



The Comptroller General  
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

## Decision

Matter of: Steven K. Peacock - Lease Termination Expenses -  
Apartment Sharing

File: B-230698

Date: November 25, 1988

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### DIGEST

An employee and another adult shared an apartment for which both signed the lease. The employee is entitled to reimbursement of only 50 percent of the lease termination expenses incurred incident to his transfer, even though he may have paid all the expenses. See Federal Travel Regulations, para. 2-6.1.c and f.

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### DECISION

This decision holds that Mr. Steven K. Peacock, an employee of the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, is entitled to only 50 percent of the lease termination expenses he incurred when he changed his permanent duty station.<sup>1/</sup>

Mr. Peacock transferred to a new duty station in Phoenix, Arizona, on September 25, 1987. Incident to the transfer, he incurred expenses of \$788.05 for terminating his apartment lease which was in his name and the name of another person with whom he shared the premises. Since he shared the apartment with this adult, who was not a member of his immediate family, the Bureau of Reclamation reimbursed only 50 percent of this amount, or \$394.03. Mr. Peacock states that he paid all of the apartment expenses and should be reimbursed the entire amount.

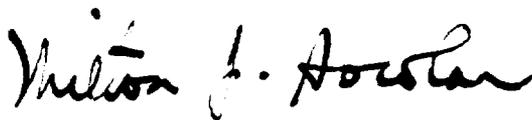
In order for an employee to receive reimbursement of the expenses he incurs for the settlement of an unexpired lease, the lease must be in his name alone or in the joint names of the employee and a member of his immediate family. Federal Travel Regulations (FTR), para. 2-6.1.c (Supp. 4, August 23, 1982). If a person who is not a member of the employee's

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<sup>1/</sup> Ms. Amy F. Mitchell, Authorized Certifying Officer, Bureau of Reclamation, requested our decision.

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immediate family has a joint interest in the leasehold, such as here, then the employee may be reimbursed only for the expenses he incurs commensurate with his interest in the leasehold. See FTR, para. 2-6.1.f (Supp. 4, August 23, 1982); B-182276, Apr. 10, 1975; see also Anthony Stampone III, B-223018, Sept. 30, 1986. Accordingly, the agency correctly reimbursed Mr. Peacock 50 percent of the lease termination expenses.

*for*   
Comptroller General  
of the United States