

7035  
DECISION



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

FILE: B-190810

DATE: July 18, 1978

MATTER OF: Thomas Hawk - Travel expenses incurred by wife  
of employee for visit

DIGEST: Employee of Department of Justice on temporary  
duty assignment in San Francisco, California,  
may not be reimbursed for cost of round-trip  
air transportation from Portland, Oregon,  
incurred by his wife for the purpose of a family  
visit even though employee was authorized travel  
expenses for himself for purpose of a family  
visit to Portland. Travel was for personal  
reasons, and there is no authority under ap-  
plicable statutes and regulations authorizing  
reimbursement for personal travel for family  
of employee.

Mr. Charles R. Neill, Acting Director, Financial Management  
Staff, Office of Management and Finance, Department of Justice,  
by letter dated November 25, 1977, requested an advance decision  
as to the propriety of paying a travel voucher in favor of  
Thomas Hawk, a Special Assistant United States Attorney, detailed  
to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of California.

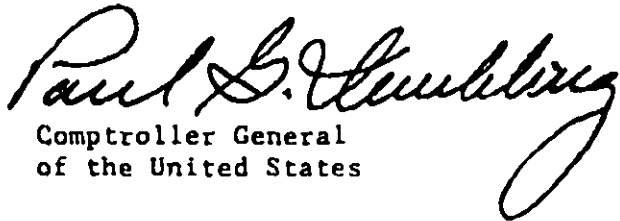
The record shows that Mr. Hawk, whose duty station was Portland,  
Oregon, was on temporary duty assignment in San Francisco, California,  
to provide temporary assistance to the United States Attorney in  
San Francisco, during the period of February 7, 1977, to March 20,  
1977. In conjunction with this detail, Mr. Hawk was authorized  
travel expenses for two intervening weekend round trips to his  
home in Portland. Mr. Hawk was issued two Government Transportation  
Requests (GTR) at a cost of \$138 each for this purpose. He made  
one such return trip on March 4, 1977. The second GTR was used by  
the employee's wife to travel to San Francisco to visit on February 12,  
1977. She returned to Portland on February 21, 1977, the date  
Mr. Hawk traveled to Portland for business purposes. The claim  
in question is for the cost of Mrs. Hawk's round-trip air trans-  
portation between San Francisco and Portland to visit her spouse's  
temporary duty station.

Paragraph 1-1.3 of the Federal Travel Regulations (FPMR 101-7  
May 1973) provides that traveling expenses which will be reimbursed  
are confined to those expenses essential to the transacting of  
official business. While the employee may have been authorized

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weekend round trip travel to return to his headquarters in Portland, this authorization cannot be transferred to the employee's wife to travel to the employee's temporary duty station to visit him. Such expenses are considered personal. Cf. B-162466, September 27, 1967; B-176471, September 5, 1972; and B-174242, November 30, 1971.

The voucher is returned herewith and may not be certified for payment.

  
For The Comptroller General  
of the United States