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DECISION



Dunn
**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548**

FILE: B-189114

DATE: February 14, 1978

MATTER OF: Jack M. Bunten - Mileage costs from residence to official station

DIGEST: Employee who traveled from his residence to his office and return on days immediately preceding and following periods of temporary duty travel may not be allowed mileage.

This decision is in response to a request dated May 13, 1977, from the Director, Finance and Accounting, Office of the Regional Director (Region VIII), Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for an advance decision as to the propriety of paying several claims of Mr. Jack M. Bunten, an employee of the Social Security Administration, for mileage costs for travel from his residence to his official duty station and return on days immediately preceding and following temporary duty travel. Mr. Bunten claims mileage on the ground that he carried official equipment or records on these trips between his home and his office.

Our Office has long held that there is no authority for reimbursing an employee for travel between his residence and his office. This is an expense that must be borne by the employee. 19 Comp. Gen. 836 (1940); 15 id. 342 (1935); 11 id. 417 (1932); and B-171969.42, January 9, 1976. However, on those days when travel is performed mileage may be allowed in certain instances for travel between an employee's residence and his office. Subparagraph 1-4.2c(2) of the Federal Travel Regulations provides that:

"Round trip when in lieu of taxicab between residence and office on day of travel. In lieu of the use of taxicab under 1-2.3d, payment on a mileage basis at the rate of 15 cents per mile and other allowable costs as set forth in 1-4.1c shall be allowed for round-trip mileage of a privately owned automobile used by an employee going from his residence to his place of business or returning from place of business to residence on a day travel is performed. However, the amount of reimbursement for the round trip shall not exceed the taxicab fare, including tip, allowable under 1-2.3d for a one-way trip between the points involved."

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Subparagraph 1-2.3d of the FTRs pertaining to local transportation provides that:

"Between residence and office on day travel is performed. Reimbursement may be authorized or approved for the usual taxicab fares, plus tip, from the employee's home to his office on the day he departs from his office on an official trip requiring at least 1 night's lodging and from his office to his home on the day he returns to his office from the trip, in addition to taxi fares for travel between office and carrier terminal."

In the present case the employee traveled to his office on days preceding and following his temporary duty travel but not on the actual day of the temporary travel and thus does not qualify for the above exceptions to the general rule that an employee must bear the expense of travel between his residence and his office.

Accordingly, payment of the claim may not be authorized.

Deputy


Comptroller General
of the United States