



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

October 7, 2021

CBCA 7190-RELO

In the Matter of ELOISA D.

Eloisa D., Claimant.

Connie J. Rabel, Director, Travel Mission Area, Enterprise Solutions and Standards, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Indianapolis, IN, appearing for Department of Defense.

SHERIDAN, Board Judge.

In this matter, claimant requests reimbursement of temporary quarters subsistence expenses (TQSE) and per diem for her dependent spouse and child during quarantine required due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) do not authorize TQSE or per diem for dependents traveling to a civilian employee's first duty station. The claim is denied.

Background

Claimant was issued permanent change of station (PCS) orders in October 2020. Claimant traveled from Woodbridge, Virginia, to Okinawa, Japan, on October 25, 2020. This was the first duty station occupied by claimant. Claimant scheduled her dependents to follow her to her new duty station two months later.

The initial information that claimant received was that her dependents could travel separate from her to Japan and would receive travel and transportation entitlements, to include "awaiting transportation" quarantine entitlements.

Claimant submitted a voucher for her dependents, including per diem and lodging at an Air Force Inn in Japan during their December 5 through 21, 2020, quarantine. The travel

office at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)–Rome denied the request for per diem and lodging, however, citing JTR table 5-98 (Oct. 2020).

JTR 054801 sets forth the rules applicable for travel to an employee’s first duty station. JTR table 5-98, which was effective when claimant traveled, specifically states that TQSE and per diem are not authorized for dependents traveling to a civilian employee’s first duty station.¹

Where a travel office may have given a claimant erroneous advice, we have repeatedly held that “erroneous advice by government employees forms no basis for us to grant relief to a claimant. Only expenses that are authorized by statute and regulations may be reimbursed.” *Paul A. Monderer*, CBCA 6355-TRAV, 19-1 BCA ¶ 37,300 (quoting *Eugene Andruchowicz*, CBCA 3022-RELO, 13 BCA ¶ 35,200 (2012) (other citations omitted)).

Decision

The claim is denied.

Patricia J. Sheridan

PATRICIA J. SHERIDAN

Board Judge

¹ Although new entitlements addressing quarantine per diem were adopted after the travel began, those entitlements did not impact first duty station travel entitlements and are not relevant to this decision. See UTD/CTD for MAP/CAP – 28-21(E) Local Area Per Diem for Government Ordered Quarantine, editing JTR 020603, Travel within the PDS Local Area (July 22, 2021).