November 29, 2022

## CBCA 7483-TRAV

## In the Matter of PRINCETON J.

Princeton J., Claimant.

Ilona M. Keller, Human Resources Specialist, Civilian Personnel Directorate, Department of the Army, APO Area Europe, appearing for Department of the Army.

## **VERGILIO**, Board Judge.

The claimant, a civilian employee subject to the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) in addition to the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR), seeks payment for travel to and from the funeral of the claimant's grandmother. The travel began in July 2022 from a post of duty outside the continental United States to the United States. The claimant seeks compensation on the basis that the grandmother acted "in loco parentis," asserting that the situation should qualify for emergency visitation travel (EVT) under JTR 040301-A.1.c (July 2022). The agency properly denied reimbursement.

EVT is permitted for an employee to attend the funeral of an "immediate family member." A nonparent who assumed parental responsibilities toward the claimant is outside of the parameters of the JTR clause. The clause specifies: "EVT is authorized for the interment of a civilian employee's spouse or domestic partner; child (including a stepchild or adopted child) or individual who is or was under legal guardianship of the civilian employee, spouse, or domestic partner, or a brother, stepbrother, sister, or stepsister of the civilian employee, spouse, or domestic partner." JTR 040301-A.1.c(1). The grandmother was not a parent of the claimant and was not within the identified class of family members under the regulations. Similarly, the definition of "immediate family" in the FTR does not include grandparents. 41 CFR 300-3.1 (2021). Although the FTR permits an agency, on a case-by-case basis, to expand the definition of "immediate family," see id. 301-30.2, the agency has not done so here.

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The agency appropriately denied reimbursement. The Board denies the claimant's request.

<u>Joseph A. Vergilio</u> JOSEPH A. VERGILIO

Board Judge